

# Organismo de Nutrición Infantil, A.C.



**Project: “Nourish a young brain, protect one ancient culture”**

Location:

- Santa Catarina, Pueblo Nuevo and Ocota in Mezquitic, Jalisco
- Banco de Venado, Batallón and Mesa del Tirador in Bolaños, Jalisco

## 1.-PRESENTATION:



**Social Object:** Provide adequate nutrition, through scientific control to children comprehended between the early childhood and that as a cause of their poverty, they lack the media needed to obtain the mentioned nutrition and to teach the mothers or people in charge of the children, instruction about the care and the children's diet

**Mission:** To prevent child malnutrition and its consequences through the formation of the parents or legal guardians and recover the children that suffer it, through the elaboration and supply of nutritional complements and nutritional follow up; to promote a well-nourished childhood since the prenatal stage.

**Vision:** Being a solid and self-sufficient civil society organism, whose model of intervention - replicated at the national level - is recognized because it prevents child malnutrition and recovers those who suffer from it, since it influences the eating habits of beneficiary families.

### Organization's Experience:

The Organismo de Nutrición Infantil A.C. has 63 years of experience fighting child malnutrition, especially in areas where, because of their economic vulnerability or lack of knowledge in the subject, being able to get nutritious food is difficult. The work started providing help in the most vulnerable areas of Guadalajara and little by little it grew until it reached more than 59 attention points in Guadalajara, 6 at the North Sierra of Jalisco, 1 in El Nayar and 5 in Guerrero.



ONI's attention model is conformed by 2 programs: Nutrition and Education. The Nutrition program comprehends weekly or monthly nutritional follow up size and weight, glucose and hemoglobin readings, and the supply of the nutritional complement NutriONI to the beneficiary children.



NutriONI, the nutritional complement, was developed through several studies, giving as a result a nutritional complement, elaborated with milk and fortified with vitamins, minerals and a mix of soy/rice and oat. The characteristics and quality of the components are evaluated in every batch, assuring the nutritional complement always has the same quality.

The attention at the North Sierra of Jalisco has more than 10 years, which has generated a joint with the community and its leaders and representatives.

## **2.- ROOTING AND SOCIAL INCIDENCE:**

Characteristics of the population in Mezquitic and Bolaños, Jalisco:

Boys (6 months to 12 years): 404

Girls (6 months to 12 years): 420

### **Socioeconomic Level:**

100% of the beneficiaries are in extreme poverty.

### **Origin:**

We are attending the communities of Santa Catarina, Pueblo Nuevo and Ocota in the municipality of Mezquitic, and Mesa del Tirador, Batallón and Banco de Venado in the municipality of Bolaños.



**Education:**

75 % can't read or write.

25 % Can read and write.

**Health:**

The general health situation in the communities is unstable. Frequently, the children suffer flu symptoms and stomach ache.



An important simple of malnutrition cases were detected, from moderate undernourishment to overweight, that is because of the lack of healthy food in the region and ignorance of the nutritional contribution of the ones available.

The main cause of child death in the community is due to the limited access to basic services. The nearest Health Center for many of the communities is about 40 minutes away in car. It is important to considerate that most of the Wixárika people use donkeys and mules as conveyance; also the Health Center doesn't have basic medication.

**3.- GENDER EQUALITY:**

ONI's attention does not distinguish between boys and girls, all the children that want to be part of the beneficiaries can receive the attention. The workshops are mainly focused on the moms because the health care and nutrition of the children depend on them; however, sometimes a few dads join some of the workshops.



#### 4.- NATIONAL CRUSADE AGAINST HUNGER:

The municipalities of Bolaños and Mezquitic are considered in the priority municipalities for the National Crusade Against Hunger (Cruzada Nacional Contra el Hambre), which is a political strategy to end in an organized way, with one of the main problems in Mexico: the hunger. According to data from SEDESOL (Secretariat of Development and Social Integration) this municipalities present a Very High margination degree, while the State Council for the Population estimates that in 2011 they had a Human Development Index of 0.516. Since 2011 ONI A.C. belongs to the institutions affiliated to the National Crusade in both municipalities, joining efforts with the National Government and other Non-Profits.



#### LINKING STRATEGIES:

ONI A.C. always tries to have a good bonding with the community leaders, in the Wixárika communities the leader is known as Marakame which means “magic man”, he has communication with all the members of the community and a great influence in the decisions of the community, which reflects in the acceptance the people have with ONI.





**SUCES AND REPLICABILITY:**

ONI's model is highly replicable in other indigenous communities as the attention is personalized and every case is evaluated individually. Also, the nutritional complement NutriONI is elaborated respecting the characteristics of sacred and special feeding in the indigenous communities, who consider the corn as gods' food and is the base of their daily eating.

**If you wish to know more about our work in Guadalajara, El Nayar, Guerrero or the North Sierra of Jalisco or you want to be part of it, contact us:**  
[proyectos@oni.org.mx](mailto:proyectos@oni.org.mx)