

**TO OUR BORDERLANDS OUTREACH HELPERS**  
**Desert House of Prayer - Sunday, August 25, 2019**

Here we are on the second Sunday of the new retreat year, as I send my thanks to all of you who help our outreach ministry, with very special thanks to those who were able to help during the six closed weeks. During that period, while Brother Bill toiled here daily on maintenance and repairs, I continued our outreach ministry every day including at Clínica Amistad and Catholic Community Services' ALITAS program for parents and little children released by the Border Patrol. I happened to get to the former monastery just as the final migrants were being moved from there to the new site on an unused property behind the Pima County Juvenile Courts. By the time we moved, the monastery had taken in over 11,000 parents and their little children since January.

One day, a Guatemalan mother and daughter came to visit the monastery. I was amazed that Maria the mother (at right in the photo) remembered me from 1984 when we helped them here as they were fleeing the massacres being carried out by the murderous Rios Montt regime. Her daughter Juanita (next to her in the photo) was four-years-old at the time. (The tall fellow at left is Raymond Daukei, an old friend and longtime borderlands volunteer.)



In these frightful times for migrants, I spend even more time now in counseling and guidance. Every day seems to bring more bad news. Thousands of legal asylum seekers are being sent back to Mexico to wait for their US court appearance. The new president AMLO was sending many of them all the way to Chiapas, though as I write this, Mexico is now standing up to Trump on this tactic. Church and other Mexican shelters in Nogales and all along the border are overflowing and often targeted by gangsters, kidnapers and cártel recruiters. So I thank you more than ever for your help in supporting me to be present among these brothers and sisters of ours as well as among Tucsonans who find themselves with no healthcare coverage. Our Clínica Amistad presently has 144 volunteers, including two new Nurse Practitioners, for a total of 26 primary care practitioners; 10 registered nurses; six therapists/acupuncturists; two nutritionists and a counselor.

Remember: you can reach me any time at 237-5434 and [ricardoelford@gmail.com](mailto:ricardoelford@gmail.com).

Always with my deeply heartfelt gratitude,

*Ricardo Elford, CSSR*  
*Receptorist Borderlands Outreach*