

# **Tres Islas Orphanage Fund**

3717 Monroe Avenue  
Cheyenne, WY 82001

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**IRS Federal Identification Number: 84 -1408725**

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Please visit the Fund's website at: [www.orphanagefunds.org](http://www.orphanagefunds.org)**

**U.S. Phone Numbers:**

**Toll-free:**

**Tres Islas Main Number (Donelle & Tom Manton) 1-888-459-TIOF (8463)**

**Mazatlan Telephone Numbers:**

**(When dialing from outside Mexico, first dial 01152669)**

**Bob and Janet Schmitt 916-01-22**

**Gaudelia "Fella" Cruz Hernandez 982-25-80**

## **Annual Report 2007**

*Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful citizens can change the world.  
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.*

*- Margaret Mead*

November 15, 2007

Dear Most Wonderful and Loyal Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Donors:

*I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world.  
- Mother Theresa*

Twenty years ago when Donelle was a correspondent for Wyoming's *Casper-Star Tribune*, she was invited to participate in a photojournalism essay about the children of Mexico for the *Wyoming State Tribune SunDay Magazine* by Kathryn Gress, then a staff writer and photographer for *SunDay*.

With a supply of film, Donelle headed to Mazatlan - her favorite place in Mexico. She photographed children in the town plaza, on the beach and in the picturesque nearby mountain community of Copala.

Knowing Mexico had orphanages, Donelle sought-out one. Guided by her dear friend, Gaudelia "Fella" Cruz Hernandez, the two went to Orfanatorio Mazatlan, Mazatlan's first orphanage, built in the early 1900s.

Arriving near the time the children were to eat, Donelle inquired what was for dinner. A blank look and shrug of their shoulders led Donelle to peruse the kitchen. While there was some food - beans, tortillas and eggs - there wasn't enough food and certainly not an abundance of nourishing food to feed the precious children on a regular basis.

Donelle and Fella went to the main market in El Centro where Donelle purchased \$250.00 worth of food and took it to the orphanage. Sixth months later, Donelle returned to share her photos with the children. Again arriving near the children's mealtime, Donelle inquired what was for dinner and received pretty much the same response as before.

That was when she knew her "assignment" was more than taking a brief photo shoot of some awfully cute kids.

Back in the states, Donelle began to raise awareness of the children's needs. She made several trips to Mazatlan throughout the year, each time purchasing food and supplies for the children. She spread the word among family and friends who also began to help. Then, one day, she thought others outside of family and friends would want to help but with a distinct variation: one-hundred percent of all donations would go directly to help the children with nothing taken from any donation for administration costs, stipends or salaries. Everyone involved would volunteer their time and the volunteers would provide all costs for administration so the children would truly reap all the benefits. Along the way, each of you learned about the Fund and made it into what it is today: the steadfast, helping hand for children in Mazatlan's orphanages.

And so today, twenty years after that first August visit to Orfanatorio Mazatlan, we have the pleasure of again writing to thank you for your support of the children in the four orphanages the Fund is blest to serve and providing you with your 2007 annual report.

Because of your loyal donations, you provide the 99 children in the four orphanages with healthy, nourishing meals each day. The children go to school wearing decent shoes that support and help build strong feet; they attend school in equally decent clothing they wear with pride - not worn shoes or tattered clothing that calls attention to their plight.

Attending school with the right “tools” – nourished minds and proper educational supplies – allows them to learn and study well. It is because of each of you that the children have all they do. Thank you.

As you read this 2007 annual report, may you continue to realize the significance you and your contributions make for the children.

Thanks to your support, from October 30, 2006, to October 29, 2007, the Fund provided \$34,223.91 for the children’s food, educational needs and necessary orphanage repairs.

And you achieved an equally great milestone this year through your ongoing support of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund over the years: From the inception of the Fund twenty years ago through October 29, 2007, the Fund’s total purchases for food, school supplies, school shoes, uniforms and backpacks, advanced education, medical supplies, medical needs, repaired or new appliances, and health, safety and welfare improvements for the children in Mazatlan’s orphanages throughout the years totals \$201,551.91! Thank you, donors for helping the children!

With humble hearts, we ask that you please continue your support of these children through the Fund. Please know you are needed, much appreciated and the Fund could not do what it does for the children if it weren’t for you.

And so, this is really your story, what you did for the children this past year. . .

### **Introduction**

We are blest to serve Orfanatorio Mazatlan, the Salvation Army Children’s Home, Father Tovar’s Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo and Ciudad de los Ninos full-time (year-round) in buying the children’s food, school supplies and shoes. In addition, the Fund performed much-needed repairs at Ciudad de los Ninos during our 2007 Spring Mission Week, the annual week where donors (You’re invited each year!) gather to make improvements to the children’s homes.

All amounts listed in the annual reports are in U.S. dollars. Everything purchased in Mexico is purchased with pesos. The Fund is also blest to have Canadian donors who make their donations in Canadian dollars, so we want to clarify which monetary denomination we use as we report expenditures to you.

May you feel as good about your help for these children as they do because of the positive difference you have made in their lives!

We also want to tell you that the Fund “came in” \$7,204.09 under budget from our estimate for the year. We are proud to report to you that we have never come in over budget and we steward your donations with respect; only purchasing nourishing food, school items and making upgrades to the orphanages as they are genuinely needed.

As always, the Fund’s annual report will be for the same time frame as are all annual reports to you: from October 30, (2006) through October 29, (2007). We report to you in the fall enabling us to include the most recent school supplies, school shoes, school uniforms and backpacks purchased so you may promptly learn the amounts spent for these essential educational supplies.

Here are the accomplishments made for the children this past year because of your donations. . .

### **Orphanages Served**

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 once 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  
Directors: Israel and Victoria 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 youngsters and directors of each of the orphanages for all the help you gave. The number of children in each orphanage fluctuates throughout the year, ranging between 80 and 100 for all four orphanages. As of this annual report, there are 99 children, an increase from 88 children a year ago at this time.

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

It is the same situation for Jesus Grande at Ciudad de los Ninos. As a baby, he had a brain tumor, which, when removed, left him permanently brain damaged. Unable speak, Jesus communicates via his kind smiles and signing. He is very much loved and included in all Ciudad activities. Ciudad will always be his home. He enjoys keeping the orphanage yard groomed and gardening is his contribution to his home, the orphanage.

Then, there are other cases, such as Saul, who grew up at Ciudad and is studying to becoming a psychologist. Although past the age of 18, he has nowhere else to live while attending college. It's wonderful he's receiving excellent grades and making something positive of his life. To be able to live at the orphanage while completing college is a blessing for him. He is much like a youngster in the U.S. or Canada who lives at home while in school. In exchange, Saul tends to the younger children's needs and gladly does chores at the orphanage.

### **Purchases**

During last year's reporting period, October 30, 2005 to October 29, 2006, the total money allocated to support all four orphanages amounted to \$30,327.97.

This year, thanks again to your generous donations, the money dedicated to the care of the children in the orphanages (food, school supplies, school shoes, uniforms, backpacks, English classes and orphanage repairs) totaled \$34,223.91.

Prior to January 2007, the Fund was never charged a "foreign currency fee" which is an amount assessed by banks internationally for purchases made with debit or credit cards. The Fund's banking institution absorbed the foreign currency fee as part of their support of the Fund and the children.

Because so many people now travel internationally, the board of directors at the credit union realized if they were asked, they could not, in good conscience, justify to other shareholders why Tres Islas fees were absorbed by the credit union and not others.

Because of this, in January of 2007, the credit union began charging a 1% "foreign currency fee" on all purchases made with the debit card in Mazatlan for the children. The total fee charged during this reporting period was \$268.46.

The itemization of the benefits from your contributions is presented below with a summary spreadsheet attached showing expenditures for this year, last year and projections for next year. The "foreign currency fee" charged for each debit card transaction is included in the totals reported herein and on the summary spreadsheet.

### **Food**

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

➤ As you know, the Fund has been providing each orphanage up to \$130.00 per week for food. Although one of the many wonderful attributes about Mexico is the reasonable cost of food, like everywhere, food prices have risen over the years. It's important to note that in most cases, the amount each orphanage spends each week for food is a little less than \$130.00. This speaks highly of their integrity - even though they could use more food they don't take advantage of the system and are careful and respectful with their purchases.

Last spring, Orfanatorio Mazatlan director Cristina Pena inquired if it would be possible to increase Orfanatorio Mazatlan's food from \$130.00 to \$150.00 each week

because their children are growing up – and growing children eat more food. She expressed concern, too, because rising food prices cut into the amount of food they were able to purchase each week.

Cristina's request equates to a \$20.00 per week or \$1,040.00 annual increase in food for the orphanage.

The next day, two Fund donors from Washington phoned to say one of their relatives had passed away and left them an inheritance. They wanted to tithe 10-percent of their inheritance to Tres Islas to be used wherever most needed. Their donation met the requested increase for food at Orfanatorio Mazatlan for almost a year-and-a-half. We shared Orfanatorio Mazatlan's request with them and they were happy to pledge their tithe to increase the food for the children at Orfanatorio Mazatlan for the upcoming year-and-a-half.

➤ You'll read in the accompanying three-year summary of all expenditures that we include with each annual report:

Food purchases increased by 18.9% over the previous year, in part to the increase at Orfanatorio Mazatlan and in part because on February 23, 2006, the Fund began purchasing food for Ciudad de los Ninos.

The total food purchases for each orphanage are as follows (Christmas dinners are itemized separately in their own category)

**Orfanatorio Mazatlan:** \$6,503.31 (Previous year: \$6,203.91).

**Salvation Army Children's Home:** \$6,374.58 (Previous year: \$5,495.32).

**Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo:** \$5,944.99 (Previous year: \$5,367.12).

**Ciudad de Los Ninos:** \$6,604.63 (Previous year: \$ 4,307.98).

Total food purchased for all four orphanages this year: \$25,427.51 (Last year: \$21,377.33 - an increase of \$4,050.18).

This year's food purchases represents 78.77% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction costs. (Last year's food purchases represented 84.29% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction costs.)

### **Christmas Dinners 2006**

We itemize the orphanages' Christmas dinners separately for you because they are a special event where additional money is specifically donated for the occasion in addition to weekly grocery purchases. This way, you will know exactly how your donations have been spent.

**Orfanatorio Mazatlan:** \$170.05 (Previous year: \$130.64). Many people continued to voluntarily bring in side dishes for Christmas dinner, so the cost was less than it otherwise would have been.

**Salvation Army Children's Home:** \$223.37 (Previous year: \$297.09).

**Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo:** \$215.79 (Previous year: \$206.61).

**Ciudad de los Ninos:** \$253.97 (This was the first year the Fund purchased Christmas dinner for the children at this orphanage).

### **Christmas Trees 2006**

**Orfanatorio Mazatlan:** Received via another donation. (Previous year: \$31.15).

**Salvation Army Children's Home:** Received via another donation (Previous year \$30.95).

**Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo:** Received via another donation. (Previous year: Received via another donation).

**Ciudad de los Ninos:** Received via another donation.

### **Education Fund**

School items (paper, notebooks, pens, pencils, etc.), school shoes, uniforms, backpacks, English classes, computers and computer supplies are purchased as needed from the education fund.

#### **School Items**

If school items aren't needed at the beginning of a school year because they're in good condition from the previous year or if there are enough school supplies on hand, the Fund doesn't purchase them. School item needs are assessed mid-year and purchased when needed. The orphanage directors and the Fund are prudent with all purchases. This also teaches the children fiscal responsibility – an important life lesson. Orphanages do not stock pile 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 make all purchases, including food, only as needed. We are blest are to work with high-moral individuals!

#### **School Shoes**

**Orfanatorio Mazatlan:** \$497.28 (Previous year: \$352.91).

**Salvation Army Children's Home:** \$506.57 (Previous year: \$543.28).

**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:** \$623.38 (Previous year: \$361.68).

Total school shoes purchased for all orphanages: \$1,627.22 (Previous year: \$1,257.87).

School shoes purchased represent 5.04% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction (Previous year, school shoes purchased represented 4.96% of the Fund's expenditures).

#### **School Supplies, Uniforms and Backpacks**

##### **Orfanatorio Mazatlan**

School supplies: \$402.19 (Previous year: \$318.89).

School uniforms: \$293.94 (Previous year: \$136.46).

Backpacks: \$149.25 (Previous year: \$170.48).

Total purchases this year for Orfanatorio Mazatlan for school supplies, uniforms and backpacks: \$845.38 (Previous year: \$625.83).

### **Salvation Army Children's Home**

School supplies: \$402.06 (Previous year: \$319.10).

School Uniforms: \$403.69 (Previous year: \$227.24).

Backpacks: \$290.39 (Previous Year: None - they were still in good shape at the beginning of the school year).

Total purchases this year for the Salvation Army Children's Home for school supplies, uniforms and backpacks: \$1,096.14 (Previous year \$546.34).

### **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: \$290.72 (Previous year: \$201.55).

School uniforms: \$592.58 (Previous year: \$195.48).

Backpacks: None; the backpacks purchased the previous year were still in good condition; Ciudad caregivers asked if they may apply the money that would have purchased the backpacks to much needed school shoes and uniforms, which of course, they were permitted to do. (Previous year: \$161.05).

Total purchases this year for Ciudad de los Ninos for school supplies, uniforms and backpacks: \$883.30 (Previous year: \$558.08).

Total school supplies, uniforms and backpacks purchased for all orphanages: \$2,824.82 (Previous year: \$1,730.25).

Total school supplies, uniforms and backpacks purchased represent 8.75% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction (Previous year, school supplies, uniforms and backpacks purchased represented 6.82% of the Fund's expenditures).

## **English Classes**

To date, the Fund has paid for six scholarships, five for children and one for a caregiver from the orphanages, to study English with Teacher Gabino Covarrubias and his wife, Olga - considered to be the finest English teachers in all of Mexico.

The cost for students to study English for a two-month period is \$280.00; however, beginning in May, Teacher Gabino and Olga reduced the fee to \$140.00 for a two-month period to help the children in the orphanages have a better chance to succeed in their lives. The cost for the four students to study English this past year was \$1,540.00

Including English classes, expenditures this year for school supplies, school shoes, school uniforms and backpacks for the 78 children in the three orphanages totaled

\$7,532.04. (Previous year: \$3,268.12 for the 68 children in the three orphanages for 12 months.)

School supplies represent 3.39% of the Fund's expenditures. Last year: 3.31%.

School shoes represent 5.04% of the Fund's expenditures. Last year: 4.96%.

School uniforms represent 3.00% of the Fund's expenditures. Last year: 2.20%.

School backpacks represent 1.36% of the Fund's expenditures. Last year: 1.31%.

English classes represent 4.77% of the Fund's expenditures. Last year: 1.10%.

This year, all school related items (supplies, shoes, uniforms, backpacks and English classes) represent 18.56% of the Fund's expenditures. Last year: 12.89%

Interest earned this year on the educational fund account: \$32.99

### **Construction Fund**

Construction fund projects are detailed under the orphanage where they were performed. The construction fund account balance October 29, 2007 was \$1,209.70. Last year: \$63.66.

Specified deposits to the construction fund during this year's reporting period: \$2,595.60.

Of those deposits, \$910.00 was donated specifically for and will be applied to the much-needed repair of the boys' lockers at Fr. Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo, hopefully in the spring of 2008 and/or other needs at that orphanage once the lockers have been repaired.

Expenditures for repairs at Ciudad de los Ninos totaled \$1,920.80:

\$1,300.80 for repairs to stucco walls, purchase wall sealant, paint, painting supplies (scrub brushes, paint scrapers, water hose spray nozzles, paint brushes and rollers, masking tape, etc.) during the Donor Mission Week.

\$150.00 to replace the nine windows blown out by the hurricanes.

\$470.00 to replace the stolen water pump and copper water pipes (replaced with PVC).

### **Appliances**

**Orfanatorio Mazatlan:** None this year. (Last year: \$645.82).

**Salvation Army Home for Children:** None (Last year: None).

**Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo:** None. (Last year: None).

**Ciudad de los Ninos:** None this year. (Last year: \$506.01.)

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

This past April, in what began as the Fund's "Sisters-and-Brothers-By-Heart" and has become known as the Fund's "Donor Mission Week," twenty-four donors came to Mazatlan to paint the badly peeling walls of Ciudad de los Ninos Orphanage. This was the Fund's third-annual trip where donors helped restore the orphanages. As is the case with

every Tres Islas Donor Mission Week, all money utilized for orphanage upgrades came from donations specified for that project.

The week began by donors hosting a beach barbeque fiesta for the Ciudad de Los Ninos children, the orphanage where our mission week was focused. The fiesta was provided by a specified donation. La Costa Marinera Restaurant grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and provided tables and chairs for the party. Donors served the children lunch, which included potato salad, baked beans and all the cake and ice cream they could eat, provided by specified donation.

Throughout the afternoon, donors spent time with the children on the beach. Beach activities included donors and children joining in on soccer, swimming and building sandcastles. The caregiver nuns took a much-needed and deserved respite on the boulders at the edge of the sand. The afternoon was a success!

As you'll see in the CD presentation we've included, the beach barbecue fiesta was a day of enjoyment. Donors said they want to make the beach fiesta an annual event during the Donor Mission Week each spring.

During the Donor Mission Week, the Salvation Army Children's Home and Fr. Tovar's Home for Boys were provided pizza and cake fiestas and Orfanatorio Mazatlan was provided a tamale and Chile releno fiesta - all by specified donations.

### **How Donor Mission Weeks Come Together**

The Fund is proud to acknowledge, with a great amount of gratitude, those who helped with this year's restoration project at Ciudad de Los Ninos.

The Fund continues to be blessed with the great assistance of Lena and Cliff Brown and Irma Becerra as Tres Islas project facilitators in Mazatlan.

Lena, Cliff and Irma spent countless hours going to the orphanage, obtaining estimates from Mazatlan vendors to secure the best price to repair the stucco walls and taking measurements so the correct amount of paint would be purchased. They then headed to Mazatlan's Home Depot where they negotiated a discount because the purchases were for an orphanage - thank you, Home Depot! - we appreciate your kindness! They then took Sister Velia to Home Depot to select the colors to paint the orphanage and arranged to have the paint ready to pick up the day we arrived so we could begin work. There is not adequate space in this annual report to express gratitude to Lena, Cliff and Irma for the time and effort they devoted bringing this project to fruition. Thank you from the center of our hearts, Lena, Cliff and Irma, you are invaluable and appreciated more than we may express to you.

Although we accomplished much during our Donor Mission Week, like always, everyone had a good time. There was constant conversation and laughter throughout the week as we "labored-in-love" at the orphanage. From top-to-bottom, the stucco on the exterior portions of the orphanage and interior courtyard walls were repaired and stripped of peeling paint and donors painted the outside of the buildings a very pretty deep turquoise blue and one interior wall a crême color. The cost for removing the peeling paint, retexturing the walls, purchasing the paint and painting supplies for the entire orphanage project was \$1,300.80 and was donated by specified pledges.

The youngsters attended school during the day when donors painted their home, so they joined in before-and-after-school and painted several of the north orphanage walls to show their appreciation and participate. As was the case when donors made repairs at Fr.

Tovar's Home for Boys and Orfanatorio Mazatlan, this was a win-win situation because the children learned valuable painting skills and forged friendships – something the children need.

At the conclusion of the week, the children and their caregiver nuns invited donors into the orphanage chapel where they sang songs of appreciation for the donors' love and help and Madre Velia offered a closing prayer of thanks and blessing for every Tres Islas donor for your help to the children.

We thank all donors who could help and we invite everyone to join us for our next Donor Mission Week April 5 – 12, 2008. During this week, we will create sorting areas in two existing rooms at Ciudad de los Ninos. Currently when items are brought to the orphanage, there is no place to house them in an organized manner.

Both rooms will be painted and have shelves built. One room will be for clothes, shoes and personal hygiene items. We'll erect shelves and place large, plastic see-through bins on them where toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant, etc. will be kept in their respective bins. Outside of Tres Islas donors, folks who come to the orphanage, even if they can't speak Spanish, come to inquire how they may help. Sister Velia and Sister Ofelia, who do not speak English, will be able to take visitors to the sorting room and point to bins that may be getting low on supplies to show visitors what they need. The sisters are very excited to have an organized receiving and storage area (clothes will be sorted by age group and gender) for the children's home – a first!

The second room will permit organized storage of carpentry, plumbing, painting and yard supplies. Right now, tools and supplies are "stored" in a heap in a room, piled on top of one another with no paths in between. The walls will be sealed and painted, shelves will be built and items will be stored in orderly, common areas – many in plastic, see-through bins.

We'll also be starting a floral and shrub garden and teaching composting so the orphanage may begin to grow some of their own vegetables in the future.

And, we'll be remodeling a room at the end of the inner floral garden to serve as a peaceful reading room where the children may study and caregivers may relax, read or pray. We'll give it a fresh coat of paint – the caregivers think salmon or pink colors would be inviting – and install a ceiling fan with a light and add a reading table with a light. We'll have the very-used couch reupholstered and add a bookshelf.

Again, we invite everyone to join us as we have plenty for everyone to do and lots of fun!

### **Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo**

Sweet Father Tovar, although no longer spry, continues to do a fine job of looking after his boys. He has a new assistant named Antonio, not a priest, who is middle-aged. Antonio is quick to welcome visitors and offer to be of assistance. Antonio speaks a little English and has fun trying!

The Fund is hopeful to have an estimate by the first of the year to rebuild the boys' lockers. Depending on how the estimate comes in, we believe construction of the new lockers will be completed in time for the donors to paint them during the 2008 spring trip.

The sewer line located underneath the sidewalk between the boys' dorms and Fr. Tovar's study continues to malfunction. We're looking into the possibility of a roto-rooter cleaning it, or the line may need to be excavated and replaced in the near future.

Please continue to pray for Fr. Tovar. He sends his love and appreciation to you all, as you can read in his accompanying thank you letter. He calls those all of us at Tres Islas “my friends” – and we take it that isn’t a phrase he uses lightly.

### **Orfanatorio Mazatlan**

As part of our May 2006 Donor Mission Week, we repainted the inner courtyard at Orfanatorio Mazatlan and kitchen shelves where the food your donations purchase is stored and also sealed a portion of the orphanage roof before monsoon rains arrived.

The hallway between the courtyard and the kitchen, including the dining room is almost due to be painted, as is the entrance foyer to the orphanage. The roof will soon need sealing once again to combat the summer monsoon (heavy rain) season.

We will visit with the orphanage caregivers at Christmas and assess the orphanage needs for our April 2008 Donor Mission Week.

### **Salvation Army Children’s Home**

While Israel and Victoria have not let us know any needs this year beyond food, school shoes and school supplies, we’ll meet with them at Christmas, as we always do, to learn if they have any projects they need assistance with in the coming year.

### **Our Next Donor Mission Week April 5 – 12, 2008**

We’ve been asked if there is a possibility of having too many people come on one trip. The answer is an emphatic, “No!” ☺ – we always need and want donor participation. In the past, donors have made improvements at two orphanages during one week.

Please consider this your personal invitation to join other Tres Islas donors in the fun, reap the rewards of helping the wonderful children!

If you’d like to participate in this coming year’s trip April 5 – April 12, 2008, please let us know. 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’ll be thrilled
- Make a positive difference in the children’s lives
- Meet other donors who, like yourself, care about the children
- Share smiles, 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!

### **Charities of Mazatlan**

In December and April, the Charities of Mazatlan held its bi-annual meetings. We founded the group to bring together all charitable organizations in Mazatlan twice a year to learn from one another who needs help, to share the scope of each others’ endeavors so there is no duplication of efforts and help each other whenever possible.

## Tres Islas Facilitators in Mazatlan

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 and her lovely daughter, Jasmine. Were it not for their dedication, generosity, love and good-heartedness, the Fund could not operate as it does.

Annually we proclaim, yet, we cannot say it enough: if there are angels on earth, then Fella and Jasmine are surely two.

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, often children to dinner on their birthdays (as part of Bob and Janet’s donations), purchase piñatas and cakes for the children on special days such as birthdays or Christmas, and participate in the children’s lives. Additionally, Janet and Bob oversee the construction on orphanage projects occurring before the spring trips and write the checks for 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 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 “La Vina” Christian Fellowship and its dedicated pastor, Fred Collom of Mazatlan. Their ministry connects the English and Spanish-speaking communities, devoting itself to bettering the lives of those less fortunate than they are.

Each week, Janet and Bob, a group of church volunteers and visitors prepare and take food to the poorest of the poor who live at Mazatlan’s city dump (which should not be confused with a modern landfill in the states) in makeshift cardboard housing.

Here 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 the hearty sandwiches they made, a piece of fruit and a bottle of water to each person living 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 poor of Mazatlan. We are proud and blest to know you both. You truly make a positive difference in the lives of everyone whom you meet!

As we wrote above, but we certainly cannot pay enough tribute to them, the Fund is blessed with the friendship Lena and Cliff Brown and Irma Becerra as project facilitators in Mazatlan. They volunteer immeasurable time traveling to and spending time at the orphanages obtaining estimates from vendors and insuring repairs are completed ahead of Donor Mission Weeks. Thank you for being an intricate part of the Tres Islas Team!

### **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.

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, again received school supplies, shoes, uniforms and backpacks from an organization in Mazatlan called the Friends of Mexico. So Father Tovar did not request these items from the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund.

Another example occurred when the backpacks at the Salvation Army Children's Home were still in good shape the beginning of last school year; they didn't request new backpacks.

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

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

We've known for the last year the cost of food has risen enough that the Fund needs to increase weekly food purchases at the orphanages to \$150.00 per week.

Thanks to a donation that we earmarked to first purchase school supplies, including shoes and backpacks for the children, money remaining from those purchases will cover the cost of the increases for the other three orphanages for one year.

Our biggest plea this year is to be able to continue to purchase the children's food at each of the four orphanages at \$150.00 per week from now on.

When you "do the math" - something we like to detail for you - here is how it itemizes:

\$150.00 per week for food  
x 52 weeks per year  
\$7,800.00 annually for food for each orphanage  
x 4 orphanages  
\$31,200.00 for food for all four orphanages for one year  
divided by 99 children in all four orphanage  
\$315.15 per child per year for food, or \$6.06 per week to feed one child

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

<b>Item</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Food	\$7800.00
Christmas dinner	\$250.00
School supplies	\$625.00
School shoes	\$625.00
School uniforms	\$600.00
School backpacks	\$250.00
English classes	<u>\$840.00</u>
<b>Total for <u>each orphanage</u></b>	<b>\$10,990.00</b>

If Friends of Mexico continues to purchase the school supplies, school shoes, school uniforms and school backpacks for Fr. Tovar’s Home for Boys, the amount to support that orphanage for the year will be \$8,890.00.

Total projected expenditures for all four orphanages for the coming year, not including construction or Christmas trees, is \$43,960.00.

Please refer to the attached summary spreadsheet for each orphanage’s projected expenditures for the coming year.

If you divide the projected \$43,960.00 by the 99 children in the four orphanages at this time, this amounts to \$444.04 annually to provide nourishing food, school supplies, shoes, uniforms and backpacks for each child and English classes 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. We value your trust and your donations. 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 touch the hearts of donors to provide and we will continue to do so.

### **The Christopher Fund**

Named in honor of young Christopher Jemio from Pennsylvania, who along with his sweetheart, Eileen, sought-out and volunteered at Ciudad de los Ninos in 2005. Christopher dreamed of returning to the orphanage to help, however, he unexpectedly passed away December 25, 2005.

Touched by Christopher’s gentle soul to travel to Mazatlan and volunteer at the orphanage, the Fund has permanently named the Christmas dinner account “The Christopher Fund” in honor of Christopher.

If you'd 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 of going to Mexico to make a positive difference in an orphanage, alive forever.

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.

### **See the Benefits**

We invite you to visit the children any time you'd like. Part of the beauty of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund is you're always welcome to participate in the children's lives. So donors may also meet one another, we especially invite donors to gather in Mazatlan each Christmas to see the benefits your donations have accomplished over the years. You'll enjoy Christmas dinners with the children as you spend with them and see the great difference your contributions make. Please let us know how we may help as you make your plans. December 21 through January 3 is a good time for you to plan your visit.

Likewise, the Fund's next Donor Mission Week will be April 5 - April 12, 2008. Many donors have already signed up and we welcome each of you. As you'll see in the accompanying CD, the rewards are many, true friendships are forged and at the end of the week, you'll be glad you came.

The presentation on this year's enclosed CD is in a different format: *Windows Movie Maker*, which should load automatically and play on your computer. If you need the presentation in a different format (DVD or VCR to play on a television instead), please let us know. We want to be sure you can enjoy the many pictures of the children and share them with family, friends and others - such as your church and organizations with whom you're affiliated.

### **Passages**

**Jerome "Jerry" F. Durrie  
March 25, 1918 - November 1, 2007**

Jerry Durrie, a Saratoga, Wyoming native who lived most of his adult life in Albuquerque, New Mexico was a kind, unassuming gentleman who gave more to life than he took from it. He was Donelle's friend for 24 years and brother to the late Rev. Fr. Robert I. Durrie of Denver, who was one of Donelle's closest friends. A graduate of the Colorado School of Mines, Jerry worked for Sandia National Laboratory most of his professional career.

From the 1950s through the 1970s, Jerry and Fr. Durrie often drove to Mazatlan with their mother Dorothy. They stayed at the Freeman and Belmar Hotels - the two hotels in what was once the original Mazatlan and is now called "Historic Mazatlan."

Although born of mostly Scottish and French descent, Jerry loved to speak Spanish. He spoke and wrote it every chance he got. And if you didn't know Spanish and became

Jerry's friend, it behooved you to learn it. That was another Jerry trait: always teaching others something new – or causing them to learn it!

A loyal supporter of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund, Jerry phoned Tom and Donelle a few years back with sad news...“I have leukemia.”

But the conversation didn't stop there. Always thinking of others, Jerry said he realized there would come a day when he would no longer be here to make his donations to take care of the children. With that in mind, Jerry said he made sure his donations wouldn't stop just because he wouldn't be here – by remembering the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund in his will.

Jerry said he hoped more people would do the same – think about helping those who need help the most – after they're gone.

Last spring and this fall became increasingly difficult for Jerry. On Labor Day, Jerry phoned Tom and Donelle to say he didn't think he'd be here in two months; it was “just a feeling” he had. Unfortunately, Jerry was right.

Jerry left behind a lot of people who miss his good friendship. We'll miss his intellectual jokes, conversing with him in Spanish, his loyal benevolence, old-fashioned honesty, uncomplicated life, his graciously gentleman ways and faithful greeting cards for every occasion letting those he loved know he was thinking about them.

You all would have liked Jerry a lot; there was a golden goodness to Jerry, the same that is in each of you.

Via con Dios, Jerry; feliz viaje. Y gracias por todo.

### **MannaRelief Vitamin Mission**

MannaRelief, the charitable arm of international vitamin company Mannatech, provides vitamin supplements to orphans on every continent. They work in 78 countries, support over 500 orphanages and have helped 6,000 orphans worldwide.

Last summer the company contacted the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund through Tres Islas donor Laura Morrow to learn about Tres Islas' work in Mazatlan's orphanages and the orphanages' needs. We coordinated the vitamin mission trip which took place in October for 180 MannaRelief sponsors, which included orphanage tours, a puppet show for the children and additional gifts of school supplies, back packs, clothes, Bibles and personal hygiene items presented to the orphanages from the 180 MannaRelief sponsors.

Thank you Mannatech, MannaRelief and all sponsors for bringing a six-month supply of vitamins - over 15,000 vitamins - for the children in all four orphanages the Fund serves!

We pray that you or others will continue supplying vitamins to the orphanages on a regular basis.

### **Mazatlan's *Pacific Pearl* News Magazine**

When you're away from Mazatlan, be sure and read Mazatlan's best news magazine, the *Pacific Pearl*, online at [www.pacificpearl.com](http://www.pacificpearl.com). When you're in Mazatlan, 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 15 years and are steadfast supports of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund – usually publishing at least one story about

the Fund and the children each year. Thank you, Mike and Maricha for helping the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund and all Mazatlan charities!

### **Roseburg, Oregon News-Review Newspaper**

Thank you, John Sowell, *News-Review* staff writer, for the heart-warming, Thanksgiving Day 2007, front-page article you wrote about the endeavors of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund and wonderful children in the four orphanages God blesses us with helping. Thank you for the hours you spent preparing and writing the story and for the many people your words reached.

Thank you, Vicki Menard, *News-Review* editor, for your additional touching editorial acknowledging the successes of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund, for highlighting Tres Islas and its donors as examples of those who make a positive difference of helping those in need and the importance of doing so.

Please be sure to read John's story and Vicki's editorial included with this annual report.

### **EPUERTO, Staples and Imagistics**

Thank you to the following companies for their support:

- We continue to give a big "hats-off" to EPUERTO, the Fund's Internet provider and web page host. You can visit EPUERTO at [www.epuerto.com](http://www.epuerto.com)
- Staples of Roseburg, Oregon for providing the paper on which you read this annual report.
- Imagistics Copy Center of Roseburg, Oregon for your discounted copy service used to produce this annual report.

### **Thanks to each of you, twenty years and looking ahead. . .**

In closing. . .because of you, the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund is heading into its twenty-first year serving the children. We ask for your continued support, please. Your on-going help continues 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 with nothing ever taken out for administration, salaries or stipends. Your Tres Islas Orphanage Fund donations are 100% tax deductible because all donations truly go to the children and the Fund is recognized as a 501(c)(3) charitable organization by the IRS.

May our Lord bless you and yours as you have blessed the children the Fund humbly serves on your behalf.

With gratitude,

Donelle Manton, Founder

Tom Manton, Vice-President

Enclosures – lots of them – just like every year! 😊 😊