



**CASA HOGAR BIENVENIDOS**  
**WELCOME HOME OUTREACH MINISTRIES**  
**VICENTE GUERRERO, B.C., MEXICO**

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## **GUIDELINES FOR MISSIONS TEAMS**

We look forward to welcoming your missions team to Casa Hogar Bienvenidos, Welcome Home Outreach (WHO), and want to make you aware of the following guidelines and tips that will make your visit to WHO productive, meaningful and enjoyable. We ask that all members of your team be aware of these guidelines prior to your trip, and that they commit to following them.

### **BACKGROUND and MISSION**

Welcome Home is a non-profit agency that is sponsored by a U.S. Board of Directors comprised of Christians from several faith backgrounds. The facility has been serving children of migrant farm worker families in the Vicente Guerrero region of Mexico since the mid-1980s.

WHO operates a year-round daycare (*guarderia*) for pre-school age children of farm workers. Care for these children is provided at no cost to the families. WHO is dependent on donations from churches and individuals to underwrite the ongoing operational costs of the facility.

In addition to the daycare operation, the WHO staff assists migrant camp families with basic needs such as clothing and food, and directs house building projects when possible. Biblical teaching and evangelism are part of the ministry as well.

### **LEADERSHIP**

Steve and Jackie Scott are U.S. missionaries living at Welcome Home. Their primary role is scheduling and coordinating group visits, overseeing day-to-day facility maintenance, and growing a stable funding base.

Abel and Rosa Hurtado are Mexican nationals, also living at Welcome Home, whose primary role is oversight of the daycare. They are assisted by several other dedicated people who teach, feed and care for the children.

### **EXPECTATIONS**

While we are delighted to host missions teams at Welcome Home, group members must keep in mind that WHO is a fully-operating facility with a normal daily routine – and a residence for two families. With that in mind, we ask that visiting groups adhere to some basic guidelines:

- **WATER:** Water is a valuable resource in Mexico and should not be wasted. SHOWERS are available at WHO, but we ask that they be taken on an as-needed basis, and be kept to 5 minutes or less. TOILETS should be flushed only when there is solid waste.
- **DRINKING WATER:** Do not use tap water to drink or brush your teeth. Purified water is available in the WHO cafeteria. Please bring your own drinking container for water, marked with your name, so that you can take water with you to job sites or to other destinations.
- **PLUMBING:** No toilet paper or other paper products should be put into the toilets. There are receptacles next to each toilet for TP. We know habits are hard to break and that accidents will happen. If TP is accidentally dropped into the toilet, it must be removed.

- **ELECTRICITY:** Electrical service in Mexico is very expensive so conservation of electricity is a must. Please help by using lights, fans and other appliances only when necessary and remember to turn them off when you exit a room.
- **MEALS:** Your daily room & board fee includes two meals per day. Breakfast is served at 7:30 a.m.; lunch at 12:30 p.m. The kitchen staff expects that visiting groups will eat with the children at those times. If off-site projects keep group members away from WHO at meal time, or you make other plans, your group leader needs to notify Steve or Jackie Scott so the correct amount of food may be prepared. Group DINNERS are on your own; you are welcome to use the WHO kitchen for your meal preparation, or visit one of several recommended restaurants in the area.
- **KITCHEN DUTY:** Groups are asked to assign at least three individuals to assist with kitchen clean-up for each meal. Other than those on duty in the kitchen, group members should, for the most part, not wander into or loiter in the kitchen.
- **SLEEPING:** Sleeping areas are furnished with single beds (some are bunkbeds), with blankets and pillows provided. Group members are asked to either bring their own sheets or a sleeping bag for their use. DO NOT move furniture, mattresses, or other equipment without authorization!
- **QUIET HOURS:** Every morning, Monday through Friday, staff leave Welcome Home at 6:00 a.m. to pick up the daycare children and return with them at about 7:00 a.m. Therefore, we ask that groups respect the quiet hours from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m.
- **LAUNDRY:** WHO has only one washing machine and it is reserved for daycare use only. We are happy to direct you to a nearby laundromat if needed.
- **DRESS CODE:** American Christians visiting in Mexico should dress modestly in keeping with the standards of the Mexican Christian community. Pants for both women and men of all ages should be knee-length or below (no shorts, no mini-skirts). Please, no tank tops, halter tops or bare midriffs; no excessive cleavage; no exposed underwear. Bathing suits should be worn only when at the beach (one-piece suits only). **On construction sites**, Welcome Home requires that all persons wear long pants and close-toed shoes (work boots or tennis shoes). Absolutely no sandals or shorts on construction sites. This is for your own safety. Workers may want to bring a sun hat, sunscreen and gloves for construction
- **ALCOHOL/DRUGS/SMOKING:** No alcohol, drugs, or smoking are allowed on the Welcome Home premises at any time. Please do not bring these items with you or purchase them while here.
- **CLEAN-UP:** Please help us keep the WHO compound neat and tidy. Be respectful and responsible in using the facility. The bathrooms, sleeping areas, and common areas should be policed regularly for trash and personal belongings.
- **DEPARTURE:** When your group prepares to depart the WHO compound, we ask that you do the following...
  - Bedding: If you used our pillow/pillowcase, please take them to the laundry room area.
  - Rooms: Sweep out or vacuum your sleeping areas. You should find brooms and dust pans in each area; if not, please ask.
  - Bathrooms: Assign group members to do basic cleaning of the bathrooms. Take out trash and replace liners; sweep floors.
  - Please leave the quarters in as good – or better – condition than you found it!
  - Be sure to check your area to make sure you have everything!

**REMEMBER** that you are a guest in this country and in this community – and that you are representing Jesus Christ and His love!