



SPECIAL EDITION: featuring Ivan Lopez, Country Director and Co-Founder, Project KIKS, Mexico



Ivan Lopez seen mentoring his nephews, Juan and Mateo at his home in Vallejo, California

Se habla Espanol

In less than one year, while under the umbrella of Project KIKS, Inc., Ivan Lopez has managed to develop, fundraise and implement a kids shoe and support program in his home State of Leon, Guanajuato, Central Mexico. During my interview, Ivan expressed fond memories of his father, Eliso, and his mother, Esther traveling from Vallejo, California to his grandmother's house in Mexico, during the summer months. Along the way, his parents would make several stops to hand out shoes, clothing and food items to the poor and indigenous families. This was the beginning of Ivan becoming a humanitarian. He learned by modeling the kindness of his parents at a very early age. At the age of 18, would mentor his nephew Xavier and his high school buddies, supplying them with haircuts, hygiene and direction.

Ivan's philosophy: "Kids are our future, they are similar to plants, they must be fed, watered, nurtured and cultivated, in order to achieve a successful outcome. A Beautiful blossom."

He has volunteered at many of our fundraising events including: Napa Performing Arts Center, Yountville, California, Served as host at Napa Fire Benefit Relief Concert. Napa Police Department's Shop With A Cop, Kids Shoe Distribution, Napa, California, He put shoes on kids feet. Project KIKS 4th of July 2019, Bake Sale, Managed our bake sale booth. He sold lots of cookies, best seller ever. Project KIKS COVID-19 Senior Citizens Distribution Activity, Vallejo, California, May, 2020. He was part of our team who served 105 families with PPE supplies, toilet tissue and essentials. The entire Lopez family are avid supporters of our mission.

On July 27, 2019, Project KIKS celebrated Liberian Independence Day at the House of Worship, Vallejo, California.

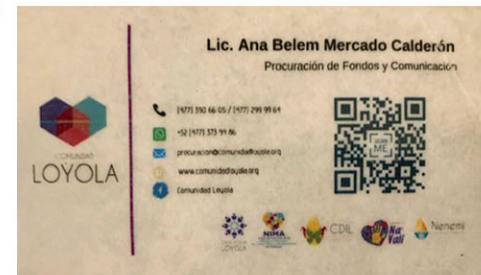
Project KIKS Board Members, Volunteers and Family Members. Ivan Lopez, left side rear, in red shirt.



Ivan expresses a desire to start a kids shoe program and he asked for our blessings. I was flabbergasted. I became his mentor. We met for several weeks, devised a plan of service. I provided Ivan with formal letters for Mexico Customs Agents and for Social Agencies he must interface along the way. I wish him good luck and GodSpeed.

Shortly thereafter, I received a call from Ivan. He says, "uncle, I am back from Mexico " (Ivan calls me uncle) I said yea, already, he said yes sir. I asked if brought evidence, meaning photos, letters, flyers, something to show. He said, yes, you trained me not to come back empty handed. Great, let's meet. At our meeting Ivan showed me photos, letters, etc, everything but the kitchen sink. Ivan's tale. First he asked everyone he knew, starting with family members to donate to the cause, providing school supplies, shoes and clothing for his mission. He flew to Mexico, suitcases stuffed with goods for poor and needy kids. Ivan was able to identify a reputable not-for-profit organization. He adopted the

Comunidad Loyola Foundation, established 1984, as his beneficiary agency.



Comunidad Loyola operates three distinct children's programs.

(1) Casa Hogar Loyola,

Serves boys and girls at risk of poverty and domestic violence. Managing 4 Children's Homes, 2 for boys & 2 for girls, 4-18 years old.

(2) CDIL, Centro De Desarrollo,

Provides temporary shelter for indigenous people, 5 groups, Otomi, Nahuatl, Purepecha, and the Mixteca y Mazahua tribes in transition and adaptation to the urban environment.

(3) Nenemi,

Offers a intercultural elementary school for indigenous development. Pre-school, and elementary education, health and nutrition for 100 migrant children.

For information, please contact Ivan Lopez, Country Director, Mexico. Email address: lopezivpkiks@gmail.com

By: Paul Cheatham II, Founder, Project KIKS

Project KIKS is a 501(c)(3) organization. All donations are tax-deductable.

www.projectkiks.org

Enjoy Ivan's photo collection on other side.