



## Caring Into Change

In a world shaken by division and uncertainty, what grounds us is care. When communities come together, a deep, open-hearted collaboration grows. This past year, your support has helped Wellspring Karitas Foundation turn caring into tangible change.

The heart of our mission is **community** — building it, sustaining it, and empowering it. Together, we've seen what's possible when compassion meets action.

### 2025: What We Did Together

Your generosity and partnership in 2025 created:

- Mobility for thousands of people with disabilities, giving them new independence and dignity.
- Jobs for dozens of individuals with disabilities, supporting livelihoods.
- Meals for hundreds of at-risk children and elderly community members in a center that is a community hub and anchor.
- Education for dozens of adolescents, helping them stay in school to pursue brighter futures.
- Clean, safe drinking water for over 1,000 students and their families—a life-changing gift.
- Blueprints for others. Projects inspired by our models are multiplying.



Our three core programs, ALEM, the Education Initiative, and the La Estación Community Center, continue to thrive. We also deepened collaborations with Resiliente, Safe School Water, and a farm laborer center. We've expanded our reach by opening new ALEMs in Mexico City and soon San Luis Potosí, ensuring that thousands more can benefit from empowerment and opportunity. These prototypes carry the Karitas spirit of empathy, resilience, and partnership far into the future.

*As one friend beautifully said: "When we bring together those struggling for the means of life with those searching for the meaning of life, something sacred happens."* That's what we do together — you, me, and the communities we walk alongside. We each bring our gifts, and we all grow richer.

### Thank You for Making This Possible.

Your financial impact cannot be measured in numbers alone. It's seen in smiles, in hope rekindled, in communities strengthened from within.

We warmly invite you to continue supporting this work and, if you can, visit our projects to witness the transformation your generosity brings to life.

With gratitude and hope,

Erik Friend  
Executive Director



# ALEM

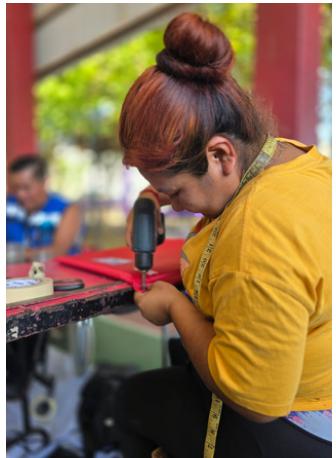
ALEM gives mobility. Affordable wheelchair repairs are made by staff who are themselves using wheelchairs. A friend of Karitas says: "That which you appreciate grows." This is so true of ALEM, which grew exponentially this past year.

In partnership with Hope Haven West, we began to assemble specialty wheelchairs for children with paralysis. Our ALEM team assists them during the seating clinics in Mexico and other countries. In addition to the 3,000-plus wheelchairs we repaired, we have helped Hope Haven fit wheelchairs for more than 500 children.

Our new branch in Mexico City, which opened two years ago, hosts many wheelchair repair clinics, strengthening our connection with supportive local Rotary clubs. It builds capacity to do the increasing load of wheelchair repair work we are taking on.

Partnership with Rotary has exponentially impacted our ability to expand ALEM. The Rotary club in San Luis Potosi hopes to start a branch. San Luis Potosi is located halfway between the U.S. border and Cuernavaca. If they serve the same radius, we will soon cover a corridor 500 miles wide and over 1,000 miles north to south.

As the Karitas methodology spreads, we cultivate amazing young leaders while autonomous spin-offs guarantee ongoing impact. This means: more people served, more people mobile, more people active and productive in their communities... and more need for parts! We need your financial partnership more than ever.



# La Estación



The community of La Estación ("the station") is located where the train station used to be, close to downtown Cuernavaca. Many years ago, the abandoned rail lines became a place for people fleeing violence and economic hardship from the south. Today it has a population of over 10,000.

For almost 25 years, we have been supporting a community center, breakfast program, and preschool there. The center serves 160 breakfasts each day to the children and elderly. The children attend the preschool, and dozens of parents are involved in skill trainings offered at the center. A teacher from the local public elementary school notes that the children coming from our preschool program are well above average.

A recent workshop focused on the idea of self-care. We planned it thinking of the struggles people living in poverty have to endure — insecurity in every way, from getting food on the table, to access to medical attention, to an environment prone to violence. Halfway through the session, an older woman in the group, Doña Brenda, spoke up. “I think when you are poor you have more joy. Here we are together with our families and also with our neighbors. We wouldn’t be able to survive if we weren’t.”

Her words changed our conversation. We all are looking for community, meaning, purpose, and transcendence. There are many stories of struggle and tragedy that are part of our accompaniment of the residents of La Estación.

Yet they carry a particular light for us. We are honored that they have embraced Karitas as part of their resilient community.

Your financial support makes all the difference in the world for these women and over 160 children (and increasingly) elders who show up every day. Come visit and allow yourselves to be embraced by their hospitality and gratitude.



## Education Initiative

The Education Initiative we designed and operate collaboratively with two other groups continues to be incredibly successful. Our two partners are La Jugarreta (working in the mountains of Tepoztlán) and Caminando Unidos (working along the poverty belt of the defunct railroad line in the city of Cuernavaca) — two completely different contexts. Though we only support the kids through middle school, almost all of the program’s first generation has continued on to high school by their own initiative. Close to half have gone on to college. This would have been unimaginable in their environments.

The success has been noticed. Other players have come onboard to increase the number of kids the program can accommodate. In Tepoztlán they have added an additional 10 kids with other funding.

This is a big deal. When we create prototypes that are successful, others are inspired to join us. The impact expands. Every child you help us pull out of the cycle of poverty and into a prosperous and fulfilling future sparks the possibility for another. Some of the former students, now college graduates, are talking of how they will give back. Your gifts spread the circle wider.





# Safe School Water

The Rotary Foundation has approved funding for a fourth safe school water project. It will provide water to one of the most vulnerable populations in Mexico — migrant farm laborers and their families.

Yancuic Yotlanes is a multi-grade public school established for the families of farm laborers. Most have fled the economic hardship and violence in southern Mexico to cut sugar cane in Morelos. The families live in “stalls” that the sugar cane producers provide them right next door to the school. This water project we promoted will provide safe drinking water for the children in the school as well as their families. It will also offer training in sanitation and hygiene. (To learn about Mexico’s cane economy, watch a “Sweet Deal” in the Netflix docuseries *Rotten*.)



## Ways to Give

A gift through your will or living trust ensures lasting impact. When considering your estate planning options, please name Wellspring Karitas Foundation in your will or as a beneficiary through retirement funds or life insurance.

**\$50**

Gets one person mobile and in their wheelchair, employs our wheel-chair bound technicians.

**\$10/month**

Pays for the Community Center and a hot breakfast each day.

**\$15/month**

Pays tuition for a child in the high-quality preschool.

**\$100/month**

Supports a middle-school student through our Education Initiative programming, including a small stipend, tutoring, counseling, field trips, and after-school workshops.

**\$250/month**

Gives ten children in La Estación meals and tuition—and a different future as part of their community.

**\$35,000**

Installs a rainwater harvest station: collection, storage, purification in a rural public school and its surrounding community. Karitas trains them to maintain it.

**\$70,000**

Launches a new wheelchair repair shop, including training for a new team of technicians with disabilities and a stock of wheelchair parts for a year. People employed, people mobile, people contributing to their family and community.



## BECOME A FINANCIAL PARTNER

Open our website: [karitas.org](http://karitas.org) and click the donate button. You can donate by PayPal or credit card. Or send a check to Wellspring Karitas Foundation, P.O Box 97 Berwyn, PA 19312 email: [friend.erik@gmail.com](mailto:friend.erik@gmail.com)