

FOCUS Delivers Supplies To Casa De Amparo



Photo by Don Swanson

Lorna Perez-Caster, FOCUS volunteer on left, with Tania Paniagua, Casa de Amparo staff member. On Feb. 15, the day after Valentine's Day, FOCUS (Friends of Children United Society) delivered a carload of much needed supplies to Casa de Amparo.

On Feb. 15, the day after Valentine's Day, Lorna Perez-Caster a volunteer with FOCUS (Friends of Children United Society) delivered a carload of much needed supplies to Casa de Amparo, which translates to Home of Protection. Founded in 1978, Casa de Amparo provides shelter and support to neglected and abused children and annually serves over one thousand children. From prenatal to age 25 this non-profit agency has programs that include residential services, counseling, family visitation, a child development center, new direction, a young parent network, and a host of medical professionals.

Perez-Caster was greeted by Tania Paniagua, a staff member of Casa de Amparo, and Malak A., a volunteer for the organization. The trio unloaded the first load from the vehicle and then made a return trip to finish the unloading of kitchen cookware and other kitchen items, bedding, and vacuums. These items will be used within three cottages that house foster youth, with one cottage housing foster teenage mothers and their children. At the conclusion of the delivery, two male associates of Casa de Amparo followed Perez-Caster to her residence in nearby San Marcos to reload her SUV, and the back of their truck with additional donated items from FOCUS.

FOCUS publishes a monthly list of agencies in need of funding, usually four or five entities that have been vetted by their Directors Projects and then approved by their Board of Directors. This monthly list is sent to their general membership who then vote on which agencies they feel warrant the justification for funding. Casa de Amparo was given a majority vote by members and received a limit of \$2500 to procure much needed items. All agencies submit a list of items they need and a FOCUS member procures and delivers these items up to the amount allocated. Over \$100,000 was spent by FOCUS in 2017 to support organizations who support the needs of children.

FOCUS is not allowed to visit any of the casas or cottages with occupants, but just knowing that a teenage mother with child was being provided shelter and food was sufficient. The services that Casa de Amparo delivers is unmeasurable, and coupled to that is FOCUS and its group of volunteer individuals furnishing the needed funds, along with the people who bring the supplies to the agency.

All inquiries regarding FOCUS should be addressed to FOCUS, P.O. Box 180023, Coronado, California 92178.