



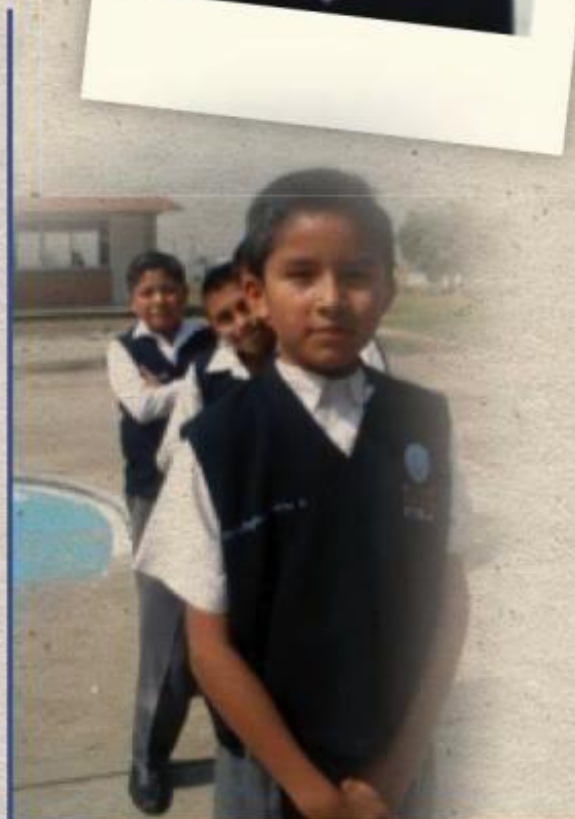
Hugs Go a Long Way

Cristopher Huerta Arellano is a fifth grader at Mano Amiga Puebla. This bright child enjoys physical activities, especially playing basketball and soccer in P.E. class. Keeping busy helps distract him from the hardships he has experienced at home.

Christopher and his 4-year-old sister are currently being raised largely by their grandmother and uncle. Neglected in the early years of his life, Christopher has shown signs of a boy needing affection and love. Mano Amiga teachers do everything they can to fill the gaps. And Christopher is responding. "I like to be with my teacher and classmates because they pay attention to me and play with me so that I don't feel alone. When it's time for the Catholic values and formation class I get excited because it's a class that I like to be in and I know that God listens to me and he is with me".

On occasion, teachers can see that Christopher isolates himself from his classmates. These are the times that Christopher usually needs a hug. In addition to P.E. and Catholic Formation, this 5th grader enjoys memorizing multiplication tables, and participates well in math class. When asked what he would like to do when he grows up, Christopher says he wants to be a doctor. "I want to help my grandmother when she is sick and be able to share my money with her and my mother so that we'll always have something to eat. Also I want to help all the people who cannot pay for their medicine. I will give them services for free".

With God's grace and continued help from Mano Amiga, this passionate boy may well realize his dream.



Be on your guard, stand firm in the faith, be courageous,
be strong. Your every act should be done with love.

1 Cor 16: 13-14