

Tres Islas Orphanage Fund

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Annual Report 2006

**Accept opportunities Be kind Clothe yourself with compassion
Do good Express thanks Find someone in need Give freely Help others
Invest openly Joyfully celebrate life Keep promises Love truly
Make a difference in someone's life Nurture hope Open your mind and soul
Praise frequently Quest equality Reach out Share your blessings
Touch someone's heart Understand Value truth Welcome responsibilities
EXchange blessings Yearn for peace Zealously support a worthy cause**

November 15, 2006

Dearest Benevolent Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Donors:

With humble gratitude, we again have the great blessing of thanking you for your continued support of the wonderful children in the Mazatlan, Mexico orphanages whom the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund is honored to serve, all because of you and your generosity.

Thanks to your loyal support through the Fund, you continue to provide the children with healthy, nourishing meals three times each day, English classes, school shoes, school uniforms, backpacks to carry their school books and homework in and bountiful Christmas dinners.

Thank you for being their “moms and dads” and “grandmas and grandpas” through your love and support; and their true friends, people they’ve come to rely on the most over the years to help them as they continue to grow up into lovely ladies and fine young men.

As you read this year’s annual report, we hope you’ll continue see just how important you and your donations are to the Fund and that without you and your loyal support, these beautiful children would not have the nourishing food, good education and excellent opportunities they have – thanks to you! We humbly ask and hope you will please continue your support of the children through the Fund. You are very much needed and appreciated by the Fund and the precious children you support.

Introduction

Because of your support this last year, the Fund again made steadfast and significant improvements in the children’s lives.

The Fund – which equates to All of You! – continued to serve Mazatlan’s girls’ orphanage, Orfanatorio Mazatlan, the Salvation Army Children’s Home and Father Tovar’s Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo full-time (year-round) in buying the children’s food, school supplies and shoes. In addition, the Fund was able to continue making improvements at Father Tovar’s Home for Boys and Orfanatorio Mazatlan.

In December 2005, the newly formed Charities of Mazatlan held its first bi-annual meeting. (Please read the enclosed newspaper story from Mazatlan’s *Pacific Pearl News Magazine*.) The group was organized to allow charitable organizations in Mazatlan to meet twice a year and share information with one another regarding the needy whom they are helping, to learn from one another who is in need of help, to share the scope of their charitable work so there is no duplication of efforts and, so they may help each other whenever possible.

At that meeting, the Fund learned that the children living at Mazatlan’s second-oldest orphanage, Ciudad de los Ninos (translation: City of Children) were in dire need of food, school shoes, school uniforms and supplies and adequate clothing.

For the last year-and-a-half, the children had sustained pretty much on some beans, rice, tortillas and occasionally a small case of tuna. The Fund was asked if we could start purchasing nourishing food for these needy children each week, the same as we do for the other three orphanages we serve.

We immediately shared these children's needs with many of you. Thankfully, two of the Fund's loyal donors stepped forward and provided a one-time grant to feed the children at Ciudad de los Ninos for an entire year (\$6,760 U.S. dollars @ \$130.00 per week) beginning on February 23, 2006. We are most grateful to them! Although they wish to remain anonymous for their donation, they know how grateful the children, the children's caregivers and we are to them for their immediate assistance with the one-year grant. Thank you, blessed donors!

It is their hope and ours that donations will be such that we may continue to feed and take care of the school needs for the children in Ciudad de los Ninos on a regular basis as well as the other three orphanages the Fund serves. Without your donations, the 88 children in the four orphanages would not have received the nourishing food, school supplies and upgrades to their homes, the orphanages.

Additionally, thanks to your donations, beginning in May, 2006, the Fund was able to increase the food purchased for the Salvation Army Children's Home and Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo from \$100.00 a week to \$130.00 a week, bringing them to the same level of support as Orfanatorio Mazatlan.

Depending on each individual orphanage's needs, the Fund provides up to \$130.00 per week for food. It is important to note that in most case, the amounts each orphanage spent each week for food was a little less than \$130.00. This speaks highly of their integrity: they don't take advantage of the system.

We have the utmost confidence in and want to call attention to the honest working relationship the Fund has with each orphanage. Your donations truly take care of the children as is necessary - not unnecessarily nor extravagantly. It is an honor and a joy to work with the orphanage directors. We hope it is the same for you, so that knowing this; you you'll kindly continue to make your donations to the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund on behalf of children.

As we write this annual report, in our minds, we "see" your faces and your names, your good hearts and the generosity of your souls. We thank each of you, from the center of our hearts and on behalf of the children for the help you give them.

All amounts listed in the annual reports are in U.S. dollars. Everything purchased in Mexico is purchased with pesos. The Fund has Canadian donors who make their donations in Canadian dollars. The Fund's banking institution, the Cheyenne-Laramie County Employees Federal Credit Union, is located in Cheyenne, Wyoming and operates with U.S. currency; so, we want to be clear which monetary system we refer to as we report to you.

Because of your continued support. . .*drum roll, please!*. . . from October 30, 2005, to October 29, 2006, the Fund provided \$30,327.97 first in food, then school needs to the children in the orphanages and necessary repairs to the orphanages! This brings the Fund's total purchases for Mazatlan's orphanages since the late 1980s to right at \$167,328.00 worth of food, school supplies, school shoes, advanced education, medical supplies, medical needs, repaired or new appliances, and health, safety and welfare improvements. Please feel very proud of the positive difference you have made in these children's lives!

As always, this report will be for the same time frame as are all the Fund's reports to you: from October 29, (2005) through October 30, (2006). We report to you

each fall so we may include the most recent school supplies, school shoes, school uniforms and backpacks purchased and not have you wait another year to know the amounts spent for these needed educational supplies.

Here is the tally of all you did for the children this past year . . .

Orphanages Served

These are the four orphanages the Fund is blest to serve, their addresses, phone numbers and the names of the orphanage directors:

1. **Orfanatorio Mazatlan** (the first orphanage the Fund began helping in the late-1980s, which the Fund assists full-time)
Avenida Zaragoza 227-A, El Centro
Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico C.P. 82000
Telephone: (When dialing outside Mexico): 0011526699812214
Telephone: (When dialing in or around Mazatlan) 981-22-14
Executive Director: Cristina Pena de Herrera (whose grandmother was a board president and whose great-grandmother was treasurer)
2. **Ejercito de Salvacion Hogar de Ninos (Salvation Army Children's Home)** (Originally served part-time by the Fund beginning in 1998 and full-time by the Fund since 2003)
Angel Flores S/N Antiguo Camino a la Culebra, El Venadillo
Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico C.P. 82129
Telephone: (When dialing outside Mexico): 011526699807609
Telephone: (When dialing from in or around Mazatlan) 980-76-09
Director: Israel Garcia Cruz
3. **Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo** (Served part-time by the Fund since 2003 and full-time by the Fund since 2005)
Paseo del Centenario S/N, Apartado Postal 1233
Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico
Telephone/fax: (When dialing outside Mexico): 0011526699823720 and 011526699816121;
Telephone/fax: (When dialing in or around Mazatlan) 982-37-20 and 981-61-21
Executive Director: Padre Pedro Tovar Cortes (Father Tovar)
4. **Ciudad de los Ninos** (Served full-time by the Fund beginning February 23, 2006)
Carretera Internacional Norte KM.1207 Apartado Postal 629
Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico
Telephone: (When dialing outside Mexico): 011526699806026
Telephone: (When dialing in or around Mazatlan) 980-60-26
Directora: Madre Velia Morales Moreno

The lists of the children in each orphanage the Fund serves are attached for you, along with thank you letters from the directors of each of the orphanages for all the help

you gave them. The number of children in each orphanage fluctuates throughout the year and is usually between 80 and 100 for all four orphanages. As of this annual report, there are a total of 88 children.

In the case of Elizabeth "Elle," who resides at Orfanatorio Mazatlan, and who is older than the other children in the orphanage, she cannot hear nor speak. She has lived at Orfanatorio Mazatlan the majority of her life and most likely, will never leave. Loved, appreciated and wanted, Elizabeth is included in every activity, is happy and safe in the only home she has ever known. Two years ago, Elizabeth began working part-time bagging groceries at a local mercado - an accomplishment she and all of us are proud! Elizabeth also takes care of the younger children and enjoys cleaning and helping pick up at the orphanage.

It is the same for Jesus Grande at Ciudad de los Ninos. Unable to neither hear nor speak, Jesus communicates via signing and is very much loved and included in all activities at Ciudad. It has and always will be his home. He enjoys keeping the yard groomed and gardening as his contribution to his home.

Then, there are other cases, such as David who is studying to become an attorney and Saul who is studying to becoming a psychologist who both grew up at Ciudad. Although they've passed the age of 18, they have nowhere else to live while they are in college. It's wonderful they are receiving excellent grades and making something positive of their lives. To be able to continue to live at the orphanage while they complete their higher educational studies is a blessing for them. In exchange, they help tend to the younger children's needs and gladly perform chores at the orphanage.

Purchases

During last year's reporting period, October 30, 2004 to October 29, 2005, the total money dedicated to the care of the orphanages for food, school supplies, school shoes, school uniforms and Christmas dinners amounted to \$37,476.50.

This year, thanks again to your generous donations, the total money dedicated to the care of the children in the orphanages (food, school supplies, school shoes, uniforms, backpacks and orphanage upgrades and repairs) totaled \$30,327.97. Last year's expenditures were more, in large part, due to the significant health, safety and welfare improvements made (such as repairing the non-working sewage system) at Hogar San Pablo.

The itemization of the benefits from your contributions is presented below.

Food

This year's food purchases for the orphanages increased because:

- On February 23, 2006, we began providing food for Ciudad de los Ninos on a weekly basis. When looking at the figures below and attached Summary of Expenditures, because we began food purchases for Ciudad in February and was not for a full-year. Thus, the amount of food purchased for Ciudad will be a little less in their summary column than the other orphanages this reporting year.

- In May 2006, the Fund was able to increase the food purchases from \$100.00 per week to \$130.00 per week for:
 - The Salvation Army Children's Home.
 - Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo.

These are the totals of the food purchases for each orphanage, not including Christmas dinners which are itemized in it's own category below:

Orfanatorio Mazatlan: \$6,203.91 (Previous year: \$6,834.88).

Salvation Army Children's Home: \$5,498.32 (Previous year: \$5,711.03).

Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo: \$5,367.12 (Previous year: \$5,216.28).

Ciudad de Los Ninos: \$ 4,307.98

Total food purchased for all four orphanages this year: \$21,377.33 (Last year: \$17,762.19 - an increase of \$3,615.14).

This year's food purchases represents 84.29% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction costs.

(Last year's food purchases represented 77.57% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction costs.)

Christmas Dinners 2005

We itemize the orphanages' Christmas dinners separately for you because they are a special event where additional money is allotted in addition to the weekly \$130.00 for each orphanage's groceries. This way, you will know exactly how your donations have been spent.

Orfanatorio Mazatlan: \$130.64 (\$216.94 the previous year). Many people voluntarily brought in side dishes for Christmas dinner 2005, something that does not usually happen and so, the cost was less than the previous year.

Salvation Army Children's Home: \$297.09 (\$298.17 the previous year).

Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo: \$206.61. The previous year, they were treated to spaghetti and meatballs; out of respect for Tres Islas donors, they felt that should count as their Christmas dinner.

Christmas Trees

Christmas trees purchased for the three orphanages being served by the Fund were as follows:

Orfanatorio Mazatlan: \$31.15 (Previous year: none - one was donated by an individual outside of Tres Islas).

Salvation Army Children's Home: \$30.95 (Previous year - none; one was donated from an individual outside of Tres Islas).

Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo: None - purchased by others (Previous year: \$20.38).

School Items

Please note: If school items are not needed at the first of the school year, they are not purchased at that time. School items are reassessed mid-year or when items are needed. An example is a uniform may not be purchased at the first of the year if a few more months wear could be gotten from an existing one. The purchase will be made mid-year, when it is necessary. The orphanage directors and we are prudent with the purchases. This also teaches the children to be responsible, which is an important life lesson. The orphanages do not stock pile any items but honestly request them as they become necessary. This is one reason we have such a wonderful working relationship with each of the orphanages because they always make every purchase, including food, only as they need them. How truly blessed we are to work with such a high-caliber of people!

School Shoes

Orfanatorio Mazatlan: \$352.91 (Previous year: \$826.59).

Salvation Army Children's Home: \$543.28 (Previous year: \$711.43).

Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo: None - provided by Friends of Mexico, another Mazatlan charitable organization (Previous year: none; provided by Friends of Mexico).

Ciudad de los Ninos: \$361.68 (Previous year: None).

Total school shoes purchased: \$1,257.87 (Previous year: \$1,538.02).

School shoes purchased represent 4.96% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction (Previous year, school shoes purchased represented 6.72% of the Fund's expenditures).

School Supplies, Uniforms and Backpacks

Orfanatorio Mazatlan

School supplies: \$318.89 (Previous year: \$877.47).

School uniforms: \$136.46 (Previous year: \$242.01).

Backpacks: \$170.48 (Previous year: no backpacks were purchased for the children at Orfanatorio Mazatlan because the backpacks the Fund purchased the year prior were still in good shape).

Additionally, kind Canadian visitors during the year brought backpacks with them; so worn-out backpacks were replaced with those. The orphanage directors asked the Fund if they could apply the money allocated for the backpacks to the purchase of school supplies, which of course, we did.

Total this year for school supplies, uniforms and back packs: \$978.74 (Previous year: \$1,119.48).

Salvation Army Children's Home

School supplies: \$319.10 (Previous year: \$254.98).

School Uniforms: \$227.24 (Previous year: \$328.70).

Backpacks: None yet this year: still in good shape at the beginning of the school year - will reassess condition mid-school year (Previous Year: \$280.45).

Total this year for school supplies, uniforms and back packs: \$546.34 (Previous year \$864.13).

Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo

School supplies: None this year: supplied by Friends of Mexico (Previous year: purchased by Friends of Mexico).

School Uniforms: None this year: supplied by Friends of Mexico (Previous year: purchased by Friends of Mexico).

Backpacks: None this year: supplied by Friends of Mexico (Previous year: purchased by Friends of Mexico).

Ciudad de los Ninos

School supplies: \$201.55 (Previous year: None).

School uniforms: \$195.48 (Previous year: None).

Backpacks: \$161.05 (Previous year: None).

Total this year for school supplies, uniforms and back packs: \$558.08.

The Fund began an educational program this year, which paid for two children from the orphanages to study English with Teacher Gabino Covarrubias and his wife, Olga, who are considered to be the finest English teachers in all of Mexico. The cost for the two students for a two-month period was \$280.00.

Including the cost of the English classes, expenditures this year for school supplies, school shoes, school uniforms and backpacks for the 88 children in all four orphanages totaled \$3,268.12 (Last year: \$4,100.25 for the 68 children in all three orphanages for 12 months, including the computer monitor and keyboard for Orfanatorio Mazatlan).

School supplies represent 3.31% of the Fund's expenditures.

School shoes represent 4.96% of the Fund's expenditures.

School uniforms represent 2.20% of the Fund's expenditures.

School backpacks represent 1.31% of the Fund's expenditures.

English lessons represent 1.10% of the Fund's expenditures.

This year, all school related items (supplies, shoes, uniforms, backpacks and English lessons represent 12.88% of the Fund's expenditures).

Last year, all school related items (supplies, uniforms, backpacks, computer monitor and keyboard represented 17.91% of the Fund's expenditures).

Appliances

Orfanatorio Mazatlan: Washing machine \$501.47, replaced broken water storage tank above boys' bathroom: \$144.35 (Last year: no new appliances).

Salvation Army Home for Children: None (Last year: \$161.90 for shower hot water heater).

Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo: None this year (Last year: no new appliances).

Ciudad de los Ninos: Washing machine: \$506.01.

Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo

When we first learned of the plight of Hogar San Pablo, thanks to Tres Islas facilitators Bob and Janet Schmitt, Lena and Cliff Brown and Helen McIsaac, the words, "in need of help" were an understatement.

In 2003, 2004 and 2005, we made appeals for help to you for this orphanage, which has been home to over 500 boys over the years. The deteriorated orphanage had placed the good boys living there at risk from a health and welfare standpoint. From toilets that wouldn't flush unless you poured water in them, to sewage discharging on the ground, to broken windows and doors rusted open, to floors where tile had come loose, permitting cockroaches to easily come in, to deteriorated, corroded mirrors due to years of being adjacent to the ocean climate, to non-working appliances and no playground for the boys, Hogar San Pablo was in need of a major health and sanitary restoration.

Thanks to your benevolent response, to date \$17,181.46 in repairs and upgrades (including furniture and tables for the boys to study on) has been made to Hogar San Pablo!

This year, \$3,398.67 in upgrades was made, which are described below.

Tres Islas "Sisters-and-Brothers-by-Heart"

This past spring, in what has become known as the Fund's "Sisters-and-Brothers-By-Heart Labor-of-Love" week, 14 donors came to Mazatlan renovate the boys' basketball/volleyball court and backyard.

The basketball/volleyball court was severely damaged due to storms over the years. There was no money to make the repairs until Tres Islas donors stepped forward.

The height of wall along the west side of the backyard has been raised so balls will no longer bounce over the walls and quickly roll down the long and steep hill into the ocean, never to be seen again. All walls had to be sealed to protect them and to accept paint. There are now benches along the basketball court and a smaller wall along

the court to contain bouncing balls within the court area itself. There is a sidewalk from the orphanage buildings to the basketball/volleyball court where before, there was a steep mound of dirt and debris you had to climb over or around to get to the court. Laborers removed the largest pieces of concrete debris. Dirt backfill was brought in to level the backyard. Trees and shrubs were planted. The cost for all of this construction over a five-month period was \$2,500.00.

In May, donors removed smaller concrete debris, rubble, large rocks and trash scattered about the backyard area. On the basketball/volleyball court, donors took down the old basketball hoops, repaired and repainted the backboards and posts. Donors then cleared the concrete slab of weeds and dirt and repainted court lines. New basketball hoops and nets were installed. The volleyball net posts were sanded then painted and a new net was installed. The donors painted the west and north walls that line the backyard and the new benches and walls around the basketball/volleyball court. Many orphanage boys helped donors clear debris from the backyard, sweep the court, pull weeds and paint the walls. This was a win-win situation because the donors taught the boys valuable painting skills and forged friendships - something the boys deeply need. The cost of all of this (paint for all the walls, benches, court striping, backboard and poles, and new volleyball net and basketball hoops, etc.) was \$898.67.

Afterwards, two donors present gave the boys who helped the equivalent of \$10.00 U.S. dollars each. That was also a learning experience, in that those who worked were rewarded for their efforts. You should have seen the surprised and happy look on their faces when they not only had a terrific basketball/volleyball court to play on, beautiful back yard but in addition they received, what was for many of them, their first "pay check." Afterwards, all the boys were treated to pizzas cakes and pop, thanks to the donors.

Because of your donations, the orphanage is now a sanitary, healthy place and a workable, usable true home to Father Tovar's boys.

We genuinely and deeply thank those who could help.

Over the years, the care given the boys by the kindly Father Tovar and Sisters Amalia, Victoria, Imelda and Aurora has always been wonderful, despite the physical condition of the orphanage. Here, the boys are safe and know it; they are properly loved and treated with respect and are helped and encouraged with their educations.

The Fund is proud to acknowledge, with a great amount of gratitude, those who have helped oversee the restoration projects. During the restoration project, Bob and Janet Schmitt, Tres Islas Orphanage Fund facilitators, verified the work at the orphanage was completed as outlined and wrote the Tres Islas checks to pay for the work completed. We can never pay enough tribute to Bob and Janet Schmitt for the tremendous help they were in verifying the work and paying for the improvements. Thank you!

This past year the Fund was blessed when Lena Brown and Irma Becerra joined us as facilitators. Lena and Irma spent countless hours at the orphanage learning the needs; then getting estimates from numerous vendors all over Mazatlan for constructing the walls, removal of large concrete debris, backfill material to smooth the backyard landscape into a gentle slope. Never doubt the possibilities of well-

intentioned ladies! Thank you, so much, Lena and Irma, you are so kind and giving and so very much appreciated!

And then, there is the ever-incredible Teacher Gabino Covarrubias and his lovely wife Olga, who are always willing to help better the world. They, too, spent countless hours visiting with Father Tovar, going over estimates with him, planning the additions and keeping the Fund appraised every step of the way.

Work Remaining at Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo

The locker room: The boys have no place to hang their clothes or store their shoes and personal items. The new lockers will be made of concrete with heavy-duty doors and will last many years. The estimate to complete this work is \$2,000.00 - \$2,500.00.

Doors and door jams throughout and kitchen cupboards need replacing due to the salt air environment and termite infestation over the years, the front doors and some windows in the church need replacing as well as a few miscellaneous windows throughout the orphanage. The estimate to repair these is \$2,500.00.

The chapel, where the boys also go to read and spend quiet time, is in dire need of paint - it is peeling in most places. The estimate to paint the entire chapel is \$800.00. The new paint job should last approximately 7 years.

The Renaming of Hogar San Pablo

Over the years, Father Tovar has found over 500 boys living on the streets, all whom he has brought "home" to Hogar San Pablo to love, care for, raise and educate. Without Father Tovar, the good lives these boys have would surely have turned out much differently. Many of those he raised went on to earn college degrees or learn technical trades. Many now have families of their own and all are self-sufficient, positive contributing members of society. Because of his life's devotion and help to these boys, last Christmas, we asked Father Tovar to please allow us to rename his orphanage, as it appropriately should be: in his honor.

At first, Father was hesitant to accept because he is so humble. His first answer was, "All that matters, all that is important, is the boys."

We persisted, offering that he would surely want the orphanage to carry on, to always be a respite for needy boys - no matter what - and wouldn't it be nice for all the future boys to know how this wonderful home for them began, because one kindly gentleman priest cared enough about others to devote his entire life to finding and caring for them.

Father said he'd think about it.

A few days later we returned; this time "armed" with the famous and highly respected Teacher Gabino Covarrubias. We thought if anything had been lost in our prior translation to Father Tovar, Teacher Gabino would be able share our thoughts and explain the sincerity of our intentions.

When Father saw us coming, with Teacher Gabino in tow, the first thing Father said was he understood everything, (somehow we figured he did) and, yes, it was a very nice gesture - but what would people think? Would they not think he was calling attention to himself and what the Lord think of that?

“All that matters, all that is important,” he again shared, “is the boys.”

We told him we didn't know what everyone would think but we knew what the most important people in the world to him – his boys, both past and present – would think. They would want to say thanks to him, they would want Father to be honored for all he did for them and they would want to share the honor of the day with him, to say thank you to him with their presence. That's what the most important people in the world – his boys – would want, we explained, and we hoped that would help guide him to his answer. It did, and still ever humbly, the goodly priest bowed his head, nodded yes with a big smile and accepted the offer.

Prior to the big day, Mike and Maricha Veselik, owners and publishers of Mazatlan's *Pacific Pearl* news magazine, had a beautiful blue and white sign painted on the outside of the orphanage wall with the new orphanage name.

And so, on Sunday, May 14, 2006, many of the boys who Father Tovar raised over the years returned with their own families. They, the boys who presently live at the orphanage and Tres Islas donors stretched a yellow ribbon in front of the newly painted orphanage sign. The boys helped Father Tovar walk to the sign and he slipped behind the ribbon.

With a quick look up at us, a giant smile spread across his face; and with the cut of his scissors, Father Tovar “blest” the renaming of his 31-year old orphanage, Hogar San Pablo, to:

**Father Tovar's Home for Boys
Hogar San Pablo
Est. 1975**

Everyone cheered! Traffic stopped while photos were taken. And afterwards, we all went back into the orphanage compound and dined on Sunday menudo – prepared for all of us by Father Tovar himself, as an expression of gratitude and welcoming us back.

God bless you, Father Tovar, for your good works, past and present and for all you continue to do for “your boys.”

We love and respect you!

Repairs Made at Orfanatorio Mazatlan

Last year we wrote that while the girls have locker rooms, their orphanage receives clothes and shoes in a greater abundance than the other orphanages because of its central location. They had no place to properly sort and store these items; not only for themselves but to pass along to children they meet who have less than they do. Thanks to Helen McIsaac, hostess of weekly charitable bingo games in Mazatlan from November – May, the money has been raised and the building is now in place! And it's a dandy one, too!

Also part of our May 2006 “Labor-of-Love” workweek was to repaint the inner courtyard at Orfanatorio Mazatlan and kitchen shelves where the food your donations purchase is stored and seal a portion of the orphanage roof before monsoon rains

arrived. The cost of the roof sealant and paint for the entire inner courtyard and the shelves, including brushes and rollers was \$371.09.

This, too, was a fun time! The children enjoyed working alongside the donors, improving their home. Once again, the donors and the children forged good friendships and the donors taught the children how to paint - something they did very well! As you'll read in the attached thank you letter from orphanage director Cristina Pena, it means so much to the children for the donors to spend time with them, taking a sincere interest in them and teaching them skills, like how to paint. Donors purchased pizza and cakes for the children and at the end of the two days of sprucing up their orphanage, celebrated with a tamale and chili rellenos party.

While we were busily painting away, the water storage tank above the little boys' restroom broke beyond repair. This occurred due to the natural elements of time: being outside in scorching sun and then heavy, pounding monsoon rains. It was really a blessing it happened when it did because one of the donors present that day kindly donated the \$144.35 to purchase a new, larger tank and have it installed for which the orphanage board and especially the little boys are grateful.

And finally, a much-needed extra large, heavy-duty washing machine was also purchased for the orphanage, thanks to two of the Fund's loyal donors. This replaced an existing washing machine that finally wore out after eight years of daily use for over 25 children. It's safe to say, we got out monies' worth out of the former machine!

Work Remaining at Orfanatorio Mazatlan

The hallway between the courtyard and the kitchen, including the dining room needs to be painted to match the courtyard that donors painted this spring, as does the entrance foyer to the orphanage. The roof will again need sealing prior to the summer monsoon (heavy rain) season. The boy's bathroom needs additional toilets and showers so more than one boy can use the bathroom facilities at one time. The cost for all of this is estimated at \$1,000.00.

Work Remaining at Salvation Army Orphanage

There is no "tight" (mouse, rat and rodent free) place to store food at the Salvation Army Orphanage. It would be prudent to be able to buy larger quantities of food for the orphanage when it is on sale; but it cannot be done unless they have a place to store food that is rodent-free.

The director would like the orphanage to have stainless steel storage units that will never have to be repaired nor replaced. These are commercial grade and are estimated to will cost \$4,000.00.

Join "Sisters-and-Brothers-By-Heart"

Tres Islas donor and clothing designer Laura M from Wyoming who began organizing the "Sisters-and-Brothers-By-Heart" mission as part of her Tres Islas volunteerism at Hogar two years ago again returned to share in the work week (she is

such a worker bee!). Equally as important is her endeavors to help raise money on behalf of the children, through style shows and old-fashioned social gatherings.

Thank you, my dear friend of 41 years, Laura, for always being there for me, helping the children, raising money and giving of yourself to improve the children's lives. How blest I am, to know you, and call you, "friend."

And thank you all "Sisters-and-Brothers-By-Heart" for returning to Mazatlan year-after-year to make a difference in the children's lives.

If you'd like to participate in this coming year's trip from April 21 - April 28, 2007 please let us know. Here you'll work alongside the children, continuing to improve their homes. Donors are already signing up and everyone is welcome.

We promise you will:

- Experience a rewarding and memorable time
- Interact one-on-one with the children - who will be thrilled
- Make a positive difference in the children's lives
- Meet other donors who, like yourself, care about the children
- Share smiles and laughter and the most wonderful "work" you'll ever know in one week and have a lot of fun
- Want to return to participate in the children's lives again and again
- Have time to enjoy beautiful Mazatlan

Please come join us! You're Invited!

Additional Items

Thanks to your donations, our request in last year's annual report to purchase \$130.00 worth of food for all orphanages each week came to fruition beginning May 2, 2006. All the children needed additional nourishing food.

We always do our best to provide you the most detailed and accountable information for your donations because we value you and your contributions. Without you, the Fund would not exist.

The food, school supplies and shoes for all four orphanages continue to be purchased by Gaudelia "Fella" Cruz Hernandez. Were it not for her dedication, generosity, love and good-heartedness, the Fund could not operate as it does. This year, her daughter Jasmine has joined Fella on occasion. Jasmine has also devised the easy-to-read and accurate weekly accounting of all signed grocery slips and itemization sheets - for which we are most appreciative.

Annually we proclaim, yet, we cannot say it enough: if there are angels on earth, then Fella - and now joined by Jasmine - is surely one of them. She is truly one of our heroes.

The Fund continues to be blessed by Bob and Janet Schmitt, winter residents of Mazatlan each year from November through May. While in Mazatlan, Bob and Janet are on call to help Fella and Jasmine purchase the food each week, take children to dinner on their birthdays (as part of Bob and Janet's donations), purchase piñatas and cakes for them on special days such as birthdays or Christmas, and participate in the children's lives. Additionally, Janet and Bob oversee the construction projects when we are away and write the checks for the work completed. This is such a big help!

Janet organizes the Fund's "Adopt-a-Child-for-Christmas" at the Salvation Army Orphanage. Bob and Janet take photos of the children and record the children's clothing and shoe sizes. They post the children's pictures and needs for winter residents and visitors to "adopt." They collect all the gifts, wrap those that are not wrapped, buy treats and take any one who would like to participate to the orphanage to share in the children's Christmas. As you have seen over the years and in the accompanying photos, the children are thrilled to receive such lovely gifts.

If you'd like to sponsor a child for Christmas, we encourage you to do so! We'll email you the picture of "your" child and the gifts you bought them if you can't make it to Mazatlan for the Christmas party. Bob and Janet do an outstanding job of making Christmas special for each child and they are to be commended for their painstaking efforts.

Bob and Janet also represent the Fund in meeting those of you who visit Mazatlan when we aren't there and take you on tours of the orphanages.

They are our board advisors and "lightening rods" - meaning, when we need advice, they are always there for us.

Additionally, Bob and Janet work with The Vineyard Christian Fellowship "La Vina" and its dedicated pastor, Fred Collom of Mazatlan. Their ministry connects the English and the Spanish-speaking communities, devoting itself to bettering the lives of those less fortunate than they are.

Each week, Janet, a group of church volunteers and visitors prepare food for those who live at Mazatlan's city dump in makeshift cardboard housing. Bob and Janet host weekly tours of the city dump where the poorest of the poor live (and should not be confused with a modern landfill in the states)

It is here that the poor scavenge for even the smallest of items, hoping they might find anything that has been discarded by others as trash, which they may sell for a peso or two.

Bob, Janet and those who come on the tour, handout a sandwich, piece of fruit and bottled water to each person who lives at the dump. On the tours, Bob and Janet take people through other needy outlying areas where La Vina Church also has a positive impact such as building first-time schools, community centers, churches, feeding the poor and providing free dental care for the poor.

Thank you, Bob and Janet, for your Godly dedication to all the children and the poor of Mazatlan. We are proud and blest to know you both. You truly make a positive difference in the lives of everyone with whom you meet!

Next Year's Projections

When you read the weekly itemizations for each orphanage, you'll note the amount spent by the orphanages each week varies. Some weeks are a little higher and some are a little lower.

Again, this is because the orphanage caregivers are honest. If someone brings the orphanage food, they don't buy that food item that particular week. In other words, they don't spend your donations unnecessarily.

They are also conservative and respectful. If they need more food, they ask for more, if they don't need more food, they never ask for more.

It is the same with school purchases. As an example, this year Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo, received school supplies, shoes, uniforms and backpacks from Friends of Mexico and school shoes and uniforms last year. So, once again, Father Tovar did not ask for these items from the Fund.

Another example occurred when the backpacks at the Salvation Army Children's Home were still in good shape the beginning of this school year; they didn't request new backpacks. We'll assess the situation mid-year and if the children need them at that time, we'll buy them; if not, we won't.

Hand-in-hand, the Fund is blest to work with all four-orphanage directors in this honest and caring capacity.

Please know how very much each of you is needed and appreciated. If not for you, the children would be hungry and without the needed school items, including shoes; and the orphanages would be in states of disrepair.

Please continue to support the Fund so the Fund may continue our "labors of love" just as we have, each and every day.

We will continue to be accountable to you for your donations. This is our pledge.

The projections for food and school needs for each of the four orphanages during the coming year are as follows:

Food	\$6,760.00
Christmas dinner	\$250.00
School supplies	\$325.00
School shoes	\$400.00
School uniforms	\$250.00
School backpacks	\$250.00
English classes	<u>\$840.00</u>
Total for <u>each</u> orphanage	\$9,075.00

Total projected expenditures for all four orphanages for the coming year, not including construction or Christmas trees, is \$36,300.00.

If you divide the projected \$36,300.00 by the 88 children in the four orphanages at this time, this amounts to \$412.50 annually to provide nourishing food, school supplies, shoes, uniforms and backpacks for each child and English lessons for two children from each orphanage. That is not very much money to help children have a nourishing, well-educated, productive and safe quality life for an entire year!

The goal of the Fund has always been to provide the type of life to each child in the orphanages that will help them grow up to be well-nourished, healthy, educated, motivated and positive-contributing members of society. We strive to be prudent in our purchases and not extravagant. This is why we are pleased to itemize all expenditures and all accounting to you. We value your trust and your donations and we do everything possible to atone to you so we may continue to receive your trust and assistance. Without you, the children would not have the quality of life they now do.

The Fund operates on a “donations received basis”; meaning, we never know from year-to-year how much we will be able to provide the orphanages each year. We have always trusted in the Lord to provide and will continue to do so.

An Accounting of Your Dollars and Cents

We’ve been asked why we provide donors the detailed accounting each year for every dollar and cent in the Fund’s account. We do so because we feel we owe this level of detail to you. After all it’s your money, not the Fund’s. We are stewarding your money for the benefit of the children and therefore, we must be accountable to you because we need and want your continued support. We’re here to serve, to be good stewards.

We ask for your help: please continue your donations to feed, clothe and educate these children. Your help is invaluable and needed. You make the positive difference in the children’s lives. We cannot do it without you.

The Christopher Fund

In 2005, Christopher Jemio, of Pennsylvania, wanted to go to Mexico, find an orphanage where he could make a positive difference and help improve children’s lives. Accompanied by his sweetheart, Eileen, Christopher made that trip to Mazatlan and found Ciudad de los Ninos. He and Eileen spent time volunteering there and getting to know the children.

On December 25, 2005, back home in Pennsylvania, Christopher died unexpectedly.

Six months later, his mother, Teresa, phoned the Fund to inquire if we knew which orphanage Christopher and Eileen may have visited, and to inquire if that orphanage needed help. From her description of a photograph she had of Christopher and Eileen, Donelle confirmed the orphanage was Ciudad de los Ninos – the Fund’s newest orphanage.

Donelle explained the urgent needs of the orphanage to Christopher’s mom. Less than a week later, Teresa sent the Fund a \$250.00 donation in honor of her late son. That amount is the cost of Christmas dinner for an orphanage – and at that point, no one had stepped forward to pledge to buy Christmas dinner for the Ciudad children in 2006.

Donelle was touched by Christopher’s good heart in going to Mazatlan to find and volunteer in an orphanage. The fact that Christopher died on Christmas day and his mother unknowingly sent the exact amount needed for the children’s Christmas dinner prompted Donelle to immediately phone Teresa.

She asked Teresa if she could have permission to honor Christopher’s life by permanently designating a special fund that would buy Christmas dinners for all the orphanages and name it “The Christopher Fund.” Christopher’s mom wholeheartedly accepted.

If you would like to help provide Christmas dinners for the children in any of the orphanages, please designate your check for the Christopher Fund where you’ll make many children happy on this most special of Mexican holidays and keep the memory of

a kind young man named Christopher Jemio, who had a dream to go to Mexico and make a positive difference in an orphanage, alive forever.

The October 29, 2006 balance in the Christopher Fund is \$1,131.13, which will purchase the four Christmas dinners this Christmas (\$250.00 for each orphanage) and a Christmas tree for each orphanage at \$32.00 each.

Please continue to help feed, clothe and educate these children with your donations. Your help is invaluable and needed. You make the positive difference in the children's lives. We truly cannot do it without each one of you.

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Passages

Lilyan Ann Gottfried Bainter
June 12, 1917 – November 20, 2006
Donelle's Precious Mother

I had a precious mother. She loved me very much, and also my husband Tom, and we never visited, in person or on the phone, that she didn't tell us so.

Equally as important as her words, were her loving actions each and every day of her 89 years, 52 of them dedicated, in large part, to me.

My first remembrance is being in the kitchen with my dear mother while she was baking. I see that vision of gazing up at my mother as she kneaded bread as clearly today as I did back then, around the age of two.

My mother taught me how to plant cosmos – her favorite flowers – in her and dad's garden and how to preserve food in pint and quart jars; something she did every year as her way of helping feed her family. Mom taught me how to play jacks, jump rope and she learned how to ski with me. She was a room mother every year of my grade school years and made most of my Halloween and Christmas pageant costumes by hand. Goodness, they were elegant!

Equally important to me, is my mother loved the people of Mazatlan, Mexico – even though she was of pure Czechoslovakian descent straight from the "old county."

And, she loved Gaudelia "Fella" Cruz Hernandez, who purchases the food for the Fund each week, most of all.

In both my mother and my father's obituaries that I wrote, Fella is mentioned as a member of the family. To each of them, Fella was their daughter-of-the-heart. Fella felt the same kindred love for my parents and she brought them great joy.

Fella made our mother the last meal mom ever ate – Mazatlan shrimp enchiladas.

My parents believed there were two important places in the world: Cheyenne, Wyoming, where they lived for 58 years and Mazatlan, Mexico, where they visited every opportunity they could over 25 years. Plain and simple, they loved Mazatlan.

One of the last things my mom said was, "Take me back to Mazatlan. I want to go back to Mazatlan."

It is easy for me to love and dedicate the endeavors of my life to the children in the orphanages in Mexico. I had a wonderful mom and dad; most of the children in the

orphanages have never known their parents, or, if they are alive, sadly, they aren't the type of moms and dads who have the skills required to take care of them.

Many people say it's a lot of work – the time Tom and I devote to the children. Having come from a really good home, a home where I was wanted, loved and respected and raised everyday by parents who were with me 100-percent mentally and physically, right to the end of their lives, Tom and I counter those statements. We believe God gave us one of His greatest blessings when He gave us the opportunity to serve the children. You see, we are blest to give back the love, respect and quality care of being raised, as a child should be entitled to receive. No, it's not work; it's God's blessings, in action, in place, and thanks to all of you, it is working.

Thank you, Mom, for raising me and teaching me well.

We love you, Mom. . . forever. . .

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We continue to give a big "hats-off" to EPUERTO, the Fund's internet provider and webpage host. EPUERTO provides custom business solutions, web design, custom database development, touch screen applications, virtual tours, graphic design, video editing, web hosting, database integration, e-commerce, network management, consulting, systems repair, and technical support from South America to Canada. You can visit EPUERTO at <http://www.epuerto.com>.

Thank you!

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When you're away from Mazatlan, be sure and read Mazatlan's best news magazine, the *Pacific Pearl*, online at <http://www.pacificpearl.com>. When you're in Mazatlan, be sure and pick up a copy – it's free!

Mike and Maricha Veselik have been the "eyes and ears" between the English speaking living and visiting community and Mazatlan for almost 20 years.

Mike and Maricha are benevolent and keep everyone posted about those in need and are two of the most fun, kind and generous people you will ever have the pleasure of meeting.

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We invite you to visit the children any time you would like. Part of the beauty of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund is that you are always welcome to participate in the children's lives. So that donors may interact with one another, we especially invite donors to gather in Mazatlan each Christmas to see the work your donations has done over the years. You will enjoy Christmas dinners with the children and interact with them and see the great difference your contributions make. Anything we may do to help you as you make your plans, please let us know. Anytime from December 17 through January 3 would be a good time for you to plan to visit.

Likewise, the Fund's next "Labors of Love" week (hands-on work at the orphanages) will be April 21 – April 28, 2007. Many donors have already pledged to participate and we welcome you all. The rewards are many, true friendships are forged and you leave being thankful you came.

* * * * *

In closing. . .

Thank you, each of you, more than we may adequately express, for your support of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund and ultimately, the children in Mazatlan, Mexico's orphanages whom the Fund serves.

Please feel welcome to let the Fund know your thoughts, as this is your Fund and without you, the Fund would not exist.

This coming year, as always, we humbly ask for your continued support. Your on-going support will continue to make positive differences in the lives of the many children who are equally grateful to you.

One hundred percent of all Tres Islas donations go toward the betterment of the children. Nothing is ever taken out for administration. Your Tres Islas Orphanage Fund donations are 100% tax deductible because all donations truly go to the children.

You are welcome to visit the orphanages and interact with the children whenever you can. Please feel welcome to call on us, Fella, and Bob and Janet.

May our Lord bless each of you and yours as you have blessed the children the Fund is honored to serve on your behalf.

With gratitude,

Donelle Manton, Founder

Tom Manton, Vice-President

Enclosures - Lots of them! 😊 😊