



Welcome to 2021! We are starting this year with enthusiasm, moving forward, strengthened by the Lord, with a desire to keep helping those who need it. Although the future is uncertain, our strength and joy continue to be in our Heavenly Father.

Some Good News

In the third wave of the pandemic, the town of Pozoblanco reached a worrisome level of Covid infections. Facing this circumstance, on January 28th all the owners of the town's pharmacies got together to donate 15,000 face masks to various charitable associations, among them the Good Samaritan.

The six pharmacies of Pozoblanco—Rocío Vargas, Antonio Molina, Pilar Bujalance, José Alcaide, José Cabrera and María Antonia Navas, donated a total of 12,500 masks for adults and 3,000 for children.

Noticia

As part of the Dorcas program, those surgical masks for adults and children are being given to the families who regularly benefit from its charitable work, helping save them the cost of purchasing such items.



Dorcas Program

We have a new project under way called, “micro credits for acquiring basic food,” as part of the Dorcas Program’s aid to families in economic difficulty. The project was inspired by the growing number of persons seeking help during the pandemic alarm and confinements that started last spring.

It amounts to giving out vouchers good for the purchase of fresh products (meat, fish, fruit and vegetables) at the various small businesses of Pozoblanco. The users repay to us, little by little, half the value of the vouchers, and the other half is subsidized by the Provincial Institute for the Social Welfare of Córdoba.



The foods thus acquired end up complementing those that we give out each month, which are mostly “basic foods” (rice, pasta, legumes, etc.) In that way we encourage a more balanced diet, and at the same time support our local small businesses. This project, aimed not only at residents of Pozoblanco but also those of other nearby towns, has been well received and started functioning in December.



Three residents successfully complete the rehabilitation Program

After twelve months, three residents have finished the program. This was a process that took much effort on their part to make cognitive, behavioral, emotional and spiritual changes. Acquiring the necessary tools to keep dealing with their tendency to addiction after leaving the covering of the rehabilitation center, they have worked out a life plan with short, medium and long-term goals that are quantifiable and measurable, toward which they will continue to work. After leaving the center, they have regular support meetings with other rehabilitated men. The methodology used at the Good Samaritan Center has objectives for the various stages of rehabilitation: Pre-contemplation, Contemplation, Preparation, Action, Maintenance and Relapse Prevention. These correspond to the Transtheoretical Model of Change worked out by Prochaska and DiClemente.



Agustín



My name is Agustín; over a year ago, I got to a point where I no longer cared about living. One day, though, I decided to ask for help. That's how I entered the Good Samaritan Center. During the first two months, I was a little evasive and distant, but when I truly faced the reality of what the program was about, I just wanted to leave. But I started to come to grips with the things I had done before coming to the center, the sadness I had caused for my mother and brothers, and I felt sorry.

Thanks to the therapists, I decided to continue in the 12-month program, during which time I kept seeing how my life—my way of thinking and acting—was changing. The members of my family forgave me for what I had done. During the time at the Center, there were good and bad days, but as I followed the process, I realized that soon the moment would come to leave. I worked out my “life project,” becoming aware of the reality that awaited me out in the world but encouraged about being able to restart my life according to the plans I had made. So, my time to leave approached, but along with that I had a court date coming up for a criminal case that was at the phase of sentencing. I didn't want to go to jail, and I asked God: “Father, please don't let me go to jail.” The Lord heard my prayer, and on the day that I faced the judge and the prosecutor, the sentence was less than I had imagined, with no jail time, and I thank God for His mercy!

Now I am out of the center, I have a job, I have gotten my own apartment, and it has gone better for me than I could have imagined—I see that God is with me. At the beginning I had a job I didn't enjoy at all, and every day I told God: “Thank you for this job, but You know this isn't for me, please help me get a different job.” God answered and I am very happy. I also wanted to help someone with the skills I have, and God allowed me to help a local Muslim family set up their kitchen, and that was a dream come true.

Now I am walking every day with the tools I have learned to use, to keep control over the addiction, and to depend on God in prayer so that He may help me to reach my goals.

Adopt an olive tree and impact a life!

Situated in the Sierra Morena in northern Andalusia, the Good Samaritan has a productive olive grove. The organic extra-virgin oil that is produced in this part of Spain is universally recognized as being among the best in the world. This is due to the conditions of cultivation, climate and the type of tree, and although the yield is not abundant, the quality is exceptional.

The olives harvested at the center are taken to a local cooperative to produce the oil. In 2004, the cooperative received a national prize for the quality of its organic production. With a minimum contribution of only 60 euros if you live in Spain (or 70 if you are in another E.U. country), you will receive a 3-liter can of this delicious organic extra-virgin olive oil, and you will also receive a photo of the tree you have adopted!

You will be able to share this wonderful olive oil with your companions at table, our gift to you for your solidarity with us in sponsoring a tree, and you will have the satisfaction of being a part of the transformation in the lives of these men. For each tree you sponsor, you are impacting the life of a human being, with eternal consequences. The sponsorship of a tree can also be an ideal gift for any occasion: Christmas, a birthday, an anniversary, a wedding or simply a gift to tell someone they matter to you.

**100% of the benefits of the tree adoptions goes to
invest in the lives of the men who are doing the
program.**

We encourage you to visit us and participate as a volunteer at the Center. If you come in the spring, you can clean and prepare the base of the olive tree for the new season, and if you come between November and January, you can help with the harvest! Come and see!

buensam.org/colabora.htm





Campaign to support the social work of
the Good Samaritan Association

Adopt an olive tree !

70€/YEAR

And receive 3 liters of our
brand of olive oil + a photo of your olive tree.

buensam.org/collaborate.htm



more info: aceitebuensam@gmail.com

Other ways to help

<http://www.buensam.org/tienda.htm>

Shop



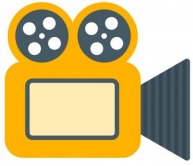
It's up to you

Only 1 euro



<http://www.buensam.org/colabora.htm>

Our new video



<https://youtu.be/PkSktZ7bjj8>



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