

Casa **Hovde**

Mexico City



A History of the Hovde House Initiative



During his travels to different parts of the world, Eric Hovde identified a population in desperate need of life-altering assistance. This group, the homeless children of our world, live without consistent shelter, nutrition, and all of the other securities of a family home. In addition, they are often victim of the horrific ills of the street including physical and mental abuse, drugs and violence. After witnessing this situation

in Romania, a country with approximately 30,000 children on the street, Eric was determined to do something that could make a meaningful difference in the lives of some of the world's homeless children.

Specifically, Eric and his brother, Steven, were determined to build a home for street children in a location deeply affected by the problem. After considerable research and several trips to areas plagued by child homelessness, Eric and Steve selected Mexico City as the site for the first "Hovde House." This home, the first in a planned series of Hovde Houses around the world, was dedicated on January 25, 2006 and now provides transitional housing to 62 of Mexico City's homeless children.



THE ERIC D. AND STEVEN D. HOVDE FOUNDATION
WAS CREATED IN 1998 TO ASSIST PEOPLE IN
CRISIS AROUND THE WORLD



A Harsh Childhood: Life on the Streets of Mexico City



TWO AND A HALF MILLION OF MEXICO CITY'S CHILDREN HAVE SUFFERED IN ENVIRONMENTS OF CHRONIC DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

A city deeply affected by poverty and domestic violence, Mexico City can be a difficult place to be a child. Many children are simply abandoned by drug-addicted and/or emotionally troubled parents, or leave home in order to escape the difficult circumstances within. As a result, the population of Mexico City now includes 140,000 homeless children who struggle to live their daily reality in the city's parks, vacant buildings, bus terminals, and sewers. These children, many as young as eight or



nine, live dangerous lives in which they are constantly vulnerable to abuse, beatings, drug addiction and rape.

Many of the children can only remember life on the streets, and for them, there is no longer hope for a stable, safe environment to spend their childhood years. Homelessness has become their “normal” way of life. According to one former homeless child, each day “came down to robbing, beating, fighting, sex, drugs, and abuse by the police, (and) if we weren’t using drugs or getting beaten, it didn’t seem like a normal day.”

Therefore, the goal of the Hovde Foundation in creating the “Hovde House” was to develop a facility to provide the comprehensive range of care these children so desperately needed – in other words, to change what “normal” means to them.

The Vision Becomes Reality: Casa Hovde



The concept for a Hovde House is simple: find the right location, buy the land, build the facility, hire qualified locals to staff it, and bring in a group of children who need the kind of help the facility can provide. The Hovde Houses are modeled along the lines of the Ronald McDonald Houses in the sense that the Hovde Foundation provides the initial capital, but, in the future, a local board is established to manage charitable fundraising to sustain operations of the home.

Hovde's Mexico City house was initially funded by a \$700,000 donation from the Hovde Foundation and is a joint venture with World Vision, an international humanitarian organization. In addition, the Hovde Foundation has made a five-year pledge to fund operations and staffing of a fundraising office to develop local revenues for the facility. World Vision, which already runs an indigenous program in Mexico City, has provided valuable guidance and support in the development of the first Hovde House.



CASA HOVDE PROVIDES A SAFE, NURTURING HOME TO 62 CHILDREN AT A TIME



Security, Health, Education and Love: Casa Hovde in Action



THE HOVDE FOUNDATION PLANS TO
ESTABLISH 20 HOVDE HOUSES AROUND THE
WORLD OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS

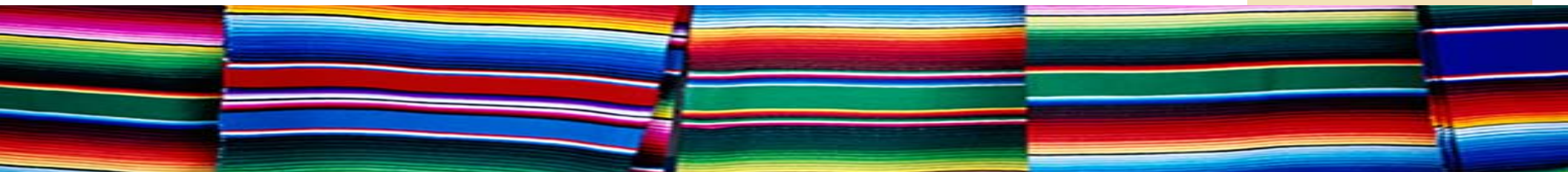
Casa Hovde, which officially opened in January 2006, is designed to meet not only the physical needs of its residents, such as food, clothing and shelter – but also, to meet their emotional needs of support and love. More specifically, the Hovde House is designed around four core areas of need: security, health, education, and love.

Intentionally located just outside the hustle, bustle, and pollution of the city, the Hovde House is surrounded by forests in a quiet, peaceful environment. The overall goal in the selection of this location was to provide an environment for the restoration of physical and mental health. Furthermore, the location provides a separation from – and security from – the dangers of the Mexico City streets. The Hovde House’s staff, led by House “Father” Paco, instills a greater sense of security and stability by establishing structure, routines and discipline in the home.

Facilitating education for the children was an extremely important objective in planning the Hovde House. Since most of the children had been lacking a formal

educational environment – sometimes for many years – it was crucial to build a solid educational component into the structure of the home. Further, it was critical to make arrangements for re-integration into the public school system. As such, the Hovde House includes a dedicated study room, in which the children receive assistance, structured in “learning communities,” with their studies. And, very importantly, every single child living at the Hovde House is now re-enrolled in and attending primary or secondary school.

The reintroduction of a loving and nurturing environment was perhaps the most critical component in the establishment of the Hovde House. The children, many having recently suffered through abandonment and abuse, feel a loss of dignity and a loss of trust. Accordingly, it is imperative for the Hovde House to help rebuild the emotional aspects of the children’s lives. The Hovde House strives to contribute in this manner on a daily basis – through the emotional support of its caring staff, and an overall environment of community, togetherness, and a sense of belonging.



A Positive Transition: Hope for the Future



The Hovde House is structured as a rehabilitative family home for the city's street children with the ultimate goal of enabling the children to reintegrate into a healthy and productive living environment. Every aspect of the Hovde House is designed to assist in the rebuilding of the children's physical and emotional health and to contribute to the development of the skills necessary for their future independence. Dedication to this eventual positive and life-changing transition is the foremost objective of the Hovde House program.

Do you have interest in contributing to the Hovde House initiative? We welcome your financial partnership and would be pleased to discuss this opportunity with you in more detail. Please contact Eric Hovde at 202.775.8109 for more information.



HOVDE OFFERS ITS EMPLOYEES THE OPPORTUNITY TO VISIT AND VOLUNTEER IN HOVDE HOUSES FOR TWO WEEKS TWICE A YEAR





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