

Dear friends of the daycare center „Samuelito“

We want to thank all of you for your interest and your prayers on behalf of the daycare center during the difficult time we passed during the pandemic. As most of you know, we had to close our daycare center in March 2020 on a very short notice. For a while we were hoping that the closure would be just for a short period, but sadly we became aware that this was not the case. For more than two years the government did not open the daycare centers.



Observing the difficulties that many families were passing with their children, last year in August we decided to provide help for the homework. All the classes were virtual, and specially the smaller children struggled with



that. So we tried to help them with afterschool classes, where they could do their homework and also receive help with lecture and math. The families were very grateful for that help, because this way the children managed to pass the schoolyear and prepare for the next year.

In February, the new school year started, and we began again with the afterschool classes. Then by mid March the government authorized schools to get back to presential clases. With this new situation we tried to start the daycare center again, although still without the support of the government.

Now after more than two years of waiting we finally got green light from the government to oficialmente start again with the daycare center by May 16. We are very happy and thankful for that and are ready to serve again the children and their families.

*In comparison with former years, there are several changes that will take place in our daycare center.*

⇒ *We will attend fewer children. Before the pandemic, we attended about 90 children each day. It was nice to be able to help so many families, but our budget was getting out of proportions. So we decided to scale down and receive 50 children this year.*

⇒ *We have seen that the afterschool classes have been meeting a great need in several families, so we will try to keep this service*

⇒ *We will keep working with the government program, but will receive less help than before. This is due to our decision to choose and pay the educators ourselves. The government wanted to place their own educators - selected by the politicians of the governing party. This would mean that*



*we would not be able anymore to operate the daycare center according to our vision. We started the daycare center based on Proverbs 22:6, where it says: Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it. It is our hope and prayer that through the ministry of the daycare center we will be able to help the children to put a sound spiritual foundation for their lives. Sadly, this would not be possible anymore if the government would select their own educators (according to political favors). So although this*

*means a greater financial burden for us, we decided not to receive educators from the government. In the other areas (food, guidelines for education and health, etc) we will keep working together.*

*We appreciate your prayer and your support for this new phase of the ministry of the daycare center „Samuelito“.*

*La Iglesia Evangélica Menonita Boliviano*