

## Notes from meeting with Santa Luisa de Marillac Nursing Home from Ibarra 08/06/2016

There is a non-profit organization in Ibarra, loosely tied to the Catholic church that provides assisted living and nursing home care for anyone needing their services. While most of their residents are elderly, they also have younger residents who need this type of care. While many residents move there towards the end of their lives (hospice), some have lived there for up to 10 years.

### **Contact information:**

**Director:** Anita Lara Villegas (Spanish only). There is a dietician who works there who speaks a little English. One of the Board members, Maria del Carmen, speaks some English.

**Phone:** 02-645-203

**Address:** Prolongacion de la Sucre y Carlos Proano – Sector de la Bola Amarilla, Ibarra

**Prices:** \$500/month if you are ambulatory, \$600/month if you are bed ridden. This amount includes room and board, along with room cleaning, clothes washing, 24 hour nursing care, and regular doctor visits from their physician. There is physical therapy and occupational therapy if you are ambulatory, if not and you require those services, you must find your own therapists and arrange for them to make a house call. Every room has a call buzzer. They currently have 4 available rooms. Rent payments are made monthly and the month is pro-rated if a person moves in some time during the month.

**Extras:** You must pay for and provide your own medications and any other medical related equipment and/or supplies. Rooms come with a single bed, nightstand and a chair. However, if residents want to bring their own furniture, that is fine as well. You must have a friend or family member listed to call when additional items are needed or you have to go to the hospital or to see a specialist. There is a North American group that comes to provide occupational therapy every couple of months. They would of course speak English.

This facility is run by a Board of 32 women who have made it their mission in life to care for the elderly. This group has been in existence for 78 years. No one on the Board receives payment for their work. They accept donations.

The Santa Luisa Home has been in existence for 17 years. They meet government standards for nursing homes. All residents stay on the first floor. It is handicap accessible. Those who have toured Santa Luisa while visiting friends who are residents there, state that it is more like a home than an institution. They state that the staff is attentive, the food is good, and it is very clean. They also state that there are several daily activities for residents. There are 24 rooms and each resident has a private room and private bath. There are a few rooms big enough for 2 people to share, should that be requested. They do take Alzheimer's patients as the facility is gated and secure. They have special meals and activities for holidays and have regular birthday parties for residents. There are occasional field trips off campus for those healthy enough to participate. They can accommodate various dietary restrictions (i.e. gluten free). While there are visiting hours from 2-5, others state that they have visited friends most any time of day without any problems.

**Additional information:** IESS does not cover any amount of the monthly fee. Residents are not allowed to have money at Santa Luisa. Paying bills is something your friend or family member must take care of for you. If you want internet or a TV, you will be responsible for setting it up and paying for it. Friends and family can take residents out for activities if the resident is capable. Do not resuscitate orders can be requested from the doctor on call and will be honored, without the need for any notarized document.

This appears to be a wonderful resource for those who need it. The charitable association that runs Santa Luisa is always looking for volunteers and donations are always appreciated.