

Tres Islas Orphanage Fund

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Annual Report 2010

Words of gratitude, to each and all of you



Nalleli
Ciudad de los Ninos



Flor
Orfanatorio Mazatlan

Hello Tres Islas Amigos,

I am Nalleli, I am 19-years old. I'm studying the last year in high school, and I will study tourism in the university next year. I live in La Ciudad de los Ninos.

We are all very thankful to you, for all the food, and the supplies for our education. We really need your help very much.

This is for all the people who help us through Tres Islas. . .I hope that you continue contributing and supporting the good cause. Thanks for all your help, thanks for everything.

We pray for you every day at the church.

I hope to see you all again one day soon! ~ Nalleli, Ciudad de los Ninos

Dear friends of Tres Islas Orphanage Fund,

My name is Flor Maria; I hope you still remember me. . .how I remember each of you. . .

I am currently studying at the university; I am studying the last year in graphic design, for now I am very interested in design publishing in newspapers and magazines as well as photography.

In the evenings I'm working, and thanks to God, I have a good job. This has motivated me even more to achieve my goals in life.

I will never forget Orfanatorio Mazatlan and the children there; they are my big family and you, too, because you always supported me in everything. Thank you very much for the food you gave us each day, uniforms, shoes, school supplies and my education and for every one of your smiles and love that you gave away to each of us. You are our angels! We are really thankful for you. I wish you each the best in the world. Please don't forget us because we will never forget you. By helping us, you give us a lot of love!

I wish with all my heart that God blesses you. Hope to see you soon!

Thank you very much,

~Flor Maria, Orfanatorio Mazatlan

I could tell where the lamplighter was by the trail he left behind him.

- Harry Lauder

November 15, 2010

Dearest Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Donors,

This past April, during Spring Mission Week 2010, when Tres Islas donors departed from each of the five orphanages, we looked back and saw each orphanage in a different light than when we arrived. It's the same every time after a visit to each of the orphanages.

Because of your faithful support - and the support of new donors - as we head into the Fund's 24th year, we're grateful to greet you by thanking you for being lamplighters for the children who reside in Mazatlan's orphanages.

Thanks to your donations, the children eat nourishing food three times a day; go off to school with the appropriate school supplies and clothing - and a nourished tummy and mind! - return home to the orphanages that are safe, sound, sanitary, beautiful and bursting with a homey atmosphere and love.

Each of you is a lamplighter to the children - the people who are helping them to light their way until they can carry their own light.

Thank you, each and all of you, for the "trail" of light you provide every time you provide your support to the children in Mazatlan's orphanages through the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund.

Over the years, Tres Islas donors have been privileged to watch the children grow-up, become acquainted with their sweet personalities and love them as they grew into fine young adults, left home for college, trade school or married and started families of their own.

We always begin our annual reports to you with messages from some of the youngsters - in their words and in English - thanks to your support of their language classes.

Flor Nalleli, who resides at Ciudad de los Ninos, expressed gratitude to you on behalf of all the children at Ciudad for providing their every day needs over the years.

Next year Nalleli will begin attending college and we're looking for sponsors for her education. She'll continue to reside at home, at Ciudad, while she attends college. Nalleli is a stellar student and we have no doubt she will excel in her college classes - as has Flor Maria - from Orfanatorio Mazatlan.

We are seeking support for Flor Nalleli's college education because that support would be, as Donelle's late father would say, "Money well spent."

This year we bid "so-long" - but not goodbye - to Flor Maria, from Orfanatorio Mazatlan, who has now left the orphanage and is completing her final year of college - thanks to the financial support of Tres Islas facilitators.

And, we're proud to tell you about Yenifer, one example of the young ladies who reside at the newest orphanage the Fund serves, FloreSer. Dedicated to rescuing youngsters who've been sexually exploited, FloreSer is now a respite for nine girls with room to expand to 16.

Yenifer learned about the orphanage - the first of its kind in all of Mexico - through a local radio advertisement. She found her way to the orphanage and is one of many who have "knocked on the door" asking to come in. She's now attending school, has attended English classes and a part-time job at Mazatlan's premiere coffee bistro café.

Thanks in large part to each of you, Yenifer and each of these girls now have a safe option - FloreSer - where they may turn their lives around into positive, happy ones.

We didn't include a photo of Yenifer along with Flor Maria's and Flor Nalleli's because when the girls come to FloreSer, they come from terrible, abusive situations and we truly want them to be able to begin a life where they may "bloom and blossom" (which is the Spanish translation of the word FloreSer). To identify them via photos would not be kind or thoughtful and could one day serve as a reminder of the life they were forced to endure as children. And so, out of respect for them, we don't publish photos of these girls in our annual reports or on the internet.

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Thanks to your support, from October 1, 2009 to September 30, 2010 (our annual reporting period), the Fund provided \$87,826.12 for the benefit of the children; primarily for their food, educational and medical needs and necessary orphanage repairs - compared with \$68,038.69 the previous year.

From the inception of the Fund 23 years ago in 1987, through the close of our 2010 annual reporting period on September 30, 2010, the Fund's total purchases for food, school supplies, shoes, uniforms, backpacks, advanced education, medical needs, appliances, health, safety and welfare improvements for the children in Mazatlan's orphanages reached \$420,324.00! (Last year: \$332,497.88). Thank you, Tres Islas donors for your loyal support in helping the children!

As we begin our 24th year helping the children, we ask please, for your continued support of these youngsters. The Fund couldn't do all it does for the children if it weren't for you.

Here is what you did for the children in Mazatlan's orphanages this past year. . .

Introduction

All amounts listed in Tres Islas 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.

The Fund's banking institution, the Cheyenne-Laramie County Employees Federal Credit Union, is located in Cheyenne, Wyoming.

The Fund was blest again this year to receive donations specifically dedicated to provide educational classes and purchase school supplies for the children. This permitted the Fund to purchase new, updated school books for the children, adequate school uniforms, shoes and educational supplies.

The caregivers are always respectful of donors' contributions - uniforms and shoes are reused until they can be used no longer. When possible, school books are shared and passed down from one year to the next by the previous year's students.

Frequently, though, school books for each subject studied also serve as the work book, so homework assignments are written in the books. For this reason, it's often necessary for us to purchase new books each year (which don't have the answers written in them from the previous year).

Orphanages Served

The Tres Islas Orphanage Fund is blest to serve five orphanages in Mazatlan full-time:

1. **Orfanatorio Mazatlan** (the first orphanage the Fund began helping in 1987)
Avenida Zaragoza 227-A, El Centro
Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico C.P. 82000
Telephone: (When dialing outside Mexico): 011-52-669-981-2214
Telephone: (When dialing in or around Mazatlan) 981-2214
Executive Director: Cristina Pena de Herrera (whose grandmother was a board president and great-grandmother was once treasurer)
Vice President: Mary de los Angeles Henderson

2. **Ejercito de Salvacion Hogar de Ninos (Salvation Army Children's Home)** (Served part-time by the Fund beginning in 1998 and full-time since 2003)
Angel Flores S/N Antiguo Camino a la Culebra, El Venadillo
Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico C.P. 82129
Telephone: (When dialing outside Mexico): 011-52-669-980-7609
Telephone: (When dialing from in or around Mazatlan) 980-7609
Directors: Captains David and Marianela Sanchez

3. **Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo** (Served part-time by the Fund beginning in 2003 and full-time since 2005)
Paseo del Centenario S/N, Apartado Postal 1233
Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico
Phone/fax: (When dialing outside Mexico) 011-52-669-982-3720 or 011-52-669-981-6121;
Telephone/fax: (When dialing in or around Mazatlan) 982-3720 or 981-6121
Executive Director: Padre Horacio Rabelo

4. **Ciudad de los Ninos** (Served full-time by the Fund since 2006)
Carretera Internacional Norte KM.1207 Apartado Postal 629
Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico
Telephone: (When dialing outside Mexico) 011-52-669-980-6026
Telephone: (When dialing in or around Mazatlan) 980-6026
Directora: Madre Velia Morales Moreno

5. **FloreSer** (Served full-time by the Fund since 2009)
Rio Quelite 812, Col. Palos Prietos
Mazatlan, Sinaloa, Mexico
Telephone: (When dialing outside Mexico): 011-52-669-176-9521
Telephone: (When dialing in or around Mazatlan) 176-9521
Directora: Gabriela Perez Jimenez; Vice President: Cristina Pena Miranda

The lists providing the names and ages of the children in each orphanage the Fund serves are attached to this report for you, along with thank you cards from the youngsters and thank you letters from the directors of each orphanage for all the help you gave them this past year.

The number of children in each orphanage fluctuates throughout the year depending on new arrivals or when youngsters leave the orphanages. As of this annual report, there are 105 youngsters in the five orphanages the Fund now serves. Three more are expected in the near future at Fr. Tovar's Home for Boys. Last year at this time there were 123 children in the five orphanages.

On the orphanage lists of children, are names of some who live at the orphanages and are past the age of 21, the typical age when most have graduated from college or trade school and have left the orphanage to begin life on their own. Here are four explanations - examples - of why:

- 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 and then went on to work at the local aquarium - accomplishments for which she and all of us are proud! At home at the orphanage, Elle takes care of the younger children, enjoys cleaning and helping the caregivers.
- It's the same situation for Jesus "Grande" at Ciudad de los Ninos. As a baby, he had a brain tumor that left him permanently brain-damaged. Unable to clearly speak, Jesus communicates via a whispering voice, his kind smiles and signing. He, too, is very much loved and included in all Ciudad activities and Ciudad will always be his home. Jesus Grande enjoys keeping the orphanage grounds well-groomed. Gardening is his contribution to his home, the orphanage.
- In the case of Saul, who grew up at Ciudad, is now past the age of 18 and is studying to becoming a psychologist. Saul has nowhere else to live while attending college. He continues to receive good grades and is working toward making a positive life for himself. To be able to live at the orphanage while completing college is a blessing. 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.
- At Fr. Tovar's Home for Boys, Hogar San Pablo, there is (another) Saul, who is also past the age of 18. Saul has an acute case of cerebral palsy and frequently suffers from epilepsy. Saul has nowhere else to live. Saul is blest Fr. Tovar found him at a young age and provided him a loving home.

Three years ago Saul wanted to study computer classes and thanks to specified Tres Islas donations that enabled him to do so, Saul not only studied computers - he aced every class! Psychologically, this did wonders for him. It provided him with a sense of accomplishment, a host of new friends and made him more outgoing and confident. We're encouraging Saul to continue computer classes or other studies that may peak his interest this year.

Purchases

As we wrote earlier in this report, money dedicated to the care of the children in the orphanages (food, school supplies, school shoes, uniforms, backpacks, English/tech school classes, medical and orphanage repairs) this year totaled \$87,826.12. Last year, total money allocated to support all five orphanages totaled \$68,038.69.

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.

Food

In the spring of 2008, the Fund began increasing weekly food purchases for the orphanages from \$130.00 to \$150.00 per week due to the rising cost of food – with the exception of Fr. Tovar’s Home for Boys which had fewer children than the other orphanages at that time. In March that year, girls began arriving at FloreSer, the newest orphanage the Fund serves. Because there are 12 girls (mostly teenagers) at this orphanage, the Fund currently purchases \$120.00 worth of food each week for them.

This spring, orphanage caregivers from Orfanatorio Mazatlan, Ciudad de los Ninos, the Salvation Army Children’s Home and FloreSer asked if the Fund would please increase the amount of fruits and vegetables purchased for them. While a good portion of the food the Fund purchases for each orphanage is already comprised of fruit and vegetables, the youngsters were asking for more. The caregivers and we felt the request to increase the amount fruit and vegetables the children received each day was justified.

Madre Velia, from Ciudad de los Ninos, made the “trial run” on the requested weekly purchases. She selected and bought the quantity and type of fruit and vegetables necessary to provide each child with a balanced weekly allowance. The increased weekly cost of fruit for Orfanatorio Mazatlan, the Salvation Army Children’s Home and Ciudad came to \$50.00 each. For FloreSer, based on their need and request, the Fund increased their weekly purchases from \$100.00 to \$120.00 to include the additional fruit and vegetables. The patronatos (board of directors) of Hogar San Pablo are currently able to purchase the boys’ fruit and vegetables.

So, the Fund is now purchasing \$150.00 worth of food each week for Orfanatorio Mazatlan, Salvation Army Children’s Home and Ciudad de los Ninos plus an additional \$50.00 of fruit and vegetables for each of these orphanages.

The Fund currently purchases \$100.00 worth of food each week for FloreSer and \$20.00 additional fruit and vegetables.

For Fr. Tovar’s, the Fund is presently purchasing \$120.00 worth of food each week and no additional fruit or vegetables because of the patronatos purchase of these.

As the number of youngsters increases or sometimes decreases, this determines the amount expended each week for food.

We need assistance, please, in supporting the additional purchase of weekly fruit and vegetables.

The name of the area to which you may designate your donations is “Gloria’s Kitchen.” This Tres Islas Fund is named in honor of the late Gloria Geraths who, for a number of years, was instrumental in helping the children through Tres Islas. Gloria frequently prepared homemade meals for the children. Please read more about the positive impact Gloria’s life had on the children and how you may carry-on her goal of providing the children nourishing food each week in the latter section titled, “Passages.”

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The orphanage caregivers are very mindful and respectful of the amount of money they spend each week and the type and quality of food they purchase for their youngsters. They only ask for additional food when it’s absolutely necessary.

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

Orfanatorio Mazatlan: \$9,379.87 (Last year: \$7,614.24).

Salvation Army Children's Home: \$8,551.69 (Last year: \$7,461.89).

Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo: \$7,735.70 (Last year: \$6,570.54).

Ciudad de Los Ninos: \$9,421.27 (Last year: \$8,036.16).

FloreSer: \$4,586.65 (Last year: \$1,847.18).

Total food purchased for all five orphanages this year: \$39,675.19 (Last year: \$31,530.02).

This year's food purchases represent 68.01% of the Fund's expenditures, excluding construction costs. (Last year's food purchases represented 65.56% of the Fund's expenditures, excluding construction costs).

Christmas Dinners ("The Christopher Fund") 2009

We itemize the orphanages' Christmas dinners separately for you because they are a special event where specified donations are received for this occasion in addition to weekly grocery purchases. This way, you'll know exactly how your donations have been spent.

Orfanatorio Mazatlan: \$247.05 (2008: \$245.55)

Salvation Army Children's Home: \$247.05 (2008: \$288.87).

Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo: \$247.05 (2008: \$264.53).

Ciudad de los Ninos: \$246.50 (2008: \$282.80).

FloreSer: \$98.07 (2008: None - orphanage not in existence until March, 2009).

Christmas Trees 2009

Because we strive to be monetarily prudent with each purchase and due to the increase in cost of live Christmas trees beginning in 2008 we began purchasing quality artificial trees for each orphanage. The artificial trees are also less of a fire hazard - which made additional good sense in their purchase.

Orfanatorio Mazatlan: \$202.34 (Reusable, artificial tree, lights and decorations) (2008: \$29.95 for a live tree).

Salvation Army Children's Home: None (2008: \$90.74 for a reusable, artificial tree).

Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo: \$202.34 (Reusable, artificial tree, lights and decorations) (2008: \$29.95 for a live tree).

Ciudad de los Ninos: None (2008: \$90.74 for a reusable, artificial tree).

Flore Ser: \$187.80 (Reusable, artificial tree) (2008: None - orphanage not in existence until March, 2009).

April 2010 Beach Barbecue Fiesta for All Orphanages

Food purchased (hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, chips, buns, cakes, ice cream): \$481.65 (Donor specified donation). Previous year: \$342.10.

Education Funds

Tres Islas has two funds related to education. One, the "Education School Supply Fund" purchases all school supplies (school books, English books, paper, notebooks, pens, pencils, etc.), school shoes, school uniforms and backpacks to carry the children's books and supplies.

The second, the "Education Classes Fund," provides classes for the children – such as English, computer and tech/trade classes in addition to their daily school subjects.

We need and encourage your donations, please, to each of these funds. It is one of Tres Islas' major goals that upon each youngster graduating from high school, he or she will go onto college or will have the enough English lessons, computer classes and/or tech/trade school classes for them to be able to enter the workforce – to be self-sufficient, capable of taking care of themselves and becoming good, contributing members of society.

This year, the Fund was grateful to again receive donations specified for the Education School Supply Fund and Education Classes Fund. This enabled us to purchase much-needed new uniforms, shoes, backpacks and school supplies beyond what we typically purchase as well as new schoolbooks and pay for school registration and tuition for the youngsters where needed. We are most-appreciative to have received these donations that permitted every child to start the school year with the supplies they needed and to take all the classes they want to study.

The Fund has also begun purchasing all school shoes, uniforms and backpacks for Fr. Tovar's Home for Boys. Previously Friends of Mexico purchased these items but they are no longer able to do so. Now, more than ever, the donations for education supplies and education classes are vital to providing the youngsters the best-possible education.

With the addition of FloreSer Orphanage in 2009, most girls at this orphanage haven't received much of an education – if any. It's important to place them in the type of specialized school that provides one-on-one instruction, and allows them, for the first time in their lives, to receive the education they deserve and one where they have the opportunity learn at a pace that permits them to absorb what they are being taught. Because of this, and thanks again to the timely, specified donations that arrived, the Fund was able to enroll them in these schools – Instituto Cultural de Occidente, AC and ICS. Thank you so much for the support of this vital area!

School Supplies

If new school items aren't needed at the beginning of a school year due to their being in good enough condition from the previous year to reuse, or, if there are enough school supplies on hand, the Fund doesn't purchase them. School item needs are assessed a second time – mid-year – and purchased only if 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 individuals who possess such high-integrity!

School Supplies, Shoes, Uniforms Backpacks and Education Classes

Orfanatorio Mazatlan

School supplies: \$2,202.83 – incl. \$1,650.00 for school books (Last year: \$3,067.63 – incl. \$2,584.00 for school books).

School shoes: \$1,135.84 (Last year: \$477.37).

School uniforms: \$860.93 (Last year: \$1,444.90).

Backpacks: \$234.67 (Last year: \$188.92).

Education classes: none (Last year: \$449.32).

Total purchases this year for Orfanatorio Mazatlan for school supplies, shoes, uniforms and backpacks: \$4,434.27 (Last year: \$5,628.14).

Salvation Army Children's Home

School supplies: \$482.22 (Last year: \$352.67).

School shoes: \$601.23 (Last year: \$422.25).

School uniforms: \$548.59 (Last year: \$526.80).

Backpacks: \$239.79 (Last year: \$105.41).

Education classes: \$1,190.68 (Last year: none).

Total purchases this year for the Salvation Army Children's Home for school supplies, shoes, uniforms, backpacks and education classes: \$3,062.51 (Last year: \$1,407.13).

Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo

School supplies: \$442.72 (Last year: purchased by Friends of Mexico).

School shoes: \$285.53 (Last year: \$421.93).

School uniforms: \$843.60 (Last year: \$997.84).

Backpacks: \$243.64 (Last year: \$184.72).

Education classes – tuition and registration: \$276.93 (Last year: \$143.97).

Total purchases this year for Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo for school supplies, school shoes, uniforms, backpacks and education classes: \$2,092.42 (Last year: \$1,748.46).

Ciudad de los Ninos

School supplies – incl. school books: \$509.85 (Last year: \$499.54).

School shoes: \$522.51 (Last Year: \$490.74).

School uniforms: \$1,232.62 (Last year: \$1,473.14).

Backpacks: \$235.78 (Last year: \$187.60).

Education classes – tuition and registration: \$103.73 (Last year: none).

Total purchases this year for Ciudad de los Ninos for school supplies, uniforms, backpacks and education classes: \$2,604.49 (Last year: \$2,651.02).

Flore Ser

School supplies: \$503.81 – incl. school books (Last year: \$356.95).

School shoes: \$148.83 (Last year: \$89.30).

School uniforms: \$394.64 (Last year: \$80.30).

Backpacks: \$98.91 (Last year: \$113.07).

Education classes – tuition and registration: \$735.66 (Last year: \$845.58).

Total purchases this year for FloreSer for school supplies, uniforms, backpacks and education classes: \$1,881.85 (Last year: \$1,485.20).

Total school supplies, uniforms and backpacks purchased for all orphanages: \$9,074.60 (Last year: \$9,549.69).

Total school supplies, uniforms and backpacks purchased represent 15.55% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction (Last year: 19.85%).

Total school shoes purchased for all orphanages: \$2,693.94. (Last year: \$1,901.59).

School shoes purchased represent 4.62% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction (Last year: 3.95%).

Total education classes purchased for all orphanages: \$2,307.00 (Last year: \$1,438.87). Education classes represent 3.95% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction (Last year: 2.99%).

School supplies represent 7.10% of the Fund's expenditures (Last year: 8.83%).

School shoes represent 4.62% of the Fund's expenditures (Last year: 3.95%).

School uniforms represent 6.65% of the Fund's expenditures (Last year: 9.40%).

School backpacks represent 1.80% of the Fund's expenditures (Last year: 1.62%).

Education classes (Tech/English classes/tuition/registration) represents 3.95% of the Fund's expenditures (Last year: 2.99%).

This year, all school related items (school supplies, shoes, uniforms, backpacks and education classes represent 21.25% of the Fund's expenditures (Last year: 26.79%).

Christmas 2009

Christmas dinners are made possible for the children in each of the orphanages thanks to the establishment of and donations to "The Christopher Fund." Named in honor of Christopher Jemio, a kind-hearted young man from Pennsylvania who volunteered at Ciudad de los Ninos, Christopher died of a brain aneurysm on Christmas day, 2005. Not long after, Christopher's mother donated \$250.00 in Christopher's honor, to provide Christmas dinner for the children at Ciudad. It was only natural to honor this sweet young man who had a heart for children in orphanages, by creating a fund so all children in the orphanages would always have a bountiful Christmas dinner. Christopher's good mother, Teresa Jemio, kindly heads the Christopher Fund. If you'd like to honor the life of a very special young man who enjoyed helping the children in orphanages and provide these children a traditional Christmas dinner, please remember the Christopher Fund when making your Tres Islas donations.

Christmas 2009 was a meaningful time for the children. In addition to enjoying a delicious, traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, the children received exceptionally nice gifts from Tres Islas donors and Tres Islas donations. From quality backpacks to new shoes, sweaters, pants and undergarments, sheets, pillows and pillow cases - and of course some toys! - each of the children felt loved and appreciated during this most-special of seasons.

The orphanages received a special visit from Santa Claus, who made each of the youngsters their own personalized balloon hat while Christmas gifts were handed-out. Children at Orfanatorio Mazatlan decorated homemade gingerbread cookies - this was their first time as cookie decorators. You'll see how artistic the children are in our enclosed CD where we "take" all donors on a tour of the orphanages, showing what your donations have provided the children each year.

For those of us who've had the pleasure of being at the orphanages at Christmas, seeing and hearing the children's excitement as they receive nice presents is so heart-warming.

We thank each of you who help support these children in the many exceptional ways that you do each day, each month and throughout the year. To go beyond that and provide the children a nice time at Christmas is greatly appreciated.

To show how meaningful your Christmas support is, imagine being a child returning to school the day after the Christmas season has ended and being asked, "What did you eat for Christmas dinner?" And responding, "Nothing."

Or, being asked, "What did you get for Christmas?"

And again, having to answer, "Nothing; I didn't get anything."

The children in the orphanages aren't unlike other children in their yearning for love and kindness and to feel important and loved.

To have them be able to answer that they ate the best turkey of their life and they received a new outfit, or shoes and a doll - or sheets and pillowcases selected just for them - and they had the best Christmas ever - really does positive things for their psyche.

An example of this occurred last spring during Spring Mission Week 2010. During our time at Orfanatorio Mazatlan, we asked one of the children, Luciana, to show us where she slept. Luciana quickly ran, with us trailing as fast as we could behind her, to her bed. She leaped on her bed and retrieved a soft and fuzzy pink, plush pillow with a princess figure engraved on it - which Luciana received four months before as one of her Christmas presents.

She put her arms as tightly as she could around that pillow, laid her head on it, pretending to sleep, and hugged and hugged it, smiling all the time. Then she nodded her head up-and-down, and sweetly exclaimed, "Navidad!" (Christmas!).

We share this image with you, so that you may know the donations you provide for Christmas do more, go a longer way and have deeper meaning, than merely making a child happy for only a moment.

Thank you.

Construction Fund

Most construction improvements take place as part of the Fund's annual Spring Mission Week, which traditionally begins the first Friday after Easter. We invite everyone to join next year's trip and all the fun!

Construction fund projects are detailed below under the orphanage where they were completed.

Orfanatorio Mazatlan

Orphanage improvements this year, including the purchase of appliances, totaled \$7,144.28 (Last year: \$4,129.75).

- \$157.06 - Shelving units for the laundry room.
- \$83.51 - Storage bins for orphanage receiving room.
- \$1,172.29 - New bedspreads for all the beds.
- \$125.27 - Storage bins for orphanage receiving room.
- \$913.49 - Garden plants, flowers, trees and large terracotta pots (Donor-specified: "Sophia's Fund").
- \$284.41 - Restocked the receiving room (Donor-specified).

- \$65.57 – Paint for laundry room/ receiving room building.
- \$88.96 – Extension ladder.
- \$1,375.60 – Gas BBQ grill, one propane tank and four garden benches.
- \$41.78 – Additional propane tank for gas BBQ grill.
- \$161.31 – BBQ grill cooking utensils set, grill cleaning brush/scrapper, two kitchen stools and paint for outside walls.
- \$277.63 – Digital camera with 4GB memory card, photo printer, ink cartridge and 100 sheets of photo paper (Donor-specified: “Because of Kenny Project”).
- \$1,010.56 – Two washing machines (Donor-specified).
- \$1,337.10 – Freezer. (Donor-specified).

Salvation Army Children’s Home

Orphanage improvements this year, including the purchase of appliances, totaled \$2,340.50 (Last year: \$3,746.01).

- \$281.79 – Five shelving units for kitchen pantry.
- \$681.98 – Storage bins for pantry.
- \$75.58 – One additional shelving unit for pantry.
- \$234.16 – Paint for kitchen and dining room, brushes, rollers and supplies.
- \$25.00 – Shipping of camera, printer and supplies.
- \$231.28 – Restock receiving room (Donor-specified).
- \$516.79 – Paid plumber to complete numerous minor, but necessary, repairs to the orphanage water pumping, storage and distribution system. These repairs included fixing water leaks, troubleshooting equipment problems and replacing pump control electrical components, and installing a water storage tank above the laundry room.
- \$277.63 – Digital camera with 4GB memory card, photo printer, ink cartridge and 100 sheets of photo paper (Donor-specified: “Because of Kenny Project”).

Fr. Tovar’s Home for Boys. . .Hogar San Pablo

Orphanage improvements this year, including the purchase of appliances, totaled \$6,841.62 (Last year: \$3,185.59).

- \$39.83 – Christmas lights for chapel (Donor-specified).
- \$6.07 – Gardening tools (Donor-specified: “Sophia’s Fund”).
- \$19.13 – Garden watering wand (Donor-specified: “Sophia’s Fund”).
- \$171.25 – Garden plants and flowers (Donor-specified: “Sophia’s Fund”).
- \$145.64 – 15 sheets, 15 pillows and pillow cases (Donor-specified).
- \$97.00 – Clothes hanging rack on casters for laundry room.
- \$25.00 – Shipping of clothes rack.
- \$244.66 – Storage bins for tools room, and storage bin, light fixture and wall switch for receiving room, paint, rollers, extension poles and extension cord.
- \$619.58 – Shelving units (7 for laundry room and 4 for Javier’s tool room).
- \$12.32 – Pruning shears (Donor-specified: “Sophia’s Fund”).
- \$496.07 – Paint for south wall of parking lot and dorm, paint brushes, rollers and pans.

- \$147.97 – Storage drawers and bins for food storage room, concrete drill bits, paint scrappers, paint rollers, drop cloths, safety goggles, wire wheel for drill, and 3 curtain rods for boys’ dorm.
- \$72.13 – Paint for bed pedestals and curtain rod in boys’ dorm.
- \$65.46 – Paint for laundry room, sanding disks for drill and pruning nippers.
- \$180.34 – Restocked receiving room (Donor-specified).
- \$13.09 – Two laundry room hampers for dorm rooms.
- \$30.28 – Shelving unit for laundry room closet.
- \$34.41 – Two laundry hampers for laundry room.
- \$712.68 – Gas BBQ grill and one propane tank.
- \$41.99 - Additional propane tank for gas BBQ grill.
- \$461.18 – BBQ grill cooking utensil set, grill cleaning brush/scrapper, paint for front gate and additional storage bins for tool room, receiving room and dorm.
- \$277.63 – Digital camera with 4GB memory card, photo printer, ink cartridge and 100 sheets of photo paper (Donor-specified: “Because of Kenny Project”).
- \$1,010.56 – Two washing machines (Donor-specified).
- \$1,869.72 – Commercial-grade refrigerator on wheels. (Donor-specified).

Ciudad de los Ninos

Orphanage improvements this year, including the purchase of appliances, totaled \$6,252.01 (Last year: \$5,362.28).

- \$48.90 – Cleaning supplies for youth group to clean orphanage bus seats and windows.
- \$439.99 – Paint and painting supplies for two boys’ bedrooms.
- \$19.21 – Two laundry baskets.
- \$306.92 – Four shelving units for laundry room.
- \$40.98 – Repairs to bedroom walls before painting.
- \$18.04 – Paint for bedroom doors.
- \$332.52 – Restock receiving room (Donor-specified).
- \$337.17 – Lockers for babies/little children’s bedroom.
- \$341.46 – Shoes for the caregiver nuns (Donor-specified).
- \$192.52 – Material for aprons for the caregiver nuns (Donor-specified).
- \$1,633.83 – Replace windows and screens in kitchen and dining rooms and install aluminum screen doors.
- \$280.31 – Repairs to crumbling cornice and outside kitchen and dining room walls.
- \$277.63 -Digital camera with 4GB memory card, photo printer, ink cartridge and 100 sheets of photo paper (Donor-specified: “Because of Kenny Project”).
- \$742.32 – Gas BBQ grill and two propane tanks.
- \$9.21 – Delivery charge for Gas BBQ grill and two propane tanks.
- \$25.77 – BBQ grill cooking utensils set and grill cleaning brush/scrapper.
- \$151.14 – Three ceiling fans for dining rooms that replaced non-working fans
- \$1,010.56 – Two washing machines. (Donor-specified).

FloreSer

Orphanage improvements this year, including the purchase of appliances, totaled \$6,908.30 (Last year: \$3,523.18).

Thanks to a generous \$5,000.00 grant from the Prudential Insurance Company, substantial improvements were made at FloreSer's new home. We thank Prudential and each person who participated in making this valued grant come to fruition, especially donors Molly and Steve from Minnesota, who initiated and completed the grant process. Your caring efforts made the shell compound of the building donated for FloreSer into a home - the first home many of these girls have ever known. Thank you all and God bless you!

- \$401.73 - Shelving units, storage bins and two picnic tables (Donor-specified: Prudential Grant).
- \$46.72 - Locksmith to unlock doors, make keys and replace lock sets as needed (Donor-specified: Prudential Grant).
- \$213.11 - Ceiling and wall repairs (Donor-specified: Prudential Grant).
- \$572.70 - Drywall work completed during remodeling to create office, receiving room and storage room (Donor-specified: Prudential Grant).
- \$844.04 - Replaced dishwashing sink at patio area, repaired sinks and toilets in patio area restrooms, replaced water pump and completed miscellaneous plumbing repairs (Donor-specified: Prudential Grant).
- \$1,626.95 - Eight ceiling fans, shelving units, paint and painting supplies (Donor-specified: Prudential Grant).
- 122.95 - Installation of eight ceiling fans (Donor-specified: Prudential Grant).
- \$310.48 - Additional plumbing repairs.
- \$175.57 - Garden plants and flowers (Donor-specified: "Sophia's Fund").
- \$314.70 - Restock receiving room (Donor-specified).
- \$283.02 - Electrical repairs (Donor-specified: Prudential Grant).
- \$347.97 - Repairs to laundry room and kitchen counter.
- \$277.63 - Digital camera with 4GB memory card, photo printer, ink cartridge and 100 sheets of photo paper (Donor-specified: "Because of Kenny Project").
- \$243.73 - Water filtration system (Donor-specified: Prudential Grant).
- \$159.14 - Microwave oven (Donor-specified).
- \$411.56 - Kitchen stove (Donor-specified: Prudential Grant).
- \$505.28 - One washing machine (Donor-specified).

Spring Mission Week 2010

Thirty-three inspired donors came to Mazatlan in April 2010 for the Fund's sixth annual Spring Mission Week to upgrade the children's homes, the orphanages, spend time with the youngsters and their caregivers and get to know other donors.

On Sunday, donors hosted the annual barbeque fiesta on the beach for all the children from the orphanages. The food for the fiesta was purchased by a specified donation. La Costa Marinera Restaurant grilled hamburgers and hot dogs and provided tables, chairs and tents for the party as part of their annual contribution to Tres Islas and the children. Donors served the children lunch, which also included all the cake and ice cream the children could eat.

Before serving the children their lunch, the donors and children formed a giant circle on the beach and joined hands with one another. Tres Islas donors Chris, from Washington and Janet, from New Mexico, stood in the center of the circle, turning around and around as Chris first prayed out loud in English and Janet translated in Spanish so each child could understand. They thanked God for each of the children's and donors' lives and asked God to continue blessing the life of every child and donors who help them.

To see the children from all five orphanages holding hands with donors, caregivers and one another on the beach just steps away from the aqua-colored waters of the Sea of Cortez that sunny Sunday as Chris and Janet prayed for them was a heart-warming, rewarding sight. When the prayer-in-the-round concluded, the children enjoyed a lot of delicious barbecue and all the desserts their tummies could hold!

After lunch, the donors and children shared time together on the beach playing, swimming, building sandcastles and digging in the sand.

Once again, orphanage caregivers enjoyed an afternoon of relaxation, taking a much-needed and well-deserved break at the beach.

As you'll see in the compact disk presentation we've included, the beach barbecue continues to be a highlight of the week for children and donors. The children always ask us if we'll please continue making it an annual event during upcoming Spring Mission Weeks. We want to honor that wish. If you'd like to donate and help sponsor upcoming beach barbecue fiestas, please specify that area on Tres Islas' donation form.

In conjunction with Spring Mission Week 2010, donors and youngsters enjoyed a hearty lunch at each of the orphanages and a tamale fiesta was provided at Orfanatorio Mazatlan - all by specified donations.

Spring Mission Week 2010 – What Donors Accomplished

Spring Mission Weeks could not be accomplished without each of you, your kind donations that allow making improvements to the children's homes, coming to Mazatlan to spend time with the children, volunteering at the orphanages to make improvements and verify how your donations are being stewarded. Thank you for the support you give to the construction fund: your donations, time and efforts to make all of this possible.

Visitors to the orphanages say Tres Islas' sponsored orphanages are the most up-to-date, positive and nurturing orphanages they've ever visited – thanks to each and all of you.

Before each Spring Mission Week begins, several months of planning and preparation takes place to ensure we accomplish the goals established to meet the needs of the children and provide volunteers with a life-time of wonderful memories.

We continue to be deeply grateful and are proud to give credit for a large portion of the planning, estimates and purchases that take place to Tres Islas facilitator Lena Brown of Mazatlan. Lena spends countless hours making sure all the goodness happens during Spring Mission Weeks and throughout the remainder of each year when additional items need repairing or replacing. At Christmas, Lena helps organize Christmas parties, makes Christmas purchases and ensuring each detail is met – including all lights on the Christmas trees light up as they should!

When donors visit Mazatlan, Lena meets them at Fr. Tovar's and Ciudad de los Ninos for a valuable tour of the orphanage and time with the children and caregivers. Thank you Lena Brown for being the exceptional, kind, giving and devoted volunteer you are to the children. You're like no other volunteer we've ever known or heard of and we thank God for you, your pure (and fun!) friendship. You're tops!

+ + +

So, wonderful donors, as you read about the improvements below, please give yourselves a pat on the back for all you do for the children. Please know, all of the help and improvements you provide could not and would not happen without each of you.

Orfanatorio Mazatlan

During Spring Mission Week 2010 donors:

- Sorted and organized donated items and restocked the receiving room with supplies for the upcoming six-months.
- Painted the exterior of the laundry room/receiving room building.
- Gave the interior laundry room a fresh coat of paint, assembled a shelving unit and organized laundry items and supplies onto the shelves.
- Assembled four benches for the courtyard. (The children love sitting on them and reading!)
- Assembled the new commercial-grade gas grill to be used for outdoor cooking of burgers, hot dogs, chicken, carne asada, etc.
- Planted numerous and various types of flowers and plants in pots and throughout the orphanage compound.
- Helped the children with a photo album project that included inserting cherished photos and personalized decorating of the outside cover.

Salvation Army Children's Home

During Spring Mission Week 2010 donors:

- Gave the kitchen walls, sink, counters, cabinets, shelves, stovetop and oven a super duper cleaning.
- Removed an old, rusted and bent iron cage from the dining room wall that was previously used to house a television.
- Painted the kitchen and dining room.
- Painted the kitchen pantry, assembled shelves and stocked storage bins on the shelves with food supplies.
- Assembled additional shelving for the receiving room, sorted and organized donated items, added new storage bins and restocked the receiving room.
- Weeded the orphanage grounds to remove overgrowth and potential fire hazards.

- Painted the lower trunk bark on trees white.
- Cleaned wind-blown debris from the roofs of all buildings and cleared roof drain spouts.
- Helped the children put their photos in photo albums that they will continue to add to each year.

Children's Home directors Candi and Lulu prepared a nutritious lunch of tuna macaroni with cheese nachos, which was enjoyed by the children, orphanage staff and donors.

One of the Fund's Canadian donors brought brilliantly-colored, fluorescent soccer uniform tops and gave them to the children who were thrilled with them. The children smiled ear-to-ear as they held them and put them on!

Father Tovar's Home for Boys. . .Hogar San Pablo

During Spring Mission Week 2010 donors:

- Itemized the needs in the existing receiving room, then bought and filled bins with supplies for the coming six months.
- Helped Javier, the orphanage's maintenance man and groundskeeper, clean out the tool room/workshop, installed shelves and organized tools and parts onto shelves and into storage bins.
- Painted the laundry room walls, ceiling and laundry storage room.
- Assembled shelves in the laundry storage room and placed laundry supplies and clothes in bins for storage.
- Assembled an industrial-grade garment rack with casters for hanging clothes as they come out of the wash.
- Assembled shelves, a rolling cart and bins in the kitchen pantry area.
- Painted the walls, ceiling and bed pedestals in one of the boys' dormitory bedrooms.

Donors enjoyed a Dominos Pizza lunch with the patronatos, staff and boys on the patio overlooking the beautifully landscaped area above the basketball/volleyball court (donor specified).

Ciudad de los Ninos Orphanage

During Spring Mission Week 2010 donors:

- Continued upgrading the laundry room by assembling three new shelves and organizing the stored clothes on them.

- Painted the walls, bed pedestals and closet in the little boy's bedroom. Thanks to the outstanding youth group from Minnesota's St. Bernard's Parish – who are members of our Tres Islas "family" – for painting the ceiling in the bedroom the week before we arrived!
- Painted children's bedroom doors and window security bars.
- Removed an enormous amount of palm tree branches from the roofs and moved them out to the burn pile at the rear of the orphanage compound.
- Restocked and organized the receiving room.
- Sorted and organized donated clothing items.
- Helped the children get a start on creating this year's Christmas cards, which they enjoy making to thank donors for supporting them, at the close of the afternoon.

Donors Connie and Kathy from Idaho purchased the food and prepared a very delicious and colorful make-your-own taco salad lunch, which was enjoyed by the orphanage staff and donors.

After Spring Mission Week 2010, Madre obtained estimates for:

- Installing screen doors on the kitchen and dining areas.
- Replacing all the kitchen and dining room windows – which leaked so badly during rains that the dining room and kitchen floors get drenched throughout the year.
- Repairing the crumbling, exterior wall stucco around these areas.

The work has been completed. Photos of the upgrades are in the accompanying CD.

Madre asked that we thank you immensely for these great improvements. She said now that the windows are replaced, they don't have rain pouring into the kitchen and dining rooms during the summer monsoon seasons. Now that there are screen doors on the kitchen and dining areas, they are rid of flies once and for all – plus – the new screen doors allow for air circulation – where before, they keep the doors closed to try and keep the flies out – and they are no longer blistering hot when preparing and eating food. Thank you, wonderful donors!

FloreSer

During the 2009 Christmas season, we received the wonderful news that a permanent home had been donated for FloreSer by an anonymous Mexican national. The home, which is actually a large compound in itself, is located a little south of Valentino's and two blocks east of the Malecon and the Sea of Cortez.

While the compound is spacious, the home was pretty-much a shell and needed serious upgrades to be inhabited. Thanks to Tres Islas donations, considerable remodeling occurred before donors arrived.

During Spring Mission Week 2010 donors:

- Painted the newly created office, storage room and receiving room as well as a living room wall, the stair well, one bedroom ceiling and walls – all with the help of the girls.
- Moved the receiving room shelves and items from the temporary location in a spare bedroom to the newly created the permanent receiving room and stocked the bins with supplies for the coming year.
- Painted the walls under the covered patio.
- Cleaned the tile counter top and wall under the covered patio to a high polish.
- Removed weeds, grasses and small trees that had sprouted between concrete slabs.
- Sorted and organized donated clothing items.
- Painted the exterior architectural columns in front of the house and adjoining planters.
- Setup new the photo printer with camera and instructed the staff how to operate them.
- Pressure-washed the area under the covered patio, the large concrete courtyard, sidewalks and exterior walls of buildings.
- Planted lots of flowers and shrubs in pots and planters and around the base of palm trees.
- Assembled two picnic tables under the covered patio for the girls.

Donors Donna and Loretta, from Alberta, Canada, prepared a wonderful array of tropical fruit and veggie trays and hoagie sandwiches with a variety of meats and cheese, which were enjoyed by the girls, staff and donors on the freshly-renovated covered patio.

Receiving Room

FloreSer got off to a good start with the creation of the receiving room when the orphanage began at its former location. With plastic shelves and clear plastic bins labeled in English and Spanish for each item, the receiving room brought an immediate sense of organization to the new orphanage. As with the other orphanages, Tres Islas donors brought and stocked the bins with items needed every day from shampoo and conditioner to toothbrushes and toothpaste and school supplies.

In addition, a second receiving room – this one for clothes – was created upstairs. By being able to sort the girls’ clothes by category and season, as well as shoes and sandals, then place the items in large plastic, see-through bins, the girls’ everyday needs are at the busy caregivers’ fingertips.

Just what is a receiving room?

A receiving room is an idea that happened when, in 2007, Donelle saw Madre Velia trip over clothes that someone dropped-off at the orphanage – on the floor – with no hangers on which to hang them. (Thank goodness Madre wasn’t hurt).

The receiving room idea was reinforced when Donelle then visited the other orphanages and saw personal hygiene items stored on top of and in between school items, laced between a myriad of clothes with a shoe or two mixed in and wound around one another – all in great heaping mounds.

The receiving room idea needed to be implemented when Donelle saw items lacking at each orphanage that needed and could be used on a daily basis.

Donelle said two things to herself. First, “Martha Stewart would love this!” and then, the realization: “But what would Martha *do*?”

The receiving room idea came in one sweeping moment: heavy-duty, plastic (so they won’t rust) shelves – as many as each orphanage needs – for all the items they need! – and clear plastic bins (so orphanage caregivers and Tres Islas donors could organize individual items in each bin, easily see what was inside and quickly tally what needs to be restocked throughout the year).

As was the case with each of the orphanages, there was no place to receive or properly categorize and store donations such as school supplies, clothes, shoes and personal hygiene items. Items brought to the orphanage were stored in the bags or boxes they arrived in – and on the floor – simply because the orphanages didn’t have the funds to create such an area.

Each of the receiving rooms included erecting shelves, placing plastic, see-through bins on the shelves, putting existing supplies into the bins and labeling the outside of the bins with the name of the contents in both English and Spanish. We did this because tourists stop by to inquire how they may help – but they don’t speak Spanish.

By creating a specific receiving room where all supplies from toothbrushes to shampoo and school supplies are stored, with bins labeled in both Spanish and English, when visitors arrive, the caregivers could take visitors to the receiving room and show them the bins where supplies are lacking. The visitors may either provide the caregivers money to purchase the needed supplies, go purchase the supplies themselves and bring them back or mail a tax-deductible donation to Tres Islas to make the purchases. A win-win situation!

Madre Velia was so happy with the receiving room at Ciudad because everything is perfectly organized. She easily sees into the categorized, clear bins when needing an item and just as easily reaches for it.

We asked all the orphanage caregivers if they would like receiving rooms at their orphanages. They all said an enthusiastic, “Yes!”

Thanks to your donations, receiving rooms now exist at each of the orphanages.

As a result of creating the receiving rooms, the caregivers now tell us – at a glance – what supplies are running low so we can recommend to donors what to bring. Since we’ve installed the receiving rooms at the other orphanages, the positive comments – and knowing the ease it’s made in the caregivers’ lives – has made this project rewarding and worthwhile.

When you go to Mazatlan, if you’d like to “fill the bins” please let us know and we’ll get you a list of needs!

Barbecue Grills

During each Spring Mission Week as the beach barbecue concludes, the youngsters always ask if we’ll have another beach barbecue the next year. Of course, we’re happy to say, “Yes!” to them!

Part of the reason they enjoy the beach barbecues is because even though they live in the port city of Mazatlan, they rarely get to the beach and they enjoy an afternoon of romping in the Sea of Cortez, making sandcastles, playing and just hanging out near the water.

They also enjoy the grilled burgers and hot dogs – something that was a once-a-year occasion for them until this year.

Learning this, we decided it would be good if the youngsters could have barbecue more than once a year; in fact, as often as they'd like. After all, hamburgers – which they enjoy the most – are a great source of protein.

And, frequently donors visit the orphanages and want to do something fun with the youngsters – but they don't speak Spanish. Without that line of communication, they're at a loss.

What to do?

Like laughter and smiles, “barbecue” is the same in every language. Everybody likes to laugh and smile. And everybody likes barbecue.

What to do? Purchase a barbecue grill for each orphanage!

The idea – and the purchases – have already paid off and are a big hit.

In addition to the orphanage caregivers being able to enjoy grilled burgers, hot dogs, etc. anytime they and the youngsters like, Tres Islas had four donor visits to the orphanages during the summer. Each time, burgers and hot dogs were the hit of the day – hot off the barbecue grills!

Donors grilled, taught the caregivers and children how to grill and they all enjoyed a delicious meal together.

In September, during a visit from donors who spent an afternoon at the orphanage barbecuing and enjoying time with the children, Madre Velia commented “How wonderful! All of us (the caregivers) get a day off from cooking and the food is delicious. We're all so happy!”

On your visits to Mazatlan, if you'd like to share time with the children, we invite you to sponsor a barbecue at the orphanage of your choice and have a lot of fun!

This past year, the Fund purchased barbecue grills for Orfanatorio Mazatlan, Fr. Tovar's Home for Boys. . . Hogar San Pablo and Ciudad de los Ninos.

This year, we're working on getting a secure place to store a barbecue grill at the Salvation Army Children's Home and also repairing the patio built-in gas grill at FloreSer.

Upcoming and On-going Needs at the Orphanages

These are the upcoming and on-going needs at the orphanages. If you'd like to help with these needs, please let us know and/or designate so on your donation form. Thank you in advance, for your meaningful support.

Stocking the Receiving Rooms

An on-going need is to keep the receiving rooms at all the orphanages stocked with every day supplies such as hand/bath soap, shampoo, conditioner, tooth paste, toothbrushes, deodorant, undergarments and cleaning supplies - everything any household would use daily. If you'd like to help with these items, please mark your donation accordingly – it would be a big, big help.

Orfanatorio Mazatlan

Little Luciana

The last three years, we've shared with you the needs of adorable Little Luciana who has facial and left ear deformities. Luciana is receiving medical help in Monterey, Mexico – the only medical facility in Mexico that treats this type of deformity.

Luciana has a congenital anomaly known as Hemifacial left microsomia (HMF). HMF is a genetic disorder in which one side of the face is underdeveloped and as a result, affects the auditory, oral and mandibular regions.

This disorder has twisted Luciana's facial alignment and impedes her ability to clearly speak, properly chew (and ultimately properly digest) her food. Since receiving her treatments over the past

year, orphanage caregivers say they're now able to understand her words and she's correctly able to chew her food.

Thanks to your support, the Fund has been able to send Luciana, who is now 6 years old, to Monterrey, Mexico - the only medical clinic in Mexico which treats this type of defect.

While her medical treatment by doctors is free, Luciana and one of the orphanage caregivers (most often Rafaela) must travel from Mazatlan, which is located on the west coast of Mexico, to Monterrey, which is located on the east side of Mexico. The journey also includes the need for a hotel room, usually for one night and occasionally for two - and taxis.

This past year, the device used to straighten Luciana's jaw with the rest of her face, was adjusted every four months because of the progress she made as a result of the device and because she's growing. The cost of the device has been \$150.00 U.S. dollars. For this reason, each quarter Luciana and her caregiver traveled to Monterrey - so she may be measured for the device, 24-hours allotted to create and mold it and then fit it into her mouth.

The medical device improved her defect. Because she succeeded so quickly, she will soon need to have an upcoming surgery to implant a bone into her jaw that will hopefully enable her jaw to properly begin growing on its own.

During her trips this past year, she has also been seen by a plastic surgeon that will in the near future create a left "ear" for Luciana. It's estimated that surgery will take place when she is around 14 years old. It's not known at this time if she'll ever hear from this ear.

Donations to this fund would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Lockers

Orfanatorio Mazatlan is desperately - and we don't use that word lightly - in need of new lockers for all the children. The old, wooden lockers at the orphanage have been there longer than anyone can remember. They are termite-ridden, coming apart, have splinters (not kind to little hands and fingers reaching inside) and are falling apart.

We all have real concerns that one day a locker door could fall off onto a child or that they could be cut from the splintery wood to the extent that they would need stitches.

Lockers are a very necessary part of the children's lives because they each need a place where they may store their clothes, including undergarments and other personal items like toothbrushes, toothpaste and school items. They don't have individual closets at the orphanage - the lockers serve this purpose.

If you'd like to help with this project, please let us know and earmark your donation for the "Orfanatorio Mazatlan lockers." Thank you.

Ceiling Fans

An important item we needed to take action on while we would receive the best price possible, is new ceiling fans for Orfanatorio Mazatlan.

The 12 existing ceiling fans either have already - or are in the process - of coming to a final, screeching halt. This is due to having been installed many years ago, because they are metal - which easily rusts - and due to the effects the humidity and sea salt in the air have had on them.

The orphanage does not have - nor do they want - air conditioning - as the cost of electricity is very expensive.

It's now winter in Mazatlan, the price of fans is the least expensive they will be all year.

These are the areas and number of fans that need to be replaced:

- Main dormitory bedroom - 5
- Teenagers' bedroom - 3
- Little children's bedroom - 1
- Kitchen - 1
- Storage room - 1
- Orphanage office - 1

The estimated cost of the 12 fans from Home Depot, which also delivers items purchased, is \$560.00.

Installation of the 12 fans, which includes removal of the former, non-working fans from the very high ceilings and upgrading any electrical wiring, is estimated at \$197.00.

The total estimate for the purchase of the fans and their installation is \$757.00.

We are proceeding with this project because funds are available in the construction account and we won't receive a better price at another time during the year and we need to have the ceiling fans installed before the extreme summer heat arrives.

Salvation Army Children's Home

Door Repairs

The doors and door jams in the children's dormitories are beyond repair. The doors are coming apart and the door jams have been infested by termites.

Laundry Room

Two new clothes dryers are needed as well as shelving units and plastic bins to organize their laundry room. A secure door on the laundry room is also needed before we purchase them a barbecue grill.

We've asked the directors to obtain two estimates for each project. If you'd like to help with these projects, please let us know, and, earmark your donation for "Salvation Army Children's Home upgrades." Thank you.

Dance Classes

As many of you know, the children at the Salvation Army Children's Home learn the historic, ethnic dances of Mexico, and, donning authentic costumes of each region, perform the dances and sing Christmas carols throughout the Christmas season for residents and tourists. At the end of each performance, they pass a donation plate. Money collected helps pay for items such as electricity, gasoline for the van (which takes the children to-and-from school and their dance performances), cleaning and other assorted items Tres Islas does not provide.

The cost of the children's dance lessons is \$30.00 per week. These dance classes teach the children the history of the various regions of Mexico, how dance evolved into the specific pattern of the region, respect for their country's heritage, the meaning behind the intricate costumes, intricate dance steps and how to work together.

Dancing in front of those who reside in Mazatlan and tourists - then interacting with them after the dances - is invaluable. If you'd like to sponsor one week - or as many weeks as you'd like - please feel welcome! - and indicate that your donation is for the "Salvation Army Children's Home dance lessons" on your donation form.

Father Tovar's Home for Boys...Hogar San Pablo

Maintenance Room

Four plastic storage shelving units and four heavy-duty metal shelving units are needed for the tool room/workshop. The plastic shelving units will be used for storing lighter items like paint, painting supplies and small tools while the metal shelving units will be used for heavier items that, due to their weight, could damage the plastic units.

Lena priced the shelving units at Sam's Club. The four plastic shelving units (the same kind Tres Islas has purchased in the past) will cost \$235.00 and the four heavy duty metal ones are \$335.00.

If you'd like to help continue organizing of the orphanage's tool room/workshop, please indicate your donation is for "Fr. Tovar's tool room/workshop" on your donation form.

Orphanage Grounds Improvements

The orphanage caregivers would like more fruit trees and the start of a garden where tomatoes and other vegetables can be grown on the orphanage grounds. They want the boys to learn gardening skills - expertise they may take with them when they leave the orphanage - and, an area Tres Islas donors are welcomed to help teach Javier and the boys.

If you'd like to support this area - at this or any of the orphanages - please indicate your donation is for "Sophia's Fund" and the name of the orphanage you'd like to support - on your donation form. Thank you!

After School Tutoring

A tutor currently comes after school each day to tutor the boys and help them with complete their homework - primary grade boys in one session and secondary grade boys in another session.

We are seeking donations to use to pay for the continued tutoring of the boys, which is really helping with their educations. We feel wiser money could not be better invested.

Please remember these boys are brought to this orphanage from lives most of us could not begin to imagine. To give them a quality education and the opportunity to make something positive with their lives and become good contributing members of society is a reward from which all of us will reap the benefits.

Ciudad de los Ninos Orphanage

Education needs

As you read on the first page of this year's annual report from Ciudad youngster Flor Nalleli, this coming year she wants to attend college. She'll live at Ciudad while she attends a local university. We're in the process of learning what her registration, tuition, books and lab costs will be.

Having the privilege of knowing Nalleli for 12 years, and knowing the exceptional student and young lady that she is, we couldn't make a finer recommendation to you for your support.

If you're interested in supporting Nalleli's higher education, please let us know. Just as in every area, we'll atone to you for every cost and keep you updated on her college life and studies.

Orphanage Grounds Improvements

With the start of the floral gardens - in the orphanage courtyard and front areas - thanks to donors and Spring Mission Week 2009, one of the "big dreams" the nuns have is that one day the children and they will have a garden where they may grow some of their own produce. In addition to

aiding in their self-reliance, this is an excellent opportunity for the children to learn valuable gardening skills that will contribute to their present well being now and after they've grown-up.

Sister Velia continues to express an interest in learning about composting and how to use their kitchen waste (peelings and acceptable food scraps) to make compost and how to better prepare a garden area. During our December trip, we'll be visiting with her to firm up the details for our spring trip.

If you'd like to support this area - at this or any of the orphanages - please earmark your donation for "Sophia's Fund" and the name of the orphanage you'd like to support - on your donation form. Thank you!

FloreSer

Psychology Room

As you all can understand, the girls who come to FloreSer need help working through, sorting out and coming to terms with the abuse and violation from their former lives.

The FloreSer board of directors has decided it would be best to have a specified room at the orphanage set up where a licensed psychologist could come and help the girls rather than trying to individually transport the girls across town at varying times and days to receive counseling.

Sewing Center

The FloreSer board of directors is developing a sewing center master plan for the girls at the orphanage. The goal of the sewing center plan is to teach the girls a trade from which they may one earn a living.

For those of you who came to FloreSer during Spring Mission Week 2010, you may recall the vacant rooms in the building adjoining the house. The board's plan is to remodel these rooms to house the psychology room and sewing center. The estimated cost for the remodeling project (including carpentry, drywall, plumbing and electrical) is \$4,406.00.

To support this project, please indicate that your donations for the "FloreSer Psychology Room and Sewing Center" on your donation form.

Tres Islas Orphanage Fund's Spring Mission Week April 29th - May 7th, 2011

We accomplished a great deal during Spring Mission Week 2010 and everyone had a grand time! As in past years, there was constant conversation and laughter throughout the week as we "labored-in-love" at the orphanages. From planting to painting to sharing creative activities with the children, donors experienced a week to remember.

We thank all donors who could help this year and we invite everyone to join us for Tres Islas' next Spring Mission Week, April 29th - May 7th, 2011. We encourage volunteers to arrive Friday, April 29th, as we'll start orphanage improvements and activities at one of the orphanages Saturday, April 30th.

We're frequently asked if there's a possibility of having too many people come on one trip. The answer is an emphatic, "No!" ☺ ☺ - We always need and want more donor participation.

This is your personal invitation to join other Tres Islas donors in the fun and reaping the rewards of helping the wonderful children!

If you'd like to participate in this coming year's trip April 29th - May 7th, 2011, please let us know. Donors have been signing-up since mid-summer and everyone is welcome.

We promise you will:

- Experience a rewarding and memorable time.
- Interact one-on-one with the children – who’ll be grateful for the time you share.
- 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 know in one week.
- Want to return to participate in the children’s lives again and again.
- Have time to enjoy beautiful Mazatlan and its delightful, friendly citizens.

Please join us! You’re invited!

Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Accounts Escrow Account

The escrow account serves as the main depository account for the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund. Each donation is deposited in the Fund’s escrow account. From there, donations earmarked for other accounts are transferred into those accounts.

At the conclusion of each calendar year, we transfer all money from the escrow account, with the exception of the amount needed for the upcoming year’s food purchases for the orphanages, into a sixth-month (or longer) certificate of deposit to earn interest.

Grocery Account

Donations earmarked for the grocery account or “where most needed” remain in the escrow account until needed. On the last day of each month, the amount needed to purchase the children’s food in each of the orphanages for the upcoming month is transferred into the grocery account.

Christopher Fund (Christmas Dinner Account)

The Christopher Fund was established in 2007 to honor the late Christopher Jemio, a fine and gentle-hearted young man who had compassion for children in orphanages. He volunteered at Ciudad de los Ninos Orphanage. Christopher was exemplary of having a heart of gold for giving.

Christopher died from a brain aneurysm on Christmas Day 2005. The following year, his mother, Teresa, sent \$250.00 to help Ciudad – the exact amount needed to purchase the orphanage’s Christmas dinner. It was appropriate – and an honor to name the Christmas dinner account in honor of kind-hearted Christopher. We’re also pleased to announce that Christopher’s mother, Teresa, is stewarding the fundraising of this meaningful account.

If you’d like to help provide Christmas dinners for any or all five of the orphanages (\$250.00 per orphanage), please designate your check – for any amount – to the Christopher Fund. You’ll make many children happy on this most special of Mexican holidays and keep the memory of a kind and selfless young man named Christopher Jemio, who had a dream of going to Mexico to make a positive difference in an orphanage, alive forever.

As part of the Christopher Fund, fresh Christmas trees have been purchased each year for the orphanages from this account. The last few years, the cost of trees has risen to \$40.00 a piece. Beginning with Christmas, 2008, we began purchasing artificial Christmas trees for each orphanage to be fiscally wise with donors’ contributions. We completed all artificial Christmas tree purchases in December 2009.

Education Classes Account

Established by Rev. Robert Mischke, M.D., and Genca Mischke, this Tres Islas account sponsors education classes that may not be taught in all schools such as computer and English classes. It also sponsors college and/or tech classes for youngsters after they have graduated from high school.

In the case of the newest orphanage, FloreSer, many of these girls have received no education and must be placed in special classes that will, even though they are in their teens, allow them to “start from the beginning.”

It is a goal of the Fund that after each youngster graduates from high school, he or she may have the opportunity to enter college or tech school so when they leave the orphanage, each young lady or young man leaves being able to take care of themselves financially and becomes good, contributing members of society.

While Dr. and Mrs. Mischke established this account, they encourage and invite everyone’s support of it to ensure each child receives a quality education. Donations are needed and appreciated for the education classes’ account throughout the year.

Education Supplies Account

From this account, the Fund purchases the youngsters’ school supplies, including school books, school shoes, school uniforms and school backpacks in which the youngsters carry their school books and supplies.

The condition of the backpacks is assessed annually. If they’re in good condition, they aren’t automatically replaced at the beginning of the school year. Like the education classes account, donations are needed and appreciated for education supplies throughout the year.

Construction Account

Donations to this account make necessary orphanage improvements such as replacing water pumps, appliances and roof and building repairs. When the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund began serving the orphanages, each was in a sad state of disrepair from sewage flowing on the ground to bare floors to rodents living in appliances.

Thanks to donations, the orphanages have been upgraded to meet health, safety and welfare needs, including all improvements made by specific donations to the construction account for improvements during the Fund’s annual Spring Mission Weeks.

Your continued support of this invaluable account will be greatly appreciated and will allow the children to live in safe and sanitary homes.

“Because of Kenny Project”

Minnesota donor Julie Foster loves taking pictures. She has an entire wall in one room of her and her husband Mark’s home lined with photo albums. When their daughter Amelia was born, she took so many photographs that her husband Mark suggested she buy stock in the company she uses to develop her pictures. She loves to show Amelia her baby pictures and the progression of her growth, documenting her youth.

A few years after Amelia was born, the Fosters adopted Kenny, from Russia, when he was 18-months old. Julie shares that it's difficult to explain to him why they don't have any baby pictures of him, adding, they detect sadness in his eyes because he doesn't have pictures for this part of his life.

Because of Kenny, it occurred to her that the children in the orphanages the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund supports don't have memories of their children in photographs either. Realizing it's the same for the children in the orphanages as it is for her son Kenny, they won't have pictures to show their families how they looked and what they did while they were growing up.

The Fosters approached the Fund this year about creating the "Because of Kenny Project" to establish funding to equip each orphanage with a digital camera, a photo printer and a photo album for each child's pictures. What a great idea! The Fosters have donated the funds, the purchases have been made and the delivery of the fifth orphanage's set of equipment is taking place this Christmas.

Donations are needed to supply on-going materials such as ink-printer cartridges, printer photo paper and a photo album to be presented to each child residing in an orphanage or to give to each child who comes to the orphanage.

Everyone is welcome to help each child document their childhood and have fond memories of their young life to take with them when it comes time for them to leave the orphanage by donating to the "Because of Kenny Project."

"Sophia's Fund"

Expecting their third child, a girl, on February 25, 2008, Sally and Paul Schumack were thrilled at the prospect of adding Sophia to their and their twin daughters' family. While the delivery "went off without a hitch," Sally shares that a special-care nurse brought their newborn daughter to them saying they needed to monitor Sophia's breathing. That night, their baby experienced several "spells" in which she stopped breathing, appeared to choke and turn blue. After two days, she was transferred to a neonatal intensive care nursery where it was determined she lacked gagging, sucking and swallowing reflexes.

Ultimately, Sophia's ability to live without full-support declined and on March 21, 2009, Sophia's family made the decision to stop interventions and release Sophia to God.

Connecting with other families who've experienced similar losses, they've learned children truly are a gift and while we don't know how long they'll be with us, Sophia's family said they, "learned to lean on God; because He truly will walk with us through grief if we ask and allow him to."

Sophia's aunt, Julie Foster, wanted to keep Sophia's memory alive in a meaningful manner. Over the past several years, her family has fallen in love with the children residing at Ciudad de los Ninos and supported them through their donations to the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund. Working with Mother Superior, Madre Velia, who helped found Ciudad de los Ninos, they were able to establish a garden in honor of Sophia - for the children living at Ciudad to enjoy. Included in the garden is a memorial plaque dedicated to Sophia and all children everywhere.

Everyone is invited to help purchase fruit trees, flowers or vegetable plants for the gardens at each of the orphanages in honor of children living, or as a memorial for children or family members who've passed away. Please indicate which orphanage you'd like to receive your living gift on the donation for under the construction account and earmark it for "Sophia's Fund" in honor of the children and loved ones in your life.

“Gloria’s Kitchen”

“Gloria’s Kitchen” is named in honor of the late, benevolent Gloria Geraths, who, for a number of years was instrumental in helping the children in Mazatlan’s orphanages as part of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund. Gloria frequently prepared homemade meals and desserts for the children. She was instrumental in organizing the fist barbecue beach parties for the children in the orphanages. And, she and her good husband, Lloyd, often took the children to purchase their school shoes and stopped for ice cream on the way home – in addition to taking the children to dinner for their birthdays.

Donations to this fund will allow the purchase of an additional \$50.00 per week of fresh fruits and vegetables for each of the orphanages.

Please read more about the positive impact Gloria’s life had on the children and how you may carry-on her goal of providing the children nourishing food each week in the latter section of this report titled, “Passages.”

Next Year’s Projections

The Fund’s number one priority each year is to continue purchasing healthy, nutritious food for each child at the orphanages. We’re budgeting \$200.00 per week each for three of the orphanages (Orfanatorio Mazatlan, Salvation Army Children’s Home and Ciudad de los Ninos because of the number of children living in these orphanages or who are expected to arrive the next few months). For Fr. Tovar’s Home for Boys, we’ve budgeted \$150.00 per week because there are 13 boys there now and three to five more expected in December. We’ve budgeting \$125.00 per week for FloreSer, which currently has nine girls.

How much will it cost to feed each child in the coming year? Here’s the math:

- The total food budget for all five orphanages = \$44,300.00.
- \$44,300.00 divided by the 105 children in all five orphanage = \$421.90 per child per year.
- \$421.90 per child per year divided by 52 weeks per year = \$8.11 per week to feed one child.

The summary table below presents the projected costs for all five orphanages during the coming year; not including costs for construction, appliances, and Luciana’s medical assistance.

Projections for all five orphanages for the coming year:

<u>Item</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Food	\$44,300.00
Christmas dinners	\$ 1,150.00
School supplies	\$ 4,300.00
School shoes	\$ 2,750.00
School uniforms	\$ 4,600.00
School backpacks	\$ 1,110.00
Education (Classes)	\$ 6,000.00
Medical	<u>\$ 1,750.00</u>
Total for <u>all five</u> orphanages	<u>\$65,960.00</u>

Total projected expenditures for all five orphanages for the coming year, including construction, appliances and Luciana's medical assistance, is \$92,710.00.

Please refer to the attached summary spreadsheet for each orphanage's itemizations for this past year, projected expenditures for the coming year and a comparison with 2008-2009's expenditures.

Dividing the projected \$92,710.00 for the coming year by the 105 children present in the five orphanages at this time, comes to \$882.95, or \$2.42 per youngster, per day, to provide nourishing food, school supplies, shoes, uniforms, backpacks, education classes and orphanage improvements at their homes, the orphanages. This small amount of money daily equates to a huge impact...the children have a nourishing, well-educated, productive and safe quality of life for an entire year!

This past year: \$87,638.30 divided by the then 123 children in the four orphanages at that time equaled \$712.51 annually or \$1.95 per youngster, per day, for their care.

The goal of the Fund has always been to provide the quality 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.

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 that you're always welcome to participate in the children's lives.

So donors may participate in the children's lives and meet one another, we especially invite donors to gather in Mazatlan:

- At Christmas - to see the benefits your donations have accomplished over the years. You'll enjoy Christmas dinners with the children as you spend time with them and see the great difference your contributions make. Please let us know how we may help as you make your plans.
- For Spring Mission Weeks - please be sure to sign-up for the Fund's next Spring Mission Week April 30 - May 7, 2011 (arriving April 29th). As you'll see in the accompanying compact disk, the rewards are many, true friendships are forged and at the end of the week, you'll be glad that you came and for the great accomplishments you've made

The presentation on this year's enclosed compact disk is in *Windows Movie Maker* format, 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. Please share them with family, friends and others - such as your church and organizations with whom you're affiliated.

Tres Islas Facilitators

Lena Brown

The Fund continues to function as efficiently as it does thanks to lovely Lena Brown, Tres Islas Facilitator, who resides in Mazatlan. We are grateful to have the continued, day-to-day help and genuine support of Lena who oversees and helps bring to fruition the projects that your donations make possible and that you read in each annual report.

From being on-hand to help purchase groceries each week – including learning the exact peso/U.S. dollar exchange rate for the day so the caregivers may purchase the most food for the money – to getting estimates and making the majority of purchases in advance of each year's Spring Mission Week and throughout the year as the orphanages need, the Fund could not be more blessed to have a finer person tending to the day-to-day needs of the children and the Fund than Lena Brown.

In addition, Lena provides her honest opinion on each idea and each potential purchase. Lena is a total partner and friend to all the children, caregivers and us.

Lena also takes donors on tours of Fr. Tovar's Home for Boys and Ciudad de los Ninos.

Because of all Lena has done and continues to do for Tres Islas and the children, she was selected to be "Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Volunteer of the Year 2009."

Gaudelia "Fella" and Jasmine Cruz Hernandez

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 five 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. Each week they spend many hours tending to the grocery shopping needs of the orphanages and maintaining accurate records for verification to each of you. Additionally, they spend countless hours helping purchase the children's school shoes, school supplies, school back packs and uniforms for each of the children.

Fella has been with us from the beginning of the Fund. When Donelle received a newspaper assignment in 1987 to "photograph the children of Mexico" and wanted to visit an orphanage, it was Fella who took her to Orfanatorio Mazatlan – where Donelle discovered there was little food and her "assignment" changed from taking photos of some awfully cute kids to that of raising the awareness and donations to help the children in Mazatlan's orphanages. For 23 years, Fella has remained a steadfast and intricate part of Tres Islas.

Imagine buying more than 100 pairs of school shoes, uniforms, backpacks and coordinating purchasing enough school supplies for an entire year for more than 100 children! Whew! But yes! That is exactly what Fella and Jasmine do. Fella and Jasmine are two other angels on earth.

In addition, Fella also takes donors on tours of Ciudad de los Ninos.

Because of Fella's 23 years of loving and loyal service to the children and caregivers in Mazatlan's orphanages on behalf of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund, Fella was selected to be "Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Volunteer of the Year 2008."

Bob and Janet Schmitt

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 take 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, they help sponsor the college tuition, books and lab supplies for some of the youngsters' - which provides the youngsters the higher-education they otherwise would not receive.

Janet organizes the Fund's "Adopt-a-Child-for-Christmas" program at the Salvation Army Children's Home. 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. Both Lena and Cliff and 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 and provide us with sound advice and trustworthy guidance.

Additionally, Bob and Janet work with The Vineyard "La Vina" Christian Fellowship of Mazatlan. Their ministry connects the English and Spanish-speaking communities, devoting itself to bettering the lives of the less fortunate.

Each week, Janet and Bob, a group of church volunteers and visitors prepare and take food to the poorest of the poor who eak out a living 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.

The Fund has been blest for over 15 years to have the loving presence of Janet and Bob Schmitt and we cannot thank them enough for all they do for the children and for being our sounding blocks when we need to run an idea by them and for their Godly, loving guidance.

Because of the total sum of their altruistic work helping both the young and most needy residents in the municipality of Mazatlan, Bob and Janet were named "Mazatlan's Citizens of the Year 2008" by Mazatlan's *Pacific Pearl* news magazine, the most-read news magazine for the English-speaking community living in or visiting Mazatlan.

Tres Islas Volunteer of the Year 2011



Michael J. Veselik, Publisher
Mazatlan's *Pacific Pearl* News Magazine

Michael J. Veselik, owner and publisher of Mazatlan's *Pacific Pearl* news magazine gave the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund its first publicity in 1997.

And every year since, he's asked for at least one and usually two stories about what Tres Islas is doing to help the children so he may raise awareness to his readers about the need and opportunity to help.

Each year, Mike provides Tres Islas free advertising space – in his newsstand issues and online version of the *Pacific Pearl*.

Michael never asks for anything in return. When we volunteered to personally pay him for advertising Tres Islas in the *Pearl*, he replied, "Ah, just make the same amount in a donation to Tres Islas for me. That'll help the kids and that'll make me plenty happy."

The Tres Islas Volunteer of the Year – or in some cases because the recipients may be a couple – so they would be Tres Islas Volunteers of the Year – award was created in 2007 to honor donors whose extraordinary service over the years has made significant improvements in the children's lives.

The award plaque is a traveling one, passed from donor-to-donor one year at a time. Each recipient's name is added on the back of the award plaque.

When Mike arrived at Orfanatorio Mazatlan during Spring Mission Week 2010, he thought he was coming to greet donors and "see how everything turned out" – which he was. But there was more. . .

After dinner, we announced it was time to present the Tres Islas Volunteer of the Year award – but first – we wanted to thank a very special guest who had helped us in grandiose and varying ways over the years.

We invited Mike to join us at the podium and shared with donors – and Mike – how much he'd done for the children and Tres Islas with his loyal monthly support since 1997. We shared that most of Tres Islas donors began their participation thanks to Mike and his making his readers aware of Tres Islas and the Fund's endeavors. And for that, we owe him a huge debt of thanks.

We invited Mike to stay with us at the podium to help present this year's award, which he gladly said he'd do.

Then, Major Candi from the Salvation Army Children's Home raised her hand and asked to speak. She shared that when she arrived in Mazatlan and went to the *Pacific Pearl* office, she immediately felt she had a friend in Mike and he has supported every one of her requests to help the children at the Salvation Army Children's Home.

Cristina Pena, President of Orfanatorio Mazatlan and Vice-President of FloreSer quickly stood and shared that the articles that Mike so generously publishes in the *Pearl* – such as the first story about FloreSer – bring the needs of the children to the attention of the world.

Tres Islas donor Connie, from Idaho, stood and said that like most donors, she and her husband, Terry, first learned about Tres Islas when reading the *Pacific Pearl*; adding, what a

wonderful and positive difference Tres Islas has added to their lives. She then grasp the mustard seed necklace she was wearing and shared, how like a mustard seed, the articles in the *Pacific Pearl* Mike publishes, grow into raising awareness and helping needy children – thanks to the mustard seed faith of one person – in this case – Michael Veselik.

Bob Schmitt walked up and thanked Mike for his generosity in helping all charities in Mazatlan. Bob shared that Mike’s presence and willingness to support all charities and all people in need has changed the face of helping others and charitable assistance in Mazatlan.

At that point, we thanked everyone for their kind and factual comments about Mike’s good deeds in Mazatlan, adding that one person – Mike Veselik – has made a permanent and positive difference in all our lives and the lives of those in need.

We then said we were ready to present this year’s award.

We turned to Mike and said, “Mike, because of all you and the *Pacific Pearl* – under your guidance – have done for Tres Islas and the children over the years, for everything we shared with you earlier, and for each accolade each of these fine folks here tonight have shared with you – how you’ve positively affected the children’s lives and theirs – we’re proud to name you and the *Pacific Pearl* as the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Volunteers of the Year 2010.”

Mike was truly surprised! He said until we placed the award in his hand, he had no idea he would receive it.

In thanking Tres Islas donors for their help, Mike said it’s easy for him to help Tres Islas because he trusts the Tres Islas board of directors, facilitators and donors – and knows we always give our best and do our best on behalf of the children.

Thank you, and congratulations, Michael Veselik and Mazatlan’s *Pacific Pearl*!

The first year’s recipients were Helen and Bill from Michigan and Bucerias, Nayarit, Mexico who were two of the Fund’s first donors and who have loyally helped the children for over a decade.

Gaudelia “Fella” Cruz Hernandez was the recipient in 2008 and 2009’s recipient was Lena Brown.

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 or what entity in the Mazatlan community needs help, to share the scope of each others’ endeavors so there is no duplication of efforts and help each other whenever possible. These meetings are organized by Janet Schmitt – who is to be commended for “rounding-up” all of us twice a year for these invaluable meetings. Thanks again, Janet!

Passages

Each and every donor is a very special friend in varying and vast ways. The Tres Islas Orphanage Fund could not do all that it does for the children in the five orphanages if it weren’t for the truly wonderful donors.

And so, when one of Tres Islas’ “family of friends” becomes ill or passes away, we are all deeply and sadly affected.

We lovingly pay tribute to the following two, exceptional ladies, both Tres Islas donors and dear friends to us all. . .

Gloria Geraths - Friend Extraordinaire



April 15, 1934 - February 4, 2010

Many of you knew Gloria Geraths, who throughout the 1990's, was a constant presence at the orphanages and Donelle's "right-hand" in every activity. Gloria successfully organized the first "Adopt-a-Child-for Christmas" in Mazatlan that has now grown into each child in every orphanage receiving meaningful Christmas gifts - when before Gloria's presence - most received very little - or nothing at all.

At that time, there were no chocolate chips in Mazatlan. Gloria quickly endeared herself to the children when she brought not only the first homemade cookies they'd ever tasted - but chocolate chip cookies!

Each time Gloria brought cookies, some of the children happened to be in school. Without being prompted and on their own, the children at the orphanage counted the cookies, reserving an equal amount for those still in school. For those of you who've tasted Gloria's delicious cookies - that must have been an awfully difficult thing for a child to do and took an exceptional amount of self-discipline to give up even one of Gloria's cookies! Upon the school children's arrival home, the children already present scooped-up the box of cookies and fled to the door, welcoming the others home with the great news about the arrival of Gloria's cookies.

Gloria also took her spaghetti maker to the orphanage and showed the children how to make spaghetti, then allowed each child to cut their portion as it came out of the machine. Topped with homemade sauce and meatballs, the children ate and ate until their tummies were stuffed. Gloria - and her trusty spaghetti maker - were requested to come back often for a repeat version!

Over the years, Gloria and Lloyd, her good husband for 55 years, took the children to purchase needed shoes and always stopped for ice cream on the way back - what a treat for the children! Gloria and Lloyd helped organize the first and helped host many barbecue beach parties for the children from Orfanatorio Mazatlan and Ciudad de los Ninos - over 60 children! And each week, Gloria and Donelle shopped for the children's food. They were a constant team, dear friends and family in the heart. Those were joyous years in which precious friendships between countries and people - both big and small - were forged that are now forever etched in our memories and our hearts.

Gloria Geraths brought love, grace, confidence and success to everything she did on behalf of the children and the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund.

Gloria and Lloyd stopped coming to Mazatlan only because Gloria's health prohibited her from making the trip. In her heart, she was there with each and every child and us. She loved us all and we all loved Gloria.

Shortly before she died, Gloria asked Lloyd to help her make a special photograph album for Donelle of all the children whose lives Donelle, Gloria and Lloyd shared over the years. Gloria selected each photo and Lloyd inserted them into an electronic photo gallery.

One-by-one, the pictures gently evolve into the next, showing the faces and scenes of children we've been blest to serve over the years.

That gesture was typical of Gloria. Even in the last days of her life, Gloria always thought of others and gave her best to others.

In her life and in her death, Gloria was a role model extraordinaire to emulate forever.

+ + +

Carol Evancho Schmetzer



February 21, 1938 – November 17, 2010

Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Volunteer, Donor and Friend to the Children

The sweet smile that shined on Carol's face every moment of the day was the same smile she carried in her heart. Always gentle, always helpful, always attending the needs of others, Carol walked as a perfect example in the loving shadow of the Lord.

Carol, from Pennsylvania, delighted in spending time with the children and making improvements to their homes, the orphanages. During Spring Mission Weeks, she devoted herself to ensuring the lives of the children were bettered, an exemplary part of her personality.

Whether painting, cleaning, sweeping, or dancing with the children, Carol's sweet demeanor readily encouraged the children to seek her out.

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The Tres Islas Orphanage Fund, children in the orphanages and those who were blest to have Gloria and Carol share their lives with us, are forever enriched because of the quality of each of their friendships and for making the world a better place for children.

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A Changing of the Guard at Salvation Army Children's Home

This was Major Candi Frizzell's last year as the director of Mazatlan's Salvation Army Children's Home. In the Salvation Army, it's customary for employees to be transferred on a frequent basis. Candi has been assigned to the United States and her assistant, Captain Lulu has been assigned to Puerto Vallarta.

In her letter to you this year, Candi shares how grateful she is for the help of Tres Islas donors to Mazatlan's Children's Home. It is a touching, farewell letter from a person who quickly became our friend and who has 31 years of dedicated service in the Salvation Army from the United States to Russia to Mexico. Candi and Lulu said they'd like to return to Mazatlan during one of Tres Islas' Spring Mission Weeks to reconnect with the children and each of Tres Islas' donors, whom they relied upon and who came to mean a lot to their ministry.

We welcome the new directors, Captains David and Marianela Sanchez. Arriving in mid-summer, the couple said, "When we received the notice that God was sending us to Mazatlan's Children's Home, our first expression was, "This is our 'Promised Land!'"

They have three girls Joselyn Andrea 17, Dyna Nohemi 15 and Maryan Rebeca, 2. Prior to being assigned to Mazatlan, they served four years in San Luis Potosi's Children's Home, five years in Guatemala and six years in Costa Rica.

Sr. Sanchez shares, "Mazatlan is the 'Pacific Pearl' and the Children's Home is like a chest of pearls. We want to make the best pearl in each one of the kids here."

"We are blest by God with the true friendship of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund with their weekly purchase of food for the children and school shoes, uniforms and school supplies and Tres Islas' support of structural needs for the Children's Home."

We know we'll all deeply enjoy working with Captains David and Marianela.

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Hats Off to the Following Businesses. . .

Mazatlan's *Pacific Pearl* News Magazine

When you're away from Mazatlan, be sure and read Mazatlan's best news magazine, Mazatlan's *Pacific Pearl*, by subscribing for home delivery or going online at www.pacificpearl.com. When you're in Mazatlan, pick up a copy - it's free! And is it ever helpful!

For 18 years, Mike Veselik has been the "eyes and ears" between the English-speaking, living and visiting community in Mazatlan. Mike is a steadfast supporter of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund - publishing at least one story about the Fund and the children each year. Thank you, Mike for helping the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund - and all Mazatlan charities!

Mazatlan's *Noroeste* Newspaper

We're grateful for the faithful support of Mazatlan's *Noroeste* newspaper, its owners, editorial staff and photographers for their continued documentation of Tres Islas' Spring Mission Weeks. *Noroeste* always lets the good people of Mazatlan know about the endeavors of Tres Islas and spotlights all donors who come to offer friendship, kindness and help to the children in the orphanages.

Mazatlan's Rico's Coffee

For providing all the delicious, fresh, organic coffee Tres Islas volunteers can drink during each Spring Mission Week. We greatly appreciate this helpful, tasty and most-generous donation each day that Rico's owner, Marianne Biasotti kindly provides.

EPUERTO, Staples and Oce' North America

Thank you to the following compassionate companies for their outstanding support of the children and the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund with their kind services:

- **EPUERTO**, the Fund's Internet provider and webpage host headquartered in Coos Bay, Oregon. You can visit EPUERTO at www.epuerto.com.
- **Staples** in Roseburg, Oregon for donating the paper on which you read this annual report.
- **Oce' North America, Inc.** in Roseburg, Oregon for providing all copy services used to produce this annual report for you free of charge.

We sincerely thank each of the above businesses for their generosity in helping us serve the children. . .

In closing. . .because of you, the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund is heading into its 24th year serving the children. We ask please, for your continued support. Your on-going help continues to make positive differences in the lives of the 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 from any donation for administration, salaries, stipends or compensation.

Your Tres Islas Orphanage Fund donations are 100% tax deductible because all donations truly go to the children and the IRS recognizes the Fund as a 501(c) (3) charitable organization.

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

With immense gratitude,

Donelle Manton, Founder

Tom Manton, Vice-President



Enclosures - extras - lots and lots of good things to read and pictures to see - just like always!