

August 2024

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In this newsletter CT Quest is pleased to introduce our new partner in Paraguay, the Grupo Belen (Bethlehem Group), an organization inspired by the example of the Franciscan Sisters who took a vow of poverty to work with the poor. Rachel Flores, its director, grew up in a poor family in Paraguay and studied to be a lawyer. But rather than follow that path, motivated by her parents who founded Grupo Belen, Raquel continues their mission with the assistance of more than 60 volunteers in Paraguay and the United States who help collect and pack donated materials.

Every day, Grupo Belen serves people living in abject poverty. The mission maintains an “open door” to the countless numbers of people asking for a place to sleep, eat, and simply rest. They also rescue the cats and dogs left behind when their owners die. These creatures, made by God, are never abandoned. Everyone receives shelter in Belen House.

The Grupo Belen supports multiple projects: hospital shelters, nursing homes for the elderly, and gardening and bread-making programs for young mothers so that they can feed their families. They built a shelter for 200 young people where they promote sports so that children will not fall into vices and street crime. They support a community of people with leprosy, and they deliver medicine, food, wheelchairs, walkers, crutches, and clean mattresses to elderly, blind, and crippled people who cannot leave their homes. When basic items are lacking, the volunteers barter the items sent by CT Quest like clothing and shoes for eggs, milk, cheese, fruits, vegetables, and medicine.

Thus far, CT Quest has sent two forty-foot containers of donated material to Grupo Belen. With your help we can send two more each year, making possible a continuous supply of food for their projects.

Gracias for helping us to help those who are serving the poor at a grassroots level.

Bill Evans
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[Signature]



Raquel delivering donations to a grandmother raising 9 grandchildren.



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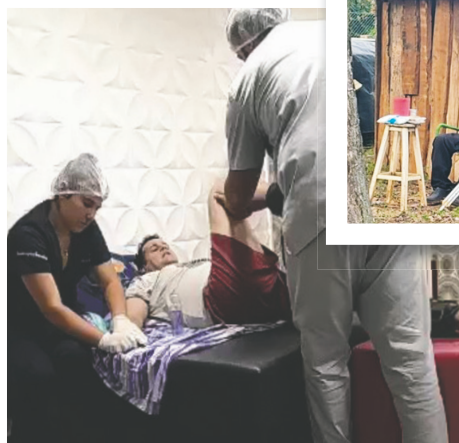
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