



FACT SHEET

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JOHN SHINSKY

- John Shinsky spent part of his childhood in an orphanage in Ohio. Fifty years later he is building the orphanage of his dreams— *The City of Children*, a 12-building, 33,000 square foot orphanage serving abandoned and abused children of Matamoros Mexico.
- Shinsky was blessed with a loving, supportive foster home environment to support him through his teen years. Grateful for his good fortune, he vowed early on to help others in need as an adult.
- Shinsky went to college on an athletic scholarship and became an Academic All-American college football player at Michigan State University (MSU) during the mid-1970s.
- After college, John built an inspiring 35-year career teaching English in high school and as a college professor.
- It was on a work assignment in Texas a few years ago that he was introduced to the terrible conditions of children in Matamoros, Mexico by a passenger seated next to him on the plane. It was an instant calling to fulfill his pledge to help.
- John began sharing his dream of building an orphanage in Matamoros. It wasn't long before his dream started taking shape. Michigan business leaders have donated used office furnishings, a cargo van and money; friends have pulled together frequent flier miles and organized banquets; a man in Matamoros donated the land and volunteers broke ground in 2005.
- Today the first phase of *The City of Children* is 50% complete. When finished, it will provide permanent housing for nearly 120 children who currently live in poverty.
- *The City of Children* includes separate dormitories for babies and children, medical treatment facilities and technical training centers for job skills.
- The City of Children is tax exempt [501(c) (3)] for charitable gift purposes as part of the Capital Region Community Foundation (CRCF) and is completely funded through charitable donations.
- More information about the bicycle ride can be found at www.orphanagefundraiser.com.
- More information about Shinsky and his orphanage in Matamoros, Mexico is available at www.shinskyorphanage.com.