



Sus donaciones al futuro de La Paz

¡Viva la diferencia!

Your donations to the future of La Paz



Welcome to the first edition of the *Boletín Informativo* of **FUNDACION AYUDA NIÑOS LA PAZ, A.C.**

This newsletter has three aims: to let you know what has happened in our past 10 years of working with the children of La Paz, to keep you current on projects in the works, and to let you know what is coming up in the next few months. We will start with two issues: May and November.

We think you will be interested in learning about Maria Angela, whom we first knew as a 12 year old, attending school every other year, trading years with her 13 year old sister, and now in her third year of university, thanks to the help of an anonymous padrino or sponsor.

And about our relationship with the INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION, which can provide a receipt for your tax deductible donations. And about where the money comes from that supports our programs, and how it gets spent. And who are the "we" of FANLAP, anyway? Your comments and suggestions will be welcome.

No One Needs to Faint in Class Anymore

"Children are fainting in my class!" lamented the second grade teacher at the small primary school in Colonia Márquez de León to Padre Luis. *"How can they learn any thing! Can't you help us somehow?"*

A small group of women from a parish in central La Paz agreed to prepare at home, and transport to the Iglesia San José Obrero, a breakfast for a handful of children. Very quickly the number of breakfasters out grew the capacity of the cooks, one of whom attended a meeting of the Cruisers' Club of La Paz.

At that meeting in 1996 the Charity Committee of the Club voted to adopt the project, and El Desayunador was on its way.

Padre Luis organized a team of Colonia women as the cooks, the parish donated the "canasta básica" or staples and Club funds provided the rest.



The first kitchen was at the back of a 15 by 25 foot thrown-together scrapwood and tarpaper shack which on Sundays served as the church. When this building blew down in a hurricane, the stove, tables, and chairs (old school desks) were moved to the rear of the new church under construction, later to a new building used for catechism classes.

Today breakfast is prepared and served in a beautiful cement block building with a tile roof, constructed with funds from a parish in Italy (thanks to priests from Italy who do missionary work in Mexico).

In 2004 the Colonia "went on the grid", and has lights, an electric pump to move water from the cistern to the elevated water tank, and a refrigerator. It is easier to feed eighty children today than it was to feed twenty almost a decade ago. And no one needs to faint in class.

Coming Attractions: In January 2008, Dr. Raymond Dennis and a team of ophthalmologists will return to La Paz to examine children's eyes. In 2006, they examined 800 kids in one week. They hope to triple that number in January.

Muchas gracias to Centre Comercial Californiano (C.C.C.) for their generous help to our programs. Please support them, too.

Maria Angela Olachea Acevedo

We first met Maria Angela when she was 12 years old; her mother was a cook in the breakfast kitchen. The second of five girls, she attended high school every other year with her oldest sister. This was the only way her family could afford the expense of schooling past the sixth grade.

An American resident of La Paz who participated in a crafts class in Colonia Márquez de León in 2000 met Maria Angela and decided to sponsor her.

Maria Angela is now in her third year at the "Instituto Tecnológico," majoring in Business Administration. She has two more years to finish her "licenciatura." She receives no grades less than 9(A-).

We had always heard that in families where the parents are unable to educate all their children, the preference has been to educate the boys, as they are seen to be the primary wage earners in the future.



Maria dances with a folkloric group.

The reality in the Colonias where the Fundación functions is that uneducated women, with access only to very low-paying jobs, are left alone to provide for their children as best they can.

We are pleased to see that within our scholarship group, the girls outnumber boys at the ratio of almost 2:1. While we don't know what this "means", we are encouraged by these figures as an indication that the adults perceive that education is important for all their children.

While the Fundación does not normally provide scholarships for high school graduates, if you want to consider a private sponsorship for an exceptional student like Maria Angela, we would gladly administer the aid on your behalf. We do encourage most post-high school students to take courses of a practical nature, such as nursing, teaching, mechanics or plumbing so they are equipped with an employable skill.

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Scholarship Statistics

During school year 2006/2007, of 127 students receiving complete Becas (scholarships), including transportation to and from school, 87 are in junior high school (Secundaria) and 44 are in senior high school (Preparatoria). Of the additional 71 students who do not receive bus fare, 33 are in junior high and 5 are in senior high. As these students move up through school (we began in 2000/2001 with five students), the over-all number of students who have been assisted will, with your help, continue to increase.

The cost of a full scholarship to junior high school is approximately \$350.00 dollars; a donation of ten dollars will pay a child's transportation to junior high school for a month. Senior high school incurs an additional cost of tuition which can be \$120 to \$300 USD yearly; twenty dollars will pay a student's transportation for one month, as senior high students have to take two buses each way.

We thank you for helping us help the students of less fortunate families.



Bags, aprons, glasses cases hand-embroidered in Colonia Laguna Azul make great gifts and provide income for the women.

*Muchas gracias to California Chicken for their generous donations to our programs.
Please support them, too.*

Faithful Donors

Trinity Lutheran Church became one of the first long-running donors to FANLAP's breakfast program, in 1999, through Pete and Suzie Davis, members of Trinity's congregation. Pete and Suzie arrived on their sailboat for a season the year before. During their stay in La Paz they visited the orphanage (Ciudad de los Niños y las Niñas) and a children's shelter for babies and children up to eight years old (La Casa Cuna) and fell in love with the children of La Paz. After looking at the Club Cruceros website, their decision was to support the breakfast program, run on the site of a Catholic Church in a poor neighborhood.

Since that time, Trinity Lutheran has provided funds to purchase fruit and other incidentals for the breakfast program. In addition, they also sponsor more than a dozen students in junior and senior high school.

Thank you to the congregation of Trinity Lutheran Church for your continued support.

The Circus Comes to Town

On March 28, the "Espectaculo Circense Le Bestiare Etincelant" with performers from Canada, France, Argentina and Mexico, performed outdoors at Marina de La Paz. The show, including giant white insects, jugglers, acrobats, and local dancers fascinated the audience, although some of the children seemed skeptical as to the disposition of the ten foot insects wandering through the audience, in spite of the smiles on the insect faces. Thirty-eight (38) percent of the proceeds of this performance was donated to FANLAP

Our thanks go to Matilde Cervantes Navarrete from "Centro Integral: Cultura y Desarrollo Humano" in La Paz and to Daniele Lenoble from "Collectif Nomade" of Quebec, Canada, for organizing the event.

In addition to their two weeks performing in various venues in Baja California Sur, the group also presented, without charge, two workshops and shows in the Comedor Laguna Azul for the children of limited resources.



Building Tables for the Comedor



Community help is essential for any charitable foundation. The Community Center or Comedor in Colonia Laguna Azul was built with help from a grant funneled through the International Community Foundation located in San Diego.

When promised furniture was not delivered by a government agency, we asked for general help from the La Paz community. One business offered wood left over from a building project, and a man with a wood shop at home built picnic-style tables and benches.

Another crew volunteered to paint the furniture; however, they had to fight for the right with the cooking crew who wanted to do the job.

The bright red, blue, yellow, and green tables and benches lend a cheerful tone to the room.

Tables in brilliant colores being used for an art class.

Muchas gracias to El Uniforme (Uniformes y Accesorios de BCS) and Baja Escolar (Distribuidora Escolar de BCS) for their generous help with our programs. Please support these businesses, too.

Please Remember the Children

When you fly to La Paz, please remember to leave a small corner of your suitcase available to bring down something that can be used by FANLAP in its work with needy children.

The children don't need another old tee shirt, but in that same space you could bring a handful of toothbrushes or sample-sized toothpaste; or a package of girls or boys underwear; or shampoo and hand lotion picked up during your last motel visit; or a box of pencils.

If you will be driving to La Paz please collect shoes, shirts, pants and dresses that your kids and grandkids, and your neighbors' and friends' kids and grandkids, have out grown without wearing out and bring them to La Paz with you. Boaters, we know your space is sometimes limited, but please consider stowing something for the children too.

Any way you come, if you are arriving in November or December perhaps you could bring a couple of small toys; we distribute gifts to approximately 400 children.

The children will appreciate your efforts.

Dental Services for Children of Low Income Families

We first met Dr. Dane Smith, Dental Surgeon from North Bend, Oregon, in January of 2003. He had previously been in contact with Club Rotario La Paz, wishing to give dental services to children (and some adults) of low income families.

Working with the primary school in Colonia Marquez de Leon and the Rotary Club, Dane worked in a tent, using an old ironing board covered with padding and canvas, and examined about fifty children. Those who needed immediate attention were treated in the dental clinic at Hospital Salvatierra; those who could wait were treated on his next visit in April of 2003.

On his third visit, Dr. Smith worked out of an old mobile unit owned by the Department of Health.

Much of the equipment, including the air conditioning, did not work well. Again, those who needed immediate attention were treated at Salvatierra Hospital. After trying to work both in the cramped quarters of the Centro de Salud in Colonia Marquez de Leon and in the old mobile dental unit, Coos Bay/North Bend Rotary Club and Club Rotario La Paz cooperated to bring to La Paz a fully equipped trailer in which two dentists can work. Dr. Smith visits La Paz three times a year, and works with a dentist from the Centro de Salud or other local dentists who wish to provide service to those who need care and can't afford to pay. Normally more than 150 patients, mostly children, are seen and treated on any one visit.

The work is coordinated by Centro de Salud de La Paz, Club Rotario Todos Santos/Bahia La Paz, Club Rotario Balandra and FANLAP.

Below, Dr. Dane working with patient.



Please Help Continue These Programs

These programs are sustained by people like you. Here are three ways to make donations:

1. Via the Internet, visit: <http://donate.icf-xchange.org/donate.php/losninosdelapaz>
2. You may leave cash or a check written on a Mexican bank at the office of Marina de La Paz, or mail it to: FANLAP at Calle Santiago 320, Colonia Bella Vista, La Paz, BCS., 23050
3. Mail a check drawn on a U.S. bank to: International Community Foundation, 11300 Sorrento Valley Rd., Suite 115, San Diego, California 92121

Order tamales for your fiesta from the cooks at the Comedor; they are unbeatably eatable.

*Muchas gracias to Tortilleria Rosita I y II for their generous help with our programs.
Please support them, too.*

**FUNDACION AYUDA NIÑOS LA PAZ, AZ
FINANCIAL REPORT OF 2006**

**RECEIPTS AND DISBURSEMENTS
FANLAP - YEAR ENDING 2006
10.5 PESOS X 1 DOLLAR U.S.**

Receipts	Pesos	Dollars
Donations (including through ICF)	272,283.10	25,931.72
Club Cruceros' Subasta	144,225.20	13,735.73
Rotary Foundation	109,021.50	10,383.00
Reinhart Family Foundation	262,500.00	25,000.00
Total Receipts	788,029.80	75,050.45
Disbursements		
Breakfast and lunch programs	130,501.67	12,428.73
Christmas	18,242.59	1,737.39
Scholarships	586,050.66	55,814.35
Employee (librarian)	27,668.91	2,635.13
Medications and glasses	2,188.61	259.95
General operating expenses	15,863.50	1,510.80
Total Disbursements	780,515.94	74,386.35

Thank you very much for your support of these programs.

For more information about the Fundación Ayuda Niños La Paz, A.C. or this Boletín Informativo, visit our website: www.lapazninos.org

Muchas gracias a Restaurante Ciao Molino for their generous support of our programs. Please support them also.