

# Halton Hills youth help the poor in Mexico

**DAVID SCHEEPSTRA**  
Special to The IFP

(David Scheepstra is a Georgetown Christian Reformed Church member and a Grade 12 student at Christ the King. He has written this article on the church's mission trip to Ensenada, Mexico.)

From the severely troubled Jane-Finch area in Toronto to a bunch of small poverty-stricken communities in Mexico, youths from churches in Halton Hills are doing good and making a difference.

A group formed of mostly youths (14 teens and four leaders), from both the Georgetown Christian Reformed Church and Acton's Bethel Christian Reformed Church, returned recently from a 10-day trip to help poor people in Ensenada, Mexico by building a septic tank, painting a church, handing out 1,500 pounds of donated clothing, 600 pounds of beans and rice, and diapers.

They also put a smile on every child's face by performing biblical puppet shows, mimes, playing sports with them (they love playing soccer), and making various crafts. Some of the children even helped in church services by giving testimonials of how they came to know God

and of how God has helped them get through troubling times in their lives.

The local team members were Brad Bloemendal, Christine Dreise, Daniel Dreise, Laura Duivesteyn, Nicole Ireland, Kirsten Kennedy, Anneloes Kollenhoven, Elise Kollenhoven, Jill Kortleve, Jennife Kroezen, Amanda Reinders, Joel Roest, David Scheepstra, and Kathleen Slofstra. The leaders were Machteld Kollenhoven, Janet Leferink, Harry Reinders, and Ray Scheepstra. The missionaries were Rick and Tammy Romano.

Before leaving for Mexico, we spent a few days every month at the Acton church training for this trip. This was when we would practise our puppet shows and our mimes as well as our songs. Also, we were tutored in the art of bricklaying. We raised money through fundraising activities such as washing cars, a garage sale, a Mexican dinner, and selling plants. Several donations were gratefully received to help defray the cost to each member of the team. Thanks to the two building contractors from the Georgetown church, Albert and Martinus Otten, we were provided with the materials to practise with.

Though it was my second trip, it still really saddens me to see how these people live in comparison to how we live. We throw away the food on our plates without a second thought while they can never get enough. Their income is significantly less than that of anyone in our community. They earn approximately \$10 for 14 hours of back-breaking work!

And none of these people have decent places to live. In fact, some of them have to live under tarps because they have nothing better. They also live with no hope for a brighter future.

I think no one deserves to live like these people do. It saddens me even more to think that there are a lot of people even worse off than them in this world.

If a few of us try to help them then we will make a slight difference for some of them. But if we all do what we can to help them, then maybe, just maybe, there will be a brighter future for them.



Youth put on a show for Mexican children. Photo submitted



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