



TRES ISLAS ORPHANAGE FUND JANUARY 2017 NEWSLETTER

PO Box 3005
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83816
www.orphanagefunds.org

“Supporting the orphanage children in Mazatlan Mexico”

I have just returned from a week in Mazatlan. I'm writing this newsletter on a very cold night in Minnesota and wishing I was still in Mexico. The purpose of the trip was to assess the needs for each orphanage site and to get ideas for what should be accomplished during Spring Mission Week (March 19 – 24) Once again, I'm truly humbled and inspired with all the good that is coming from the generous donors supporting the TIOF. As you read through this newsletter, I hope you can get a sense of how your donations are making a huge difference in the lives of the children on a daily basis. Without exception, at every site I visited, I was told by the Directors that periodically other groups or organizations might do something for the orphanage on an ad hoc basis, especially around Christmas time, however, the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund is there every day to support the feeding and care of the children and they know they can count on us.

On the following pages, I included pictures of the folks that purchase the groceries each week, some Christmas pictures and areas of need for each site.

There is also additional information about Spring Mission Week.

So, once again, Thank-you from me, your Board and all the Directors and Children in Mazatlan!

HOGAR SAN PABLO



There are currently 28 boys at Hogar San Pablo – each week, Mother Eva and Frederico make the Grocery purchases.

Christmas presents were passed out to very patient children. Thank you to Guy and Nicola Lansdown for making this possible.





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FLORESER

There are currently 11 girls at Flore Ser. There is also a new Director – Fransis who has replaced Karen. Here is a picture of Fransis and Katarina making the weekly grocery purchase.

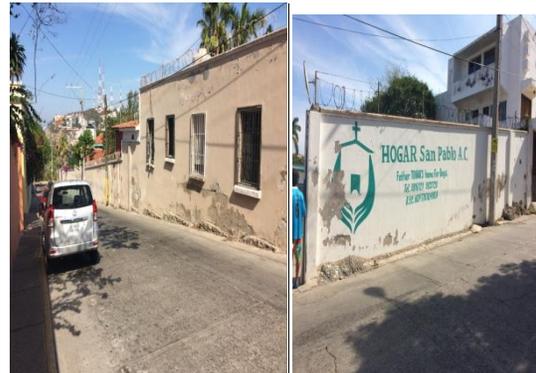


Christmas gifts at FloreSer were made possible by the generosity of Phillipp family from NW Territories - Canada. You might recall from earlier emails a story that Donelle told about a young boy named Cole who had a fundraiser to buy mattresses several years ago. Since donations continue to come in, the request was made to purchase gifts for the girls. Len and Marsha from Canada were available to help pass out presents. Marsha also brought a fun craft for each girl as well.



HOGAR SAN PABLO Needs

1. Father Horacio requested an additional \$25 per week to provide for enough food for the boys
2. The outer wall is in desperate need of repair. While I was there, Len and Marsha from Canada were visiting too. Len contacted a mason who will provide the labor to fix the holes and cracks, add sealer and primer and paint the outer wall and some of the inside terrace walls. Len and Marsha are donating half the funds for the work – an additional \$475 are needed to completely fund the effort.





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While we were there, we found that the both the washing machine and blender were broken. We made a trip to Home Depot and spotted a great washing machine that was significantly marked down due to a small dent in the back. Gaudelia negotiated a free delivery and it was delivered the same day. When Len and I moved the old one out – the bottom literally fell out as it was so rusted. My cousin Judy Schumack was with and she purchased the much needed blender.



We are enjoying a pizza lunch before the presents are passed out.



FloreSer needs

After getting the washing machine and blender, the remaining needs are minimal at this time.



Here are the girls having fun dancing to some music in the courtyard.



One of the girls painted this picture on the wall. It depicted her and her friends surfing while God is sitting on the beach keeping watch over them.



Katerina, Gaudelia and Fransis



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Orfanatorio Mazatlan

It was a pleasure meeting Laura and several ladies (Gabiella and Claudia-volunteer dentist) from the Patranata. This group puts on a yearly fundraiser to support this orphanage. This year, they also had a successful flea market. Currently, there are 13 girls living here. Isabelle, along with a few of the older girls made the grocery purchases.



While we were there for the Christmas festivities, another group provided someone to play Santa Claus.

Santa also passed out the gifts provided by the Foster family.

Orfanatorio needs

The needs at the moment are quite minimal. The biggest expense in addition to food has been the funding of a tutor for 9 of the girls. They arrived at the site quite behind in their studies. Generous donations from the Montrose Education fund, Eric Millnar and Fred Howard are taking care of this need.

Salvation Army

The Salvation Army has been providing food and care for 28 children. It was a pleasure seeing Captain Isaac again and this time meeting his wife and adorable sons.



Due to all the performances the children put on for fundraising, they decided to celebrate Christmas after I had already left – so I don't have pictures for that event. However, thank you to Stanley Fonder and Karen Smith for purchasing the gifts.

Salvation Army needs

They also need a new washing machine. The older children are responsible to wash their own clothes, and the younger children bring theirs home to their families on the week-end.



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Estimated cost is \$600.00. Additionally, they would like the roofs sealed before the rainy season. We are getting an estimate on that.

Ciudad de los Nino's

There are currently 30 children living here. It was great to see Madre Velia, sister Ophelia and the other nuns. Here is a picture of Madre and Sister Antonia making the grocery purchase.



Christmas at the site was very interesting as another group was there at the same time. There was a local business that hired professional actors to attend the party. They had full sized costumes of Mickey and Minnie Mouse, characters from Frozen and other childhood favorites. They needed someone to dress up as Santa Claus, so Guillermo Prado and his wife Maria who are from California and visiting each site with us, was recruited to play Santa.



Also visiting for the Christmas party was the Bonner family (Jim, Michelle, daughters Addee with husband Cory and Jamee with husband Dylan) from Utah. They generously provided the funds for the presents for the children and also for the nuns. They passed out the gifts to each of the children who were so excited to receive their presents.



Guillermo and Maria noticed that the nuns also needed new shoes, so they provided the funds to purchase new shoes for the (3) nuns at Hogar San Pablo and also for all the nuns at Ciudad. They also contributed funds to the washing machine at Floreser.



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**“Supporting the orphanage children in Mazatlan Mexico”
Ciudad de los Nino’s Needs**

This is the site that has by far the greatest needs. We are in the process of getting estimates for some of the work.

1. The mechanism within the shower that regulates hot and cold water is not working, so there are big cans in the shower for bathing.



2. For the showers that worked, there were socks over the shower head to filter out the particles coming out.



3. Over the beds of the little girls, the ceiling is falling off

4. Replacing broken windows and screens.



5. Overall cleaning and maintenance of all the buildings and the yard.

Refugio San Pablo (RSP)

RSP is the latest addition to the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund family. It was started by Guy and Nicola Lansdown who have been long time TIOF supporters. To provide you with a little overview, RSP seeks to assist disadvantaged adolescent boys so that they can eventually achieve economic independence, and become happy, well-adjusted, successful community members, who are socially responsible and altruistic.

At RSP the focus is on obtaining a good middle school and high school education, followed by a university degree, or trade of some kind. This enables the boys to break the cycle that perpetuates poverty and to become self sufficient.

I originally met Guy and Nicola last year when they were just getting their site prepared. I was



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astonished to see how much progress had been made in the last year. I was warmly greeted by 17 boys who wanted to practice their English. I took a quick tour of the site and was very impressed with how organized and clean every room was. Additionally, the Director – Beremundo (he used to work at Hogar San Pablo) proudly pointed out all the items the boys had made from scraps – a place to hang brooms, shelves and a small end-table.



Guy, Beremundo, cousin Judy, Nicola, Jan
(Nicola's sister visiting from South Africa)



Very clean and organized.

Refugio San Pablo needs

1. Additional \$'s for food – right now TIOF is only able to provide \$100 each week
2. We would like to provide them with a hygiene room similar to what we do for the other sites. This includes toiletries, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorant, etc...



The boys and the staff that work at RSP.



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I need to end this newsletter now, because if I wrote about everything that happened, it would be many more pages long. I took a lot of pictures and they will be posted on the web-site.

As I stated at the beginning of this newsletter, I’m so impressed by the generosity and faithfulness of the TIOF donors. Your on-going support really does make a difference in the lives of the children in the 6 sites that TIOF supports.

At any time if you are in Mazatlan and would like to visit a site, please let me know and I will coordinate with Gaudelia to assist you in your visit.

As you can see, a lot has been accomplished, and there is still more to do. We will get estimates for the larger projects and prioritize if, when and how the work can be done. Our main focus is still the feeding and education of the children, but we also want a safe and beautiful environment for them to live in.

Spring Mission Week

It is not too late to make plans to join us in Mazatlan from March 18 to 24 for Spring Mission Week. We have about 20 volunteers committed to attending already and we can use some more. This is a great experience of combined vacation and mission work.

All the volunteers will be involved in helping with the Fiesta Party that we give for all the orphanages on Sunday. Those who arrive on Saturday will meet for dinner at a local restaurant to plan the party. Our work week begins on Monday, which will include a day at each of the orphanages. We will pick all the volunteers up at Pueblo Bonito and travel by taxi to each orphanage. There will be projects to work on until lunch around 12:00 or 1:00. We provide lunch for all the volunteers and those living at each orphanage. After lunch there is usually time to socialize with the kids and they sometimes perform for us. Then we proceed back to our hotels to clean up, rest and enjoy ourselves. For those volunteers who wish, we meet at least 3 times for dinner at various restaurants.

We hope you will decide to join us for this rewarding week. It would be helpful if you could notify us by the end of February at allendome@frontier.com. We might be able to help with accommodations if you would like.

Bruce and Phyllis Allen

The web-site is updated frequently with news, information and pictures. Very soon, the 2016 Financials will be posted. Here is the link to the website. www.tresislal.org



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Best Wishes for a Happy and Healthy New Year!

You can always contact me at email@orphanagefunds.org or 1-888-459-8463.

Respectfully submitted by

Julie Foster

