

BIG HEART ORPHANAGE



ROBERT "GATOR" AND DEANNA CARTER ALONG WITH THEIR CHILDREN LEAD BIG HEART.

About Big Heart Orphanage...

Big Heart is located in Reynosa, Tamaulipas MX, right across from Pharr, Texas U.S. They opened their doors October of 2000 and have been blessed to be a part of some amazing kids lives. Currently Big Heart houses 18 children. They have 10 beds for girls and 10 beds

for boys along with 3 mini apartments for teenagers.

Big Heart's main purpose is to supply a loving home for kids and orphans including food, clothing, and education. They do have a few "true orphans" but many of the children are from Mexican

single-parent families that do not have consistent work to supply the needs of their children. A majority of the parents are still involved in their children's lives and the children do get to go home to their families every other weekend.



ESTRELLA



JORGE



SELENA

The children's ages usually vary between 6-16, although some children land outside that range. Once a child turns 18, the government requires them to leave the orphanage.

There are many orphanages that house over a 100 children. However, Big Heart's facility is smaller.

THEY STRIVE TO PROVIDE MORE OF A HOME RATHER THAN JUST A SHELTER.

The children call Gator, dad, and Deanna, mom. Gator and Deanna are working hard to disciple the children who they are entrusted with for the time that they have them. Some children have grown up in the orphanage and graduated. Others, their parents take back as their finances become stable. The deep relationships that are formed with the children creates a relationship that lasts long after they are no longer at the orphanage.

They are not caring for these children in hopes that they will be adopted or go to the U.S. Big Heart Orphanage makes it their mission to help raise up a generation of Mexican people who love God, lead their homes and eventually lead the nation of Mexico.

Safety

In recent years, God has provided Big Heart with the finances to do some amazing ministry within their community, on top of providing a home for children. Whether the economy is strong and financial support is plentiful or not, they often give out food and supplies to the locals. Gator and his family have tremendous influence because of how they love and serve their neighbors in Christ's name.



ORPHAN EVENT

We will take the orphans and leadership to a local water park and grill out. The purpose of this event is for the orphans to have a great time and for us to get to know them. This would serve as a great opportunity right at the start of the trip to develop relationships with the staff and orphans at Big Heart.



JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL

Opening Fall 2017

An important part of the orphanage is their private school that is a few blocks away from the orphanage. All the kids at the orphanage attend the school and it is also open to the public for those who can pay tuition for their child. It is a K-8 school. This last year there were 30 children in the kindergarten class. Each year the school continues to grow.

Big Heart Orphanage is vital to the community and people have great respect for them.

With every mission trip there is a need for training to be wise and intentional

about making provisions for safety. Gator will let us know if he feels that it would not be safe for us to go. He would not put our leaders or students in danger.

Big Heart Community Center

Big Heart does have a Community Center across the street from the orphanage. The goal for the Center is to be a safe place for the kids from the orphanage and in the community to play together. They currently host community Bible studies and have an eventual goal of being a food pantry and clothing facility. The Community Center has 15' walls and is gated. Micah and Jenny live on the top of the Center.

Neighbors Event

We will work with the local church to host an outreach event in the community. This event will hinge on the needs of the surrounding area. Combining the ministry of Big Heart and the local church creates an opportunity for both to love and serve their neighbors together.

Accommodations:

- Twin Bunkbeds
- 1 Guy's dorm & 1 Girl's dorm
- 3 rooms that sleep 4 each
- 3 bathrooms in girl's dorm w/hot water
- 2 bathrooms in guy's dorm w/hot water
- 7 stand-alone bathrooms w/hot water
- Air conditioned rooms at night
- All water is filtered and safe for drinking within the orphanage
- Food is outstanding!
- Adequate beds within the orphanage for large mission teams
- Linens and towels provided
- 10' wall surrounds the orphanage with glass shards on top or spikes on metal gates for safety

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



Local Economic Impact

Two small snack stores are one block from the orphanage that would be available for adult-supervised trips to get a drink or a snack throughout the week.

WORK/MINISTRY



The work depends on the finances available and what the needs are when the time comes for us to go. The point is to join in the ministry that Big Heart is doing. Below is a list of opportunities available to our team.

- There is always typical construction work to be done (Concrete, painting, building, etc.). Gator can provide all of the tools that we need.
- Potentially put a metal roof over the Community Center.
- VBS type activities for the children at the orphanage, school and/or in the community.
- We will partner with the local church for an outreach event. What has worked in the past is giving away food, clothing and cleaning supplies while there is live music and a gospel presentation.
- Street evangelism.
- We will provide food, clothing and cleaning supplies for people along the canal.

Individual Cost of Trip

\$850 Cost (amount can be fundraised)

Includes the Following:

Housing and food at the orphanage

Flight

2 checked bags one way (we will be leaving one bag with clothing & supplies)

Transportation costs

Trip Insurance

Misc. Expenses

Transportation

Big Heart Orphanage has one 12-passenger van, one 15 passenger van, and a 15 passenger mini bus. By utilizing their vehicles, we will be able to travel as needed.



Passport

Every team member will be required to have a passport. Please visit <http://travel.state.gov/passport/> to begin the process.

Lois Bumpus Scholarship

The Lois Bumpus Missions Endowment and Scholarship Fund was created in honor of Lois Bumpus' lifetime commitment to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The purpose of these funds is to underwrite missionary work across the globe for 16 to 26 year old members of Carmel Baptist Church. It is the desire of the Bumpus family that these dollars be used to help young men and women in their endeavors to spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ across the globe through short-term mission trips. For complete details and the application please visit <http://carmelbaptist.org/serve/nations/mission-trips/mission-trip-scholarship/>

Standards

Spiritual preparation is vital to serving on mission. In order to participate in the Mexico mission project, students are expected to have 80% attendance in Student Discipleship Community, and attend all training dates along with the packing party.

Important Dates

Application Deadline: March 1

Lois Bumpus Scholarship Deadline: March 15

Half Cost Due: March 31

Training 1: April 26 - 7:00-8:00pm (Fitness Room)

Training 2: May 7 - 12:15-2:00pm (Fitness Room)

Full Cost Due: May 15

Training 3: May 24 - 6:15-7:30pm (Fitness Room)

Training 4: May 31 - 6:15-7:30pm (Fitness Room)

Training 5: June 7 - 6:15-7:30pm (Fitness Room)

Packing Party: June 28 - 6:00-7:30pm (Gym)

ITINERARY

- SATURDAY - FLY FROM CHARLOTTE TO TEXAS, CROSS THE BORDER, GET SETTLED, PLAN WORK/MINISTRY WEEK.
- SUNDAY - CHURCH, FUN AFTERNOON WITH THE ORPHANS AT A LOCAL WATER PARK.
- MONDAY - WORK/MINISTRY
- TUESDAY - WORK/MINISTRY
- WEDNESDAY - WORK/MINISTRY (POTENTIAL OUTREACH EVENT)
- THURSDAY - WORK/MINISTRY (POTENTIAL OUTREACH EVENT)
- FRIDAY - WORK/MINISTRY (POTENTIAL OUTREACH EVENT)
- SATURDAY - FLY FROM TEXAS TO CHARLOTTE

DETAILS

Trip Dates: July 1 - 8, 2017

People: 40 people (8 Adults & 32 students)

Flight: Cost Dependent: Roundtrip via United Airlines from Charlotte to McAllen, TX or Southwest Airlines from Charlotte to Harlingen, TX

Housing/Food: Housing will be at the orphanage and all meals will be included.

Big Heart Orphanage Phone: 210-579-0902

Big Heart Orphanage Mailing Address: PO Box 746, Pharr, TX 78577

Big Heart Orphanage Email: info@bigheartorphanage.org

Facebook: BigHeartOrphanage