Happy Tuesday!

It has been a wonderful time at Esperanza Viva so far!! It has been a lot to take in as I enter in to a new culture, school, and way of living. The highlight of my first day was having the opportunity to jump right in and teach a lesson. I have enjoyed my time teaching at the school. They definitely run a different rodeo than I am used to in the States, but I am learning and growing so I am grateful for that. I am currently teaching a preschool, 2nd Grade, and High School Class. Each class is refreshing as I get to work with a variety of ages! I have also been able to share new ideas with the school so that we can grow as a staff.

An exciting memory made was my first Mexican Independence Day! My fellow Iowan roommate and I got to experience the culture as we went downtown to the markets, the parade, and then the fiesta at the church! On the 13th, we ended the school week by having a big meal as a school outside, dressed in our most Mexican apparel, played games, and began the weekend filled with festivities to celebrate!

I am so grateful that God has brought me to this place. I have been enjoying my time teaching classes and spending time with the kids in the evening hour. Almost every evening I find myself playing Nine Square or sometimes volleyball.

This week I was able to have a conversation with one of my High School students. For safety purposes we will call him \*Juan. \*Juan opened up to me about his story and shared with me his passions and dreams. I learned of his family background and why he is at Esperanza Viva. He told me, "I pray every day for my family. I pray because God calls me to forgive and love them". \*Juan also expressed his love for music, drawing, and basketball. He is the inspiration of my skills class that is Creative Arts. I do not have much for artistic abilities, but I am so excited to create a space for these students to grow as we learn and teach each other!

Thank you for your encouragement and for continuing to pray over the work God is doing at Esperanza Viva! I look forward to the months to come as I will continue to witness God revealing His glory in this place.

God Bless,

Sam

Please pray for...

- My Spanish as I want to be able to connect with more of the children but in their language.

- \*Juan and his family.  Please pray that he will continue to seek out the Lord and that his family would be receptive to the Good News that he shares with them.

-Adjusting to the functions at the school.

To join my financial support team, email me and I will gladly walk you through the process!