



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.

This is the second edition – the first was published in May 2007. 2007. Your comments and suggestions will be welcome.

SUBASTA (AUCTION) – DECEMBER 2, 2007

“La Subasta,” as the big fundraiser for Club Cruceros La Paz is known, originated before the legal formation of Club Cruceros. It started with donations from the sailing fleet in La Paz, of items which were auctioned out of the back of a pick-up truck in the parking lot of Marina de La Paz.

After the foundation of Club Cruceros, the Club joined with the Pentathlon, a youth organization, which identified marginalized neighborhoods where blankets, sweaters, food baskets and toys bought with money raised at the auction were distributed.



La Primera (first) Subasta 1988

For a few years the Club worked in conjunction with the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which distributes gifts on Christmas Day. In 1999 the Club began to support FANLAP’s breakfast and lunch programs. For a few years the Club worked in conjunction with the Junior Chamber of Commerce, which distributes gifts on Christmas Day. Funds from Subasta are also used to purchase Christmas gifts for the children who attend the meal programs, and for at least another 100 kids who show up the day that gifts are distributed.

This year, Subasta is December 2. Contact Club Cruceros for more information.

*Thank you to California Chicken for their generous help to our programs.
 Please support them, too.*

EVELIA

It was one of those serendipitous encounters. In the spring of 2004, Pete and Judy Peterson were walking along the *Malecon* in La Paz, approached by two young girls, seniors in high school whose English teacher had assigned them the task of interviewing some English speaking people. Although they were shy about approaching strangers (aren't we all taught as children not to talk to strangers?) they did. Pete and Judy answered the usual first-year language student questions: "What is your name? Where are you from? Do you like La Paz? What is your favorite food?" Pete and Judy in return asked their questions. One of the girls, Evelia, was one of four children in a family originally from Oaxaca, whose parents had come to La Paz to look for work. They are seasonal day-laborers in the fields. Evelia attended school, but also was responsible for her siblings. She dreamt of being a school teacher.



When she heard of the Foundation's scholarship program, she asked if she could be included. Because she did not live in the area of town we concentrate on, we asked her to fill out an application and we would look for a sponsor.

Through the International Community Foundation we found a donor who would help Evelia; she entered the *Escuela Normal*, or Teacher's College of La Paz the next fall. School year 2007/2008 is her fourth year in a five year program. She has continually maintained grades 9 and above, out of a possible 10. It is very difficult for students like Evelia to get the education they deserve. Her hard work and determination are keys to her reaching her goal, and she is grateful for the financial help which made it possible. And Pete and Judy are thankful that they happened to pick that particular evening to walk along the *Malecon* in La Paz.

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PUBLIC LIBRARY

Since the dining room/multi-use building was completed in September of 2003, we wanted to have a room with computers and reference books so the students may have a place to study and do their homework. In June of 2005, Club Rotario Balandra walled off a room in the dining room where a small library was installed.

We discussed the possibilities the Balandra Rotary Club, the City of La Paz System of Libraries and the National System of Libraries. After having received title to the property we're preparing to further our plans to build a floor over the present building to house a public library complete with computers and the Internet.

At the present time the estimate of costs is being revised, and we hope to have the document in our hands within a month.



Thank you to Restaurante Ciao Molino for their generous donations to our programs. Please support these businesses, too.

**THE COOKS AT THE COMEDOR
HELP CELEBRATE BAY FEST**

Every school day, eight mothers and grandmothers from Colonia Laguna Azul, converge on the "Comedor" dining room in Colonia Laguna Azul. At 8:00 a.m. they meet Pete, who delivers the food to be used in the day's hot lunch, and hand over the shopping list for the next day. They put the rice and beans on the burners to start cooking, and begin to chop vegetables for the entrée, which is always some form of protein; eggs, chicken, fish or beef. On any one day 150 children and a handful of senior citizens come to the counter to receive their lunch tray.

To earn some income, some of the women work on embroidery pieces while the food cooks. Their bags and coin purses are sold at The Weaver's on Abasolo Street or in the Centro de Artesanias on the Malecon in the center of La Paz.

Bay Fest is an end-of-season party held on the beach in La Paz just before the cruisers head off for the summer. Judy asked Lupita and Brenda, the head cooks, if the group would like to prepare a lunch for one of the days of Bay Fest in April 2007. "Como no!" she replied. Together we planned a menu we thought would please the American palate: rice, refried beans, green salad, tortillas, and "picadillo" a dish so called because before the advent of ground beef, it was made with very finely chopped beef and other ingredients. Today it is made with hamburger, potatoes, and vegetables. Recipe follows.) Bay Fest organizer Helen asked that we prepare for thirty people; the cooks prepared for at least fifty.

The day came; we drove three of the cooks with the food hot off the fire to the beach in front of the Racing Club. We arrived early, but the cooks set up and immediately started serving. In two hours, seventy-two meals had been served, the pots were empty, and the cooks had been asked to return the next year.

The participants in Bay Fest were pleased to meet these women and to sample one of the typical meals served to the children of the Colonia. The cooks they were thrilled to be able to earn some money for something they do voluntarily five days a week during the school year. (Their only recompense is lunch for themselves, their children, and their husbands). They are truly the backbone of the lunch program and of their neighborhood.

Summer Workshop

After completion of the dining room/multi-use building, the City of La Paz Department of Culture, in conjunction with DIF (the family development organization) has had a summer workshop for the children of the nearby neighborhoods. Because of space limitations the workshop has been limited to 30 children.

For three weeks in July of 2007 children were taught songs, dances, various crafts. Several children made puppets and put on a puppet show for the audience at the closing of the workshop.



Coming Attraction:

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.

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TRIP TO THE BEACH FOR THE ENGLISH CLASS STUDENTS

Terry Henchy, a supporter of FANLAP felt it was important for some of our scholarship students to learn English. While they do have English as a requirement at school, many of the teachers do not know how to pronounce correctly, and the students are timid about speaking English. Don't most newcomers feel the same about using their newly acquired Spanish? We located a teacher who teaches English at two junior and senior high schools in La Paz. Terry and another donor agreed to cover the cost.

At the end of the school year (June 2007) Terry offered a reward to these hard-working students. He took them on his 53-foot powerboat to Playa Balandra, about an hour's run from town to spend the day. The day before beach-day we went shopping with Terry for groceries, helping him choose food that would please the Mexican adolescent appetite. We bought "Sabritas" (a potato chip brand as generic as Kleenex has become) and *galletas dulces* (cookies) as well as fruit and the makings of ham and cheese sandwiches, and the ubiquitous can of chiles Jalapeños for those who don't like bland.

Taxi driver Don Chema and Pete and Judy Peterson picked the students up next morning; the kids had been told to be ready at 8:30 and everyone was there, including the chaperone mom, with swimsuits in hand, well before that.

We were on the boat before 9:00, half-an-hour before the time Terry had set as a deadline.

These kids were definitely motivated by the day ahead of them.



Before leaving the dock they were briefed on the most important maritime matters: where the lifejackets were and how to put them on; how to use the "head"; and where to sit while the boat was underway.

It was a beautiful day, the bay smooth, the sky and water the beautiful blue you only find in the bay of La Paz. Everyone settled down with one adult in each area. Some were on the top deck with the captain, Jorge; one was on the stern, and one, Judy, was on the forward deck, getting sunburned, but enjoying the stories and gossip of the four girls who were her charge for this portion of the trip. She was not surprised to learn that all four have relatives who live in the United States.

We anchored in Balandra, sharing the bay with only two other boats. However, they could see many, many cars in the parking lot, and the inner beaches were full of people. Jorge and Terry quickly dropped the *lancha* and four girls and the mom, Lupita, were on their way to a small secluded beach only reachable by boat or

by swimming. After two more trips, all were basking under three beach umbrellas, with an ice chest full of soft drinks and ice at our side. *Que tranquilo, que bonito!*

The students horsed round for several hours, in and out of the water, while Lupita and Judy played lifeguards. Jorge and Terry took turns ferrying them four at a time on a tour of the in the *lancha*. That was the highlight of their day.

After lunch under the umbrella, there were more hours of fun in the sun. But then it got too hot even for these kids and they all returned to the boat to take it easy for a while before returning to town. But since when to adolescents take it easy if there is something better to do?

They began jumping into the water off the swim platform, hanging on to one of the dock lines dangled in the water for this purpose. One of the girls, who had been afraid to ride in the boat, afraid to ride in the *lancha* afraid to swim, turned out to be the bravest at jumping in the water off the swim platform. Of course, she did have a life jacket on to give her confidence.

A wonderful time was had by all. We thank Terry for giving these students the opportunity to enjoy a day at the beach, something very out of the ordinary in their lives. But then, these are not ordinary kids (if there is any such creature). We thank him even more for paying for English lessons, and for everything else he does for "our kids."

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SCHOLARSHIPS 2007/2008

The beginnings of FANLAP's scholarship "program" was not a program. The first year Club Cruceros Club Cruceros de La Paz (a loose organization of foreign cruisers in La Paz) donated funds to provide two needy students with school supplies, backpacks, uniforms, shoes, tennis shoes and gym clothes so they could attend junior high school. Three other students received the same benefits from private donors. Since that time a true "program" has grown immensely.

At the opening of the school year in August 2007, 270 students received uniforms, shoes, backpacks and school supplies; most of them also received money for transportation to and from school, and senior and junior high school and college students also received money for their tuition.

1. Eighty five students are graduates of Diana Laura primary school in Colonia Loma Obrera. These students are part of a joint project with Club Rotario Todos Santos/Bahia de La Paz (CRTS) and FANLAP. Funds for these students come from Rotary Foundation, which matches funds from Coos Bay/North Bend Rotary Club and CRTS.
2. The other one hundred and eighty five students are from the colonias Márquez de Leon, Laguna Azul, Villas de Guadalupe, and Vista Hermosa in the northeast quadrant of La Paz. One hundred and ten students attend junior high school, 65 attend senior high, and 10 are college students. Money for these students comes from donations by people (like you!), many through International Community Foundation in San Diego. Trinity Lutheran Church in Vancouver, WA, and St. Peter and Paul Catholic Church in Sacramento, CA, hold campaigns during the year to support this program. Many individual donors sponsor certain students. We also receive a large grant from Reinhart Family Foundation through International Community Foundation which funds those not covered by any other source.
3. Two government agencies (SAMM, which help abused women and children) and the Secretariat of Public Education (SEP) pay tuition for students with special needs. FANLAP gives some of these students uniforms, shoes, and school supplies.
4. As their part in helping their community, some local businesses give FANLAP discounted prices on items needed by the students. School supplies come from Baja Escolar on Reforma and Altamirano; uniforms from El Uniforme on Isabel La Católica and Márquez de Leon; and backpacks and tennis shoes from Baja Star, on Bravo and Revolución.

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
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"REDONDEO" AT CCC

If you are a resident of La Paz (or Cabo San Lucas) and shop at the supermarket "Centro Comercial Californiano" you may be asked by the cashier when paying for your groceries if you would like to "donar los centavos" (donate your centavos).

FANLAP is one of a number of organizations benefited by this civically responsible company which collects the change donated and divides it between the organizations selected for that quarter of the year. Although the individual donations may be only a few pennies, they mount up.

The last time FANLAP was one of the recipients of this program it received a check for over 100,000 pesos (close to \$1,000 dollars, which was enough to maintain our lunch program for almost a year. When you are asked if you want to "donar los centavos", please say "SI, a la Fundación de los niños".

Apart from the "redondeo" program, CCC also gives one point for each 50 pesos spent in their stores. If you wish to donate these points to FANLAP, pick up a "points card" at Marina de la Paz, if you already have your own card, ask one of the supervisors to transfer your points to FANLAP (#7). These points also accumulate, and the Foundation has received up to 200 USD a month worth of purchases from this source.



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

*Thank you to Centro Comercial Californiano (CCC) for their generous support of our programs.
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**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.

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