



Easing the Burden

Little Jennifer Rivas is a five-year-old student of Mano Amiga Santa Catarina. She lives with her mother and brothers, David Alejandro and Dylan, ages 12 and 10.

This humble family has learned to accept hardship as a way of life. But the 3 children know how they are blessed with the gift of a Mano Amiga education. Even little Jennifer is thankful and full of smiles with her friends and teachers in school.

Jennifer, David and Dylan have had to grow up quickly. Their mother, the sole support for the home, is afflicted with both diabetes and a condition called pyloric stenosis, which causes her to be bed-ridden at times. Mrs. Rivas Hernandez is limited in her ability to provide for her three children. Her illness makes it impossible to work consistently outside the home. The boys are often care-takers for their little sister.

Mano Amiga has been a true blessing for this family. The safe-haven of the school including the support team there have filled the gaps that exist at home due to illness and poverty. In addition to providing an excellent academic foundation, Mano Amiga has helped form the children's spiritual and emotional growth.

"The children are wise beyond their years," says Jennifer's teacher at Mano Amiga, "They are very close to their mother and do everything they can to help out. In fact, little Jennifer prays for her mother when she is laid up in bed. The eldest son is in charge of the younger two; he helps Jennifer with her school work, and feeds and dresses her.

Mano Amiga is a true blessing for so many families who are willing to go the extra mile to help themselves. Jennifer's family is filled with love and fortitude, despite a great many hardships.



But seek first the Kingdom of God and His Righteousness, and all these things will be given you besides. *MT 6:33*