

Travel and make a difference!



Some of the kids at Misión México.

We have all heard about celebrities travelling the world to help those in need, but you don't have to be a TV or movie star to make a difference. One very special couple from Queensland discovered this when they started Misión México a refuge for children in need.

How was Misión México started?

Alan and Pam Skuse, an Australian couple from the Sunshine Coast, arrived in Tapachula, southern Mexico, in November 2000 to volunteer for 12 months at an orphanage. The organisation they came to work with, however, was forced to close down within six months. Not willing to simply abandon the children in their care, Alan and Pam made the decision to leave their comfortable lives in Australia and establish their own refuge for the children in Tapachula. And so, "Misión México, Giving Love, Life and Hope" (www.lovelifehope.com) was born.



Pam with one of the children.

What does Misión México do?

The refuge provides care for an average of 55 children. The majority of them are there on permanent basis. These boys and girls, aged between four and 19, have been orphaned, abandoned, abused or come from extreme poverty. Pam and Alan have devoted their lives to make sure these children have bright futures.

Misión México provides more than just food, shelter and education, it's about creating a loving family life where the children can feel happy and safe. The refuge for them represents a family home rather than an institution, where the children can feel loved and secure. Since the refuge was established Pam and Alan have helped around 250 kids from various circumstances of need.



The whole family.



Spending a day at the beach.



Stefan with the children.

Somewhere Near Tapachula:

Two young Australian surfers Jonno Durrant and Stefan Hunt visited Misión México and made a documentary about life there. *Somewhere Near Tapachula* is a truly inspiring story of love, life and hope. The documentary looks at the horrific childhoods of 54 kids, their new life at Misión México and the exciting future that will come if they follow their dreams. It also focuses on the unique surf community that they have pioneered in Tapachula, coastal city with no other wave riders. To these kids the ocean is not just a place of fun, it's an escape from what life used to be.

Please log onto www.lovelifehope.com to find out more!

How can I help?

Misión México relies on the generosity of individuals to continue the work that they do. They receive no Government funding.

There are a number of ways that you can help:

- Donations are always very much appreciated, but you can also help by sponsoring a child to attend school.
- You can send gifts to the children, clothing and toiletries are always in high demand.
- If you really want to take a holiday with a difference, volunteer to help out at Misión México and spend some time with the amazing children.
- Buy copies of the *Somewhere Near Tapachula* documentary DVD as all proceeds go to the children at Misión México head to www.surfindustries.com
- Letting other people know about Misión México is a huge help.

For more information email info@lovelifehope.com



Pam with the children.