



# The Children's Foundation and Casa Hogar los Angelitos

Spring 2008

## Graduation and Special Events

Step by step, our goals have become a reality. In the graduation area, 6 of our pre teenagers have finished their 6th grade of education. With the help of their sponsors, these kids will be able to continue their studies, and this year they began their seventh grade of school. In significant celebrations like this, Nancy Nystrom could not be absent; she packed her suitcase and took a flight from Colorado to Manzanillo. She mentioned "I can't be absent. I have to be with my kids, support them, and be part of their special event." The happiness of the kids can be easily seen in their eyes and when they see their Mom Nancy arriving.

**Congratulations!** Andrés, Artemio, Alberto, Rodrigo, Emilia, and Xiomara.



### Inside this Issue

Mexico Golf Tournament	Pg 1
Message from our Founder	Pg 2
Children Perform	Pg 3
Regalos de Amor	Pg 4
Blessing in Disguise	Pg 5
Music Program Expands	Pg 6
Family Photos	Pg 7

## The Open House and 2nd Annual Golf Tournament in Manzanillo

The 11th Annual Casa Hogar los Angelitos Dinner was held February 2nd, 2008, in Manzanillo, Mexico, and it was a very successful night. The location was changed this year to the Oasis to accommodate the 265 people that attended. The food was great and the silent auction was a huge success, but the main event was the children of the Casa Hogar and their magnificent performance of the

Folkloric Ballet. Their performance was professional and they have been asked to perform throughout the state of Colima at local events. A big 'thank you' to all who helped with this major production.

The day before the casa hogar dinner, the 2nd Annual Golf Tournament was held at the Club Santiago Golf Course. Over 70 golfers participated. The event was sponsored by Bob and Liz Dillard and SSA of Mexico Fonde Port. Many other local businesses sponsored holes throughout the event. A car was up for grabs on hole number 8, but even with all the professionals, we had no one win the car.

All of the money that we made at the functions this year was used to help

the general operations of Casa Hogar los Angelitos . With 45 plus children, expenses increase every month to operate this orphanage.

Please plan to join us next year for the **3rd Annual Casa Hogar los Angelitos Golf Tournament:**

**January 17th, 2009.**

**The Casa Hogar los Angelitos fundraising dinner will be on January 24th, 2009.**

Write these dates down and make sure you are in Manzanillo for our 12th annual Open House!!!

**Steve and Diana Stout**





## A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER, NANCY NYSTROM



Today, as I walk through the grounds of the casa hogar, I see a group of pre-school children, some who have learned to walk in this past year...each with a different personality and future ahead of them, all playing little games and toddling through learning activities. I see some of the elementary school boys and girls working on their homework, some playing soccer in the play ground,

and some working on the computers in the study/library area. The older boys and girls coming in from their school activities are getting ready for their various after-school activities. As I watch each individual and group, I want to say 'thank you' ...to you who continue to make this vision and mission possible, rescuing and changing children's lives. Andrés and Artemio, who came to us as little boys are now young men, almost six feet tall...both with excellent academic records. Andrés will be taking driver's education this year, is active in the folkloric dance group, and has grown into a charming and considerate young man. Artemio, his brother, has almost perfect grades, studies guitar, and plays on the local soccer team. I have watched each of our children grow and change, developing their talents and special personalities. Today we have 44 children, some new to Casa Hogar los Angelitos this year and some who have been with us since we began. What a blessing to be able to continue in this very rewarding work!

### ON A PERSONAL NOTE

As we move further into 2008, it seems important to remember how The Children's Foundation and Casa Hogar los Angelitos began over fourteen years ago. 'The death of a son, a vision, a calling, a mission...but, more important faith... faith that God will provide.' It seems that faith requires us to take God at His Word...to move...to take the risk and to "step into the water". I personally believe that faith is a gift...like the air we breathe; and like air, it is also something that we have to receive and respond to.

Each day in the work of Casa Hogar los Angelitos continues to be a step in faith. Throughout the years we have faced every type of situation imaginable, sometimes working against unbelievable odds, criticism and open

persecutions. Without moving in faith, I would not be able to move at all. It is faith in God's power: love for the children, and determination to stay focused that has kept me from being paralyzed in fear and frustration. I read in the Bible that "God is the father to the fatherless...that he cares about and loves the orphans and the poor...that He instructs us to protect and to care for those in need...to feed the hungry..." and that is what we try to do every day. Yet, our vision goes beyond this.

In Casa Hogar los Angelitos our vision is not limited to providing only the basics. We work hard to provide an atmosphere of love, a home where there is beauty, self esteem and the opportunity to succeed. We do not send children back onto the streets when they turn twelve or thirteen, even though that is the accepted practice of many children's homes in Mexico. We take babies, even in diapers, when others will not. We believe that every child has the right to live in an atmosphere of love, beauty, security and respect. We believe that every child deserves the best that we can do for them.

Because our vision is different from many other casas hogares, so is the quality of our care and the maintenance of our facilities. Our work has not always been without criticism and misunderstanding. There are some who believe that we aren't in need of financial support. However, to provide for the daily operation and care of 40-50 children, to offer the development programs that actually provide opportunity to change lives, we continue to require financial support beyond the basic needs of shelter, food, clothing. Our resources are continually stretched with programs and facilities needed to correctly care for the age groups that we have.

We try to stay focused on our vision, mission, growth and development of programs and facilities as we continue to move forward in faith and action. Thank you for your continued support, encouragement and confidence in this vision and mission to rescue children, to change their lives and their future.

**Nancy Nystrom**



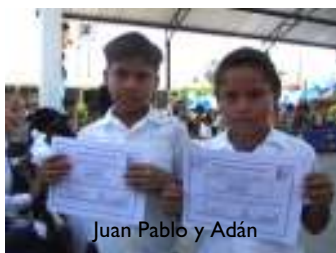
## Construction Progress

### CURRENT CONSTRUCTION NEWS

Construction for the new education facility is still in process. This construction is designed to improve, develop and provide educational facilities for a small library, computer science area, music education, our folkloric dance program, small auditorium for lessons and performances and other educational uses.

We began the construction in July of 2007, and will hopefully be able to continue and complete this facility in 2008.

## Achievements in Education



Juan Pablo y Adán

Juan Pablo and Adan received diplomas for their academic achievement during the academic year. The principals of the school, in front of all students and parents, congratulated and awarded Juan Pablo and his brother Adán. They gave both a diploma for first and second place. Showing their shyness and their happiness, these kids approached Mom Nancy and

Dr. Guiber with smiles on their faces to show them how very proud they were of themselves and the awards they received. Dr Guiber had promised them that if they had good grades, he would award them with an excursion to the annual camp that Casa Hogar does in Mazamitlan.

## Children Invited to Perform

There is another activity which we feel proud of. In the past months our pre-Hispanic dance group, directed by the professor Juan Cruz and with the participation of the kids of the Casa Hogar los Angelitos, has been invited by different people and other institutions of government to participate in different special events that are directed by the state of Colima and local areas of Manzanillo. They have been represented in events of the University of Colima. One of the goals and dreams of this group is to be able to obtain a passport and visa to be able to go to the United States and present their dances as cultural exchange.



We hope that in the coming months we can do the paperwork and hopefully count on the necessary sponsors for these kids to be able to meet their goal.

## New Children

### Carlitos



Carlitos is a charming boy who likes playing ball and walking in the park. Chicken soup and sweet bread are his favorite meals. He turned two on February 3, and as happens at the end of each month, the home held a small party: cake and sweets were distributed to all children. Carlitos enjoyed his party and the time with his friends. Although he is a shy kid, he plays with his friends in the orphanage. He is not yet old enough to attend school, but he likes to perform activities such as drawing and coloring.

### Edgar Úriel



Úriel is another one of our children who also celebrated his birthday last February 22. He is the older brother of Carlitos. Both were born in the month of February. He and his brother came to live at the Casa Hogar on August 15, 2007. They have adapted well in the home. Úriel's favorite sports are swimming, running, and playing marbles with his peers. He is not afraid of heights and loves to climb trees. Úriel is a child who is very kind and loving.



## Scholarship Opportunity

The F.E.E.D. scholarship was established with the hope of providing a financial boost and encouragement for young people who might otherwise "fall through the cracks" because of special circumstances. Please check out our website for information on criteria, scholarships that are available, and the process for applying.

## Christmas at CHLA "Regalos de Amor"



One of the programs at Casa Hogar Los Angelitos is "Gifts of Love." This program began with the objective of living our kids a special gift at Christmas. This program is promoted 3 months before Christmas. Any person can make a specific donation for this purpose.

This was another year that Casa Hogar organized a New Years party for everyone of the kids. Every single one of them enjoyed different typical Mexican foods like posole, tamales, atole, Christmas salad, and for dessert, cake. Obviously piñatas and candy where also included. For entertainment they did different types of games. During the night they told stories about their families and friends. It was a special night of happiness, and everyone had fun, but the most exciting moment was when it came the moment to open the presents. The emotion was so great that no one could wait to open theirs. Every kid wanted to be the first to obtain their gift.

Special thanks to every single one of the sponsors this year who helped us do "Gifts of love 2007"

**Thank you!**

## Ministerios de Amor

### Ministries of Love

On March 3rd of 2003 the program Ministries of Love began, with the mission to provide food and medical care to kids and families that are victims of extreme poverty. One of our objectives is to locate families and kids located in mountain areas and colonies that are almost forgotten. The 3rd of March, Ministries of Love celebrated the 5th year of service. Hundreds of families have been benefited by receiving help with food, clothing and water. They have received medicine, and also during Christmas time, the kids of 12 years old and younger have received a gift (toy) of love.

We have gone through many different experiences. Especially when we received persons from desperate situations that are difficult to even imagine.

An example is the life of the immigrant Mixtecos. Complete families including babies in their first months of life, live with almost nothing, camping under plastic bags, and without relying on any services, without water, without medical assistance, and without electricity. You can do a lot for them! If you wish to know more or be part of this program, please contact us and be part of the solution. With love and hope that our program Ministries of Love brings to these communities. A good example of this type of help is the one that we gave to our Mixtecos friends during the month of February, installing for them an electricity generator. You cannot imagine the happiness that this generated for them. The kids jumped for joy while the adults, both men and women, manifested their happiness with a big smile.

We thank the couple from the United States for the donation they made to Ministries of Love so that the group of Mixtecos can count on having electricity.





## A BLESSING IN DISGUISE...

It is said "All things come in their time..." In the past 13 years Casa Hogar los Angelitos has lost 3 pieces of property to various government agencies. However, with each loss there was a better, more usable property that replaced it. In January of this year we discovered that a property that had been donated to us five years ago had been confiscated by local authorities for use as a recreation area. What a surprise to see this property one day as it had been, then five days later seeing it cleared with construction crews, cement mixers and footings going in. Needless to say we immediately had to go to battle to retain our rights. When we received the land it was unbuildable because of a huge

drainage hole. We began seeking clean fill dirt, built a partial wall and waited to determine our next step. This land was approximately 1 mile from the casa hogar facilities and was approximately 1700 square meters.

The end results seem to be a blessing in disguise. We are now to receive a piece of land with 2000 square meters one block from the casa hogar and next to a sports recreation field that will be built. The master plan for this property is to build dormitories that will accommodate our boys six years of age and older. We would sell casa 2, where our pre-teen boys are and give up the small rental property where our older boys

live. Casa 1 would remain as the central area, administration, etc. and remain as the home for all the girls and preschool children. To protect this property, we must build a wall completely around it as quickly as possible then begin our building campaign. With the development of this property, we can increase the number of children we care for giving us facilities for 75 to 100 children.



## Golf Tournament in Gypsum, Colorado

To benefit The Children's Foundation and Casa Hogar los Angelitos. **Save the date: September 13, 2008** The tournament will be held at **Cotton Ranch Golf Club**. Don't forget to mark your calendars. And remember, there are many ways to get involved even if you can't attend the event. There will be



opportunities for sponsorships, donations, silent auction items and much, much more.

*Special thanks!*

Tim and Mara Garton have graciously offered to support us and hold those dates aside for this benefit.

## Volunteer Opportunity

Do you belong to a service group that is interested in a volunteer opportunity with our organization? If so, please contact The Children's Foundation for more information.



## Because You Asked

Casa Hogar los Angelitos is a casa hogar...children's home...different from most children's homes in Mexico. Many children's homes provide only the basics to maintain a child. Many children's homes will not take children younger than two years old or children that require special attention, whether psychological, emotional or medical. Many children's homes will not continue to care for children beyond the age of 12 or 13. All of these things take extra workers, extra funds, additional and separate dormitories to care for babies under the age of two and teenagers over the age of 12. Babies in diapers require 1-2 full time people plus the expense of diapers and special food. Children that need special medical or psychological care require extra staff and funds for special medicines.

At Casa Hogar los Angelitos we take children in need, children of all ages, and we do not send a child back on the street or back to a family that cannot care for them as they reach puberty.

Casa Hogar los Angelitos is different because we strive to continually improve our programs, develop our facilities and promote opportunity for the children in order to maximize the funding that is provided for the short-and long- term benefit of the children. Our programs include vocational, cultural and social training. Because many children come into the casa hogar without formal education, we provide academic tutoring and ongoing educational support to assure opportunity for success. Most of our children work hard to succeed in what they do because they are given the opportunity to dream and develop. They become very successful in school, many of them at the top of their class academically. We try to maintain a campus/home family setting so that the children have the opportunity to live in a more normal atmosphere while

still maintaining safety and security. We work to function as part of the local community. Our children have the opportunity to interact with other youth, to share with others, and to learn.

Casa Hogar los Angelitos is a non-profit Mexican civil association which must abide by all the rules and regulations of the Mexican government. We are not funded by any government or religious agency. Funding comes through contributions, gifts, and efforts of individuals and service organizations with the desire to provide opportunity and change the lives of children without opportunity.

Costs of providing quality care for 45 children average \$3000-3500 dollars per child per year. CHLA maintains accountability to our contributors as well as to the appropriate government agencies. We submit to an official government audit annually, pay all of our workers, pay employment taxes and utilize an outside CPA firm to monitor our monthly operation.

Casa Hogar los Angelitos is developing a "next generation" of leadership. Rescuing children, changing lives, one child at a time, with compassion, dedication and integrity.



## MUSIC PROGRAM FOR CHILDREN EXPANDS

This month the casa hogar has expanded our music program. In addition to the dance program that is in place for the older children, we now have classes for the middle and younger children. Beginning the first of April, an additional 16 children have the opportunity to take classes in piano, violin, guitar and

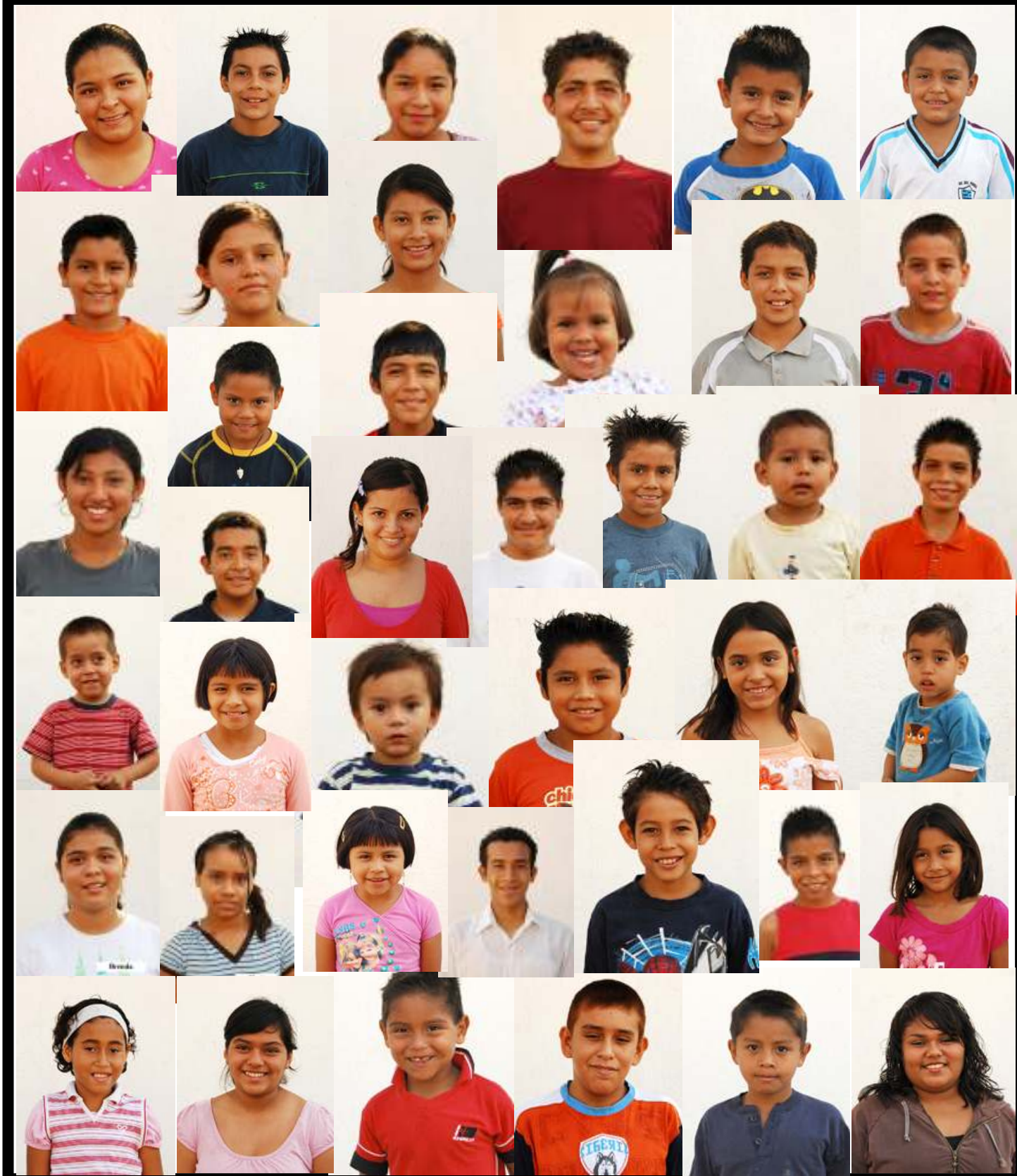
the harp. It is a big step for us to be able to find quality teachers for these programs and instruments. The total cost of these lessons is approximately \$7000 pesos per month and is not part of our budget, but we are moving forward with the hope that scholarship funds will be made possible.

## BLOG SPOT

Want to keep updated quickly and easily? Read the latest news and see the new kids? Check out our Blog Spot at [www.casahogarlosangelitos.blogspot.com](http://www.casahogarlosangelitos.blogspot.com) A blog can be used for many different things. The purpose of our blog is to allow you to receive updated information often and quickly. It is easy to use...just go to the link. Check it out often! There is always something new to see! And don't forget about our website at [www.childrensfoundationinc.com](http://www.childrensfoundationinc.com)



## Casa Hogar los Angelitos "Family Photos"



The Children's Foundation  
P.O. Box 1443  
Loveland, CO 80539-1443

*The Children's Foundation*

US Toll Free Phone: 888-934-3733  
International Phone: 970-402-2272  
Email: [childrensfoundation@yahoo.com](mailto:childrensfoundation@yahoo.com)  
Website: [www.childrensfoundationinc.com](http://www.childrensfoundationinc.com)  
[www.casahogarlosangelitos.com](http://www.casahogarlosangelitos.com)



*Casa Hogar Los Angelitos*

Av. Pedro Flores #16  
Col. Las Palmas, Salagua C.P 28869  
Manzanillo, Colima, Mexico  
[administracion@casahogarlosangelitos.com](mailto:administracion@casahogarlosangelitos.com)  
(Not a mailing address)  
Office Phone: 011-52-314-334-0878

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**MEET TWO OF OUR CHILDREN**

**FERNANDO**



Fernando is a 6 year old that is very quiet and shy. He likes to play soccer and participate with the kids in a group of folkloric dance, but he also likes to swim in the pools because he is afraid of the sea. He loves all kinds of food. He has an older sister and two older brothers

who also live in the "Casa Hogar". Fernando is a lovely kid. His beautiful smile will conquer anyone.

**EDSÓN**



Edson is just a baby at almost 2 years old. He likes to sing, especially when he goes to sleep. He loves soups and milk and likes to watch cartoons. He enjoys playing with the rest of his peers. It was only months ago that Edson began to walk, and now he walks through the gardens and runs around the house. He has an older sister and two older brothers. Joselito, his brother, also lives in the home. He and his brother are good Friends.

*"There are millions of desperate children throughout the world. While we cannot care for all of them, we can care for some..."*

*Through our ministries in Mexico we are providing food for hungry children and full-time care for abandoned, orphaned and abused children, providing hope for those without hope. You can help! It has been said, "Children are the hope of the future," but there are children who are desperately waiting to find the promise of hope. You have the opportunity to help us provide hope for children. The need is tremendous, but one by one we are making a difference. We are changing children's lives. Will you help? Will you sponsor a child?*