

“The volunteer group arrived on Sunday. We have a diverse range of project goals but our main goal is to get the three-level training centre we are living in ready to pass inspection at the end of January, and to improve the wellbeing and education of the nine young orphanage kids (aged 3 – 11 years).

The cleaning will take it out of us as we have concrete/paint/mud everywhere (freshly built) as well as a HUGE dirt wall that needs to be cleared to ground level. We are pretty spoilt living in the training centre, but the kitchen is yet to have its plumbing installed, so we are challenged when it comes to washing up. We have to take everything down three floors, wash it outside in buckets (and it is COLD outside) and then hike it all back up again.

We are settling into Mexican life well, helped by a local family that have accepted us as their own. The locals are also wonderful –it makes a big difference to how we feel.

The kids love us but are far from angels. Given that they are removed from families due to abuse/neglect etc, their behavior will need a firm hand. However, they have though stolen our hearts knowing that we can make a difference and do, and each day we always have a funny story to share about what the kids do.

It’s getting colder as each day passes... apparently it can snow in the hills behind us in winter... blows my mind that it snows in Mexico!!! Beanies, tracksuits, slippers, scarves are the norm around the centre now.

We are gearing up for a big week next week with getting into cleaning and working with the kids. About 5 hours of hard labour a day is structured into the schedule with 3 hours with the kids each day. We also have three dinner invitations to honour.. We are here to make a difference and there is only 5 weeks left!!