

Social Center in Veracruz (MEXICO)



The Calasanz Social Center represents in the Piarist presence in Veracruz the heart of confluence of educational projects aimed at the attention of the poor and seedbed of the spirit of solidarity in our children and young people of our works.

This was born under the responsibility and economic subsidiarity of the Cristóbal Colón University and the Colón Foundation, in coordination with the Department of Social Development of the same house of studies, as a promoter of university volunteers and all the members of the Piarist works and other interested parties.

The Calasanz Social Center has 4 programs that are being strengthened little by little: educational projects, food and health, social development projects and women's care.



After 5 years of existence, today the Social Center has benefited from the influx of young people from different local universities and schools who seek that their students provide a social intervention service with children from areas in high vulnerability.

In this sense, the pious schools of Veracruz have contributed to the emergence of a culture of volunteering, little rooted in citizen customs, but today they are a reality that makes it possible to give food and real opportunities for child empowerment through the psychoeducational accompaniment of more than 80 children, through programs that address the educational lag, advice on tasks, psychological, medical and human

development care, both in artistic areas, continuous prayer, cultural promotion and entrepreneurial culture.

These volunteers and social service providers, coordinated by psychologist Teresa Corres, a former student of our school and university Cristóbal Colón, have become social promoters who attract others to commit to the little ones. Said by them, "the children of the center have changed our lives. We do not know if we have left them something useful, but what we are certain is that they have opened us to understand that life, when it is given to those who cannot correspond to you, must be in a key of service. They have transformed us."

The educational proposal originates wanting to strengthen the autonomous learning of children, but we have realized the deficiency of the quality of public education and volunteers have joined not only to support in the tasks, but to correct the cognitive gaps and complete the development of necessary competencies in basic education.

However, the most serious is the human and moral deterioration in which these children live, so that the social center constitutes a space to correct and reconcile with violent social dynamics and generators of marginalization and vulnerability. Drugs, alcohol, rape, corruption are part of the reference in which the children they attend are formed by their families. Thus, the relationship with volunteers and other adolescents who come to the center to support have become for them models that drive their development.

The achievements: reduction of violent relations and valuation of behaviors that provide peace and improve their conditions of development. Continuous prayer is sought by the children to find a space of encounter with God, which they did not talk about before entering the center.

The growing points: the link of parents to the social center and their process of collaboration in the formative process of their children. The articulation of Piarist volunteering of presence as a reflection of the mainstreaming of the option for the poor and of the social transformation coming from the indicators of calasanzian identity

<https://centrosocialcalasanzver.wordpress.com/>

