

PEACE-MAKING IN MEXICO

few years ago Monterrey, Mexico, was considered to be one of the safest and most prosperous cities in Latin America. But drug and gang related violence have swept over the city. Covenant World Relief is partnering with the Family Development Foundation in the areas of violence prevention and conflict resolution. Claudia Garza, the co-director of FDF, shares about the children who attend the FDF Kids' Club:

"They live in La Campana, a difficult environment, characterized by poverty and the lack of opportunities. Abuse and violence are part of their daily bread—violence in their home, violence at school, violence in their community. Working with these kids is something that really is worth it. In spite of the environment in which they live, we are excited to see that they are acquiring values that they practice daily. Since February we have been sharing Project Change with them, a violence prevention workshop for elementary age boys and girls. Listening to them they fill your heart with joy, they are transparent and loving, and they see life with much optimism."

FDF also offers conflict resolution classes for the women who meet regularly at the FDF center. These classes address conflict within families as well as conflict within the community. At a time when businesses and others are leaving Monterrey because of the violence, FDF has chosen to remain in full operation and is seeking to be peacemakers and agents of transformation in their community.



A ministry of the Evangelical Covenant Church • 8303 W. Higgins Rd., Chicago, Illinois 60631 Phone: 773-784-3000 • Email: covenantworldrelief@covchurch.org • Website: www.covchurch.org/cwr Facebook: www.facebook.com/covenantworldrelief • Blog: blogs.covchurch.org/cwr • Twitter: twitter.com/CovWorldRelief



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