Cameron Park Colonias-After School Tutorial Program

In 2002, Cameron Colonias became a MOM project for the Catholic Daughters in Texas. The After School Tutorial Program was organized as part of "Proyecto Juan Diego", an initiative to improve the quality of life in Cameron Park Colonia. The tutors help the students with their homework in science, English and mathematics. The students use old computers donated by the community or private donors, such as Texas CDA & JCDA.

Cameron Park Colonia is located in Brownsville, Texas. According to the Census Bureau, this is the poorest place in the United States. Home to the poorest immigrants, it is one of the biggest and oldest of about 1,800 Colonias, shabby, unplanned, scantily regulated conglomerations of shacks, trailers and tumbledown houses that dot the Texas and Mexico border.

But in the last decade or so, a new feature of hope has gained a tentative toehold in Cameron Park and some other Colonias amid the familiar terrain of decrepit housing, rusted-out cars, inadequate sewers and terrible roads. Cameron Park has started, slowly but consistently, to look less like Dante's Inferno and more like neighborhoods that are simply very poor.

The streets are now paved, no longer disintegrate into impassable mud pits after it rains. The Catholic Church, school and clinic have changed the face and future of the community. Nearly all houses have been connected to running water and electricity, and many have stoves, refrigerators, indoor plumbing, and toilets. In a part of the world where temperatures reach and remain at 100 degrees for weeks on end, some families have managed to buy air conditioners to cool their bedrooms.

Texas CDA and JCDA have made remarkable contributions to the progress at Cameron Park. Monetary donations and truck loads of personal and household items have created a new meaning to the saying “from trash to treasure.” It's bringing life and light into darkness and despair. One Catholic Daughters court actually donated a mobile home! There are no limitations to the outreached arm of our CDA sisters, their love, focus, and compassion.

Today at least 400,000 people live in Texas Colonias. They may be out of sight, but they are not out of mind to those who embrace God’s word with action; “Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

| San Felipe De Jesus Catholic Church  |
| Social Services                      |
| P.O. Box 8093                        |
| Brownsville, Texas  78526           |

**Donations/checks** should be made payable to:
San Felipe De Jesus Charity Account

**Donations/parcels** (no food) should be sent by
UPS to: San Felipe de Jesus Catholic Church, 2215 Rancho Viejo, Brownsville, Texas 78526

**Items Needed:** Adult, children and baby clothing; slightly used shoes; toys; school supplies; craft supplies; toiletries; bed linens; fabric for sewing; vitamins and over the counter medicines; Rosaries and Holy Cards; educational and religious books. **Larger items greatly needed are:** working computers and printers; working appliances; RV and trailer homes (to use as a home); sewing machines; electric and manual tools.

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