

PRESS RELEASE

**CIUDAD DE ÁNGELES, INC.**

**Marietta, Georgia**

**May 14, 2011**

Ciudad de Ángeles is considering opening a second orphanage in Cuernavaca, Mexico. The new location would operate similarly to the very successful children's home that Ciudad de Ángeles is developing in Cozumel, Mexico. James McCreary, Chair of the Board of Directors, said "the number of orphaned children in Mexico is staggering, and represents an opportunity for Christians to meet the physical needs of these children, while raising a generation of Christians who can impact the Lord's church in Mexico. God has truly blessed the work in Cozumel, and we believe the opportunity exists to replicate this successful model." James also noted that the evangelistic impact from the work in Cozumel has been extraordinary, affecting the growth of the local church and showing Christ in the surrounding community.

The city of Cuernavaca is located about one hour south of Mexico City and provides the essential criteria that have been keys to the success in Cozumel. These success factors include: a mature and growing local congregation that has a heart for children; convenient and safe access for Americans; and a visitor infrastructure to support adequate housing for mission teams. Doug Holcomb, a missionary in Cuernavaca for fourteen years, said "there is a great need to support orphaned children here, and the local congregations and missionaries are eager to collaborate with Ciudad de Ángeles to meet those needs and the parallel evangelistic opportunities."

Ciudad de Ángeles provides for the total care of the children they serve – physical, intellectual, emotional, and spiritual. The children are raised to become Christian adults who are responsible citizens in their local communities. Thirty-five children are currently served by the home in Cozumel, and there are plans to grow the campus infrastructure to house as many as 80 children. The orphanage takes full legal custody of the children with the intent to raise them to adulthood. The children are not available for adoption. Ciudad de Ángeles is a non-profit organization headquartered in Marietta, Georgia, and is governed by a ten-member Board of Directors. The orphanage is supported by several congregations in the church of Christ fellowship.

The home in Cozumel has grown rapidly since it was founded in 2002; however, one key success factor has been controlled growth. Dennis Wilson, the American Director, says “the children come from very volatile histories, and it is critical that we provide the most stable environment possible. If growth is too rapid, the home will lose its family environment.”

The addition of a second location will complement the overall mission of Ciudad de Ángeles to assist more Mexican children while prudently limiting the growth rate at the Cozumel campus. Gary Gardner, the President of the organization, explains that “several key factors limit growth in an orphanage and must be carefully balanced.” Gary said that beyond maintaining stability for the children, there is an ever-increasing need for Christian workers of Mexican heritage, and requirements of time and resources required to construct houses and infrastructure. It is also important that each orphan has Christian sponsors and mentors. Gary said if growth is too rapid in one area, the other needs cannot keep pace.

A primary goal of the expansion is to use the knowledge learned in Cozumel and to have the two operations collaborate closely in developing and sharing best practices. Since Ciudad de Ángeles is licensed in Mexico as an Institucion de Asistencia Privada (a national, nonprofit organization), it can operate orphanages anywhere in Mexico thus allowing it to replicate its successful operating format.

Ciudad de Ángeles has developed a five-year plan for the expansion to Cuernavaca. This plan includes several key milestones, the most important of which is to identify at least three U.S. congregations of the churches of Christ that are interested in partnering in this expansion. If you would like to learn more, please visit the Ciudad de Ángeles website at [www.ciudaddeangeles.org](http://www.ciudaddeangeles.org) or contact Gary Gardner by phone at 404-551-5129 or by email [gary@ciudaddeangeles.org](mailto:gary@ciudaddeangeles.org).