

# Tres Islas Orphanage Fund

3717 Monroe Avenue

Cheyenne, WY 82001

Now in our 26<sup>th</sup> year serving the children in Mazatlan's orphanages!

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Please visit Tres Islas' website at: [www.orphanagefunds.org](http://www.orphanagefunds.org)

Email Tres Islas at: [email@orphanagefunds.org](mailto:email@orphanagefunds.org)

U.S. Phone Numbers:

Tres Islas' main U.S. phone number (Donelle & Tom Manton) 1-888-459-TIOF (8463)

International: 1-541-378-3152

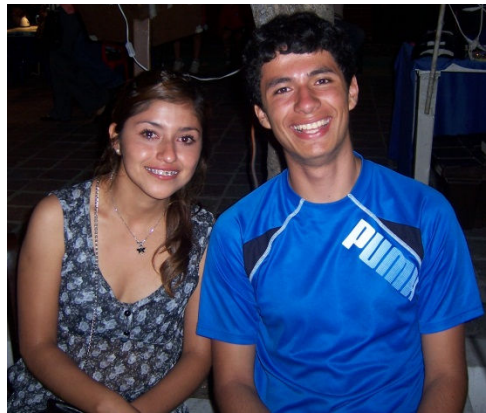
Mazatlan Telephone Numbers:

(When dialing from outside Mexico, first dial 01152669)

Bob and Janet Schmitt 916-01-22

Gaudelia "Fella" Cruz Hernandez 982-25-80

## Annual Report 2012



**Flor Nalleli and Jesus Alberto "Chuy"**  
**Ciudad de los Ninos Orphanage**

With greetings and gratitude to all of you. . .in Nalleli's and Jesus Alberto's own words. . .

Dear donors,

I don't have enough words to tell you how thankful I am with you, I'm studying my 3<sup>rd</sup> semester (in college) to become an English teacher and I really enjoy the time at school and learning every day, but all this is possible because I have your help and that's why I have the opportunity to study and to improve as a person, professional, and spiritually, too, because I know these are basic things we need to be a good person in life and with other people.

Thank you for believing in me and for the opportunity to study, thank you for supporting our home with the food, you are the only reason why we all eat every day.

Thank you so much for everything.

With love, Nalleli

Many thanks for your valiant help for providing me the correction I need for my teeth by paying \$18,000.00 pesos (\$1,358.49 U.S. dollars) so I could receive the braces on my teeth.

I feel so happy about this, I have so much more esteem as a person and I feel more confident about myself as a person.

My wish is to continue studying supremely in school because I have the help of generous persons that each of you are to us through Tres Islas. I consider you all to be my family. I feel so content because of the Tres Islas association, all of us here at the home have food and we can study in school and we live in the best home because of good people like all of you.

Thank you - all of you who are part of Tres Islas - we appreciate you for providing all of us the maximum in life. Thank you when you learned that I needed braces for rapidly providing the money to help me with my teeth. I thank you so much and I hope you each have a beautiful Christmas and a Happy New Year.

God bless you, Jesus Alberto "Chuy"

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As the man walked on the beach at the break of dawn, he noticed a young boy ahead of him picking up starfish and tossing them into the sea. Finally catching up with the youth, he asked him why he was doing this? The boy answered that the stranded starfish would die if left unattended. "But the beach goes on for miles and there are millions of starfish," countered the man. "How can your effort make any difference?" As the young boy looked at the starfish leaving his hand as he gently tossed it to safety in the waves, he replied, "It makes a difference to this one."

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November 15, 2012

Dear Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Donors, Friends of the Children,

As we once again have the privilege of preparing our annual report for you - thanks to your faithful support of Mazatlan's children who reside in the orphanages the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund serves - we have many poignant stories of success to share with you because you saw the need and have graciously and generously taken the time to make the difference and help these precious youngsters.

Each year the children and their caregivers know more stability, feel more confidence and make more positive strides in their lives thanks to each of you providing them the financial support needed to have safe and sound homes, nourishing food, quality educations and medical attention as needed.

Your donations. . .translate into love the children and caregivers know you feel for them because each year you steadfastly continue to support them. Your donations resonate into nourishing food that helps the children grow up strong and have bright minds they put to good use studying in

school. Your donations start them out right each school year with decent shoes, uniforms, backpacks and books so they may begin the first day of school – and continue throughout the year – with the tools they need so they may concentrate on their studies and give their best. And, they do. . .

Your donations. . .provide them safe and sound homes where they thrive – with lockers replaced (after 100 years), stoves and refrigerators and toasters and blenders and toilets and showers that work and washing machines that clean their clothes; doors that lock and windows that are repaired after severe storms. . .and computers so they may receive the latest information to help with their school work and learn English.

Your donations. . .make them feel safe, happy and normal. . .because they need – like all children need – love, stability and nourishment for their bodies and their souls and people they can rely on and look up to. . .

Each of you are these people to these children.

We are forever grateful for your partnership that has been the “wings beneath our feet” since the fund began in 1987.

Thank you. . .

This past Christmas, Madre Velia Morales, one of the founders of Ciudad de los Ninos, told us that in 2005, Father Tovar, who was the founder of Hogar San Pablo (Fr. Tovar’s Home for Boys) shared with her how grateful he was to have the support for the boys in his orphanage from the kind Tres Islas donors. He told her that thanks to Tres Islas donors, his boys were receiving nourishing food each day, all their school needs, broken appliances, toilets and showers were being replaced and he had no worries about the safety and future of his boys.

Madre told him she would like Ciudad to receive support from Tres Islas – as she shared with him the many needs of the children who reside in Ciudad.

Madre told us that Fr. Tovar wisely encouraged her, “You and the nuns pray about it. And I’ll pray about it. And if we all pray about it, I’m sure within one year, those kind Tres Islas donors will come to you, they will find you, and they will help you and your children, just like they help us.”

With a twinkle in her eyes and a wide smile that spread across her face, she added, “And it was just one year later that Tres Islas learned about our needs and began to help us!”

Some may call that a coincidence. But ask Madre Velia. . .and she’ll tell you it was Divine Intervention in response to prayers. . .that were answered with “un milagro” . . . a miracle. . .

And now we present to you, your annual report, in exchange for all you do for each of the five orphanages and the 126 children who reside in the orphanages.

From the inception of the Fund 25 years ago in 1987, through the close of our 2012 annual reporting period on September 30, 2012, Tres Islas Orphanage Fund’s total purchases these past 25 years for food, school supplies, shoes, uniforms, backpacks, education, medical needs, appliances, health, safety and welfare improvements for the children in Mazatlan’s orphanages reached \$644,941.34! (Last year: \$527,137.00). Thank you, Tres Islas donors for your loyal, continued support helping the children!

As the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund begins its 26<sup>th</sup> year helping the children, we thank God and each of you for these monumental milestones that we all, together, have accomplished! We gratefully and humbly ask, please, for your continued support of these youngsters.

The Fund could not do all it does for the children if it weren’t for you.

From October 1, 2011 to September 30, 2012 (the Fund’s 12-month annual reporting period), the Fund provided \$117,804.34 for the benefit of the children; primarily for their food, educational and medical needs and necessary orphanage repairs – compared with \$106,813.10 the previous year.

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 was again blest this year to receive donations specifically dedicated to provide educational classes and purchase school supplies for the children. This permitted the Fund to purchase required updated school books, new school uniforms, shoes and educational supplies for all the children. The children, orphanage caregivers and we are so grateful for this! Thank you!

The caregivers are always respectful of donors' contributions – uniforms and shoes are used until they can no longer be worn. 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 proud and blest to serve five orphanages in Mazatlan full-time:

1. **Orfanatorio Mazatlan, 22 youngsters;**  
(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  
President: Cristina Pena de Herrera (whose grandmother was a board president and great-grandmother was once treasurer); Rafaela Cornejo Valdovinos, Directora Administrativa
2. **Ejercito de Salvacion Hogar de Ninos (Salvation Army Children's Home), 26 youngsters;**  
(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 Asael and Rocio Flores
4. **Ciudad de los Ninos, 30 youngsters;**  
(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, 13 youngsters;**

(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

Founder and Vice President: Cristina Pena Miranda; President: Gabriela Perez Jimenez;

Directora Administrativa: Brenda Borboa

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 126 youngsters in the five orphanages the Fund now serves. Last year at this time there were 114 children in the five orphanages.

On the orphanage lists of children, are names of some who live at the orphanages who 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 two 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. Four years ago, Elle began working part-time bagging groceries at a local mercado and then went on to work at the local aquarium – where she still works today – 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. Jesus suffers from epilepsy and we are grateful for donations that are specified each month to purchase his epilepsy medicine – which stops his seizures – and is paramount that he takes each day.

**FloreSer: An example why you and your support is invaluable**

We received the following letter, addressed to all donors, from Brenda Borboa, FloreSer’s director of administration. We are humbled to share it with you, as one example why you and your support are invaluable to each of the children in the orphanages:

Dear Donelle, Tom and Tres Islas Donors,

I would like to share with you a story about 11-year old Michelle who came to FloreSer, a hungry, abused and sad girl. Her mother is addicted to drugs. Michelle has a little sister, Esmeralda, who is 8-years old and a baby sister, Ivana, who is 1-year old.

Michelle and Esmeralda cried for their baby sister and were worried about her because she was in the arms of her mother, on the streets taking drugs.

I went to look for the mother of these children, and I talked to her. I told her that I wanted to help her and her children. I then went to visit Madre Velia at Ciudad de los Ninos to ask if she would receive the three children into her orphanage. Of course, Madre said yes.

The baby did not have a birth certificate so Madre Velia, Sister Rosie and I took her to city hall where she received it.

The three sisters are now together with Madre Velia at Ciudad de los Ninos and are very happy because they are safely together, they are being cared for, they eat well and the two older girls go to school each day while their baby sister stays at home with Madre Velia. And, their mother agreed to go to a rehabilitation center.

We are working hard to help these girls, between tears and much prayer to God who helps us in all of this and you, Tres Islas donors, who support us all each and every day. Thank you.



Ivana, Esmeralda, Madre Velia, Sister Rosie with Ivana's newly-issued birth certificate



Ivana, Michelle and Esmeralda living happily and safely together at Ciudad de los Ninos

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### Purchases

As we wrote earlier in this report, the **money expended this for the care of the children** in the five orphanages (food, school supplies, school shoes, uniforms, backpacks, English/tech school classes, medical and orphanage construction improvements/repairs and appliances) **this year totaled \$117,804.34**. Last year, total money allocated to support all five orphanages in these categories totaled \$106,813.10.

The itemization of the benefits from your contributions is presented below - along with an **enclosed three-year summary spreadsheet** 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 at that time – of Fr. Tovar’s Home for Boys which had fewer youngsters 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 14 girls (mostly teenagers) at this orphanage, the Fund currently purchases \$120.00 worth of food each week for them.

In the spring of 2010, 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 majority of the food the Fund purchases for each orphanage is already comprised of fruit and vegetables, the youngsters were asking for more and due to rising food prices, the amount of the food purchases decreased. 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 each week for additional fruit and vegetables for each of these orphanages. So, the total for each of these orphanages groceries each week totals \$200.00.

The Fund currently purchases \$118.00 worth of food each week for FloreSer and whenever they need/want, they are allowed \$20.00 additional fruit and vegetables.

At Fr. Tovar’s this past year, the Fund purchased \$152.00 worth of food each week and no additional fruit or vegetables because the patronatos (board of directors) purchase these. As the number of youngsters increase or sometimes decrease, this determines the amount expended each week for food.

**We greatly 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.”

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:** \$10,634.04 (Last year: \$10,655.43).

**Salvation Army Children’s Home:** \$10,267.54 (Last year: \$10,530.15).

**Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo:** \$7946.90 (Last year: \$5,938.64).

**Ciudad de Los Ninos:** \$11,022.55 (Last year: \$11,094.80).

**FloreSer:** \$6,141.88 (Last year: \$6,157.58).

Total food purchased for all five orphanages this year: \$46,012.92 (Last year: \$44,376.61).

This year's food purchases represent 54.36% of the Fund's expenditures, excluding construction costs. (Last year's food purchases represented 58.93% of the Fund's expenditures, excluding construction costs).

### **Christmas Dinners ("The Christopher Fund") 2011**

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.

Based on the number of children in each orphanage, we allow up to \$250.00 per orphanage for Christmas dinners and the entire celebration.

**Orfanatorio Mazatlan:** \$246.13 (Last year: \$281.80).

**Salvation Army Children's Home:** \$246.73 (Last year: \$244.10).

**Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo:** \$243.76 (Last year: \$115.87).

**Ciudad de los Ninos:** \$246.40 (Last year: \$288.27).

**FloreSer:** \$119.71 (Last year: \$116.51).

### **Special Occasions**

Sometimes when donors take a Tres Islas tour of the orphanages or when reading our annual reports or emails, donors learn about areas of needs that touch their hearts so much, they are immediately able to step-forward and meet the need.

Other times, as was the case for donor Charlotte from Virginia, who was so impressed with the thank you Christmas card she received two years ago from then 10-year old Heidi at Orfanatorio Mazatlan, Charlotte wanted to do something special for Heidi - yet be respectful and inclusive of all the children.

So, Charlotte offered to sponsor Heidi's birthday party - which would include all of the children's birthdays that month (April) - and to purchase Heidi - and all the children at Orfanatorio Mazatlan - their much-needed summer sandals.

Now, Charlotte earmarks one of her annual donations to sponsor the monthly birthday party and purchase summer sandals for Heidi and all the children.

Tres Islas facilitator Gaudelia "Fella" Cruz Hernandez purchased the birthday cake, ice cream and sandals on behalf of Charlotte.

And so, Tres Islas' "Special Occasions and Gifts" category itemizes these areas so you may know about all purchases made for each of the orphanages.

**Orfanatorio Mazatlan:** \$1,253.28

➤ Christmas presents: clothes, pajamas, DVD players: \$1,074.63

➤ Summer sandals: \$442.83



**Hogar San Pablo:** None.

- Christmas presents sponsored/coordinated by Mazatlan residents

**Salvation Army Children's Home:** None.

- Christmas presents individually sponsored/coordinated by Mike Veselik, owner and publisher of Mazatlan's *Pacific Pearl* newsmagazine, Yoopers Sports Bar & Grill and Tres Islas Facilitators Janet and Bob Schmitt.

**Ciudad de los Ninos:** \$1,602.87

- Donor-sponsored All Souls' Day/Halloween party: \$144.53
- Christmas presents: pajamas and shoes for youngsters, caregiver nuns shoes, towels: \$1,602.44.

**FloreSer:** \$225.58

- Christmas presents, including pajamas, undergarments: \$225.58

If you'd like to sponsor any area of need you may know about or have an idea – aka “heart for” – such as Christmas presents, birthday celebrations, please contact us and we'll gladly make it happen!

### **April 2012 Beach Barbecue Fiesta for All Orphanages**

Food purchased: \$373.47 (114 children) (hamburgers, hot dogs, condiments, chips, buns, cakes, ice cream – plates, silverware, cups leftover from quantity purchased previous year) (Donor-specified).

Previous year: \$663.28 (114 children) (Donor-specified).

### **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 as well as paying for class registrations and tuitions, when required. (Not all schools and programs require registration or tuition fees.)

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 attend college or will receive English lessons, computer classes and/or tech/trade school classes for them to be able to enter the workforce – and one day be self-sufficient, capable of taking care of themselves and becoming good, contributing members of society.

This Fund was grateful again this year to receive donations specified for the Education School Supply Fund and Education Classes Fund. This enables us to purchase the much-needed new uniforms, shoes, backpacks and school supplies without having sparingly-delegate what may be expended for this important area in the children's lives.

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 be able to take required classes and elective classes, as permitted, where they have special interests.

In 2009, the Fund began 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, we learned that when most girls arrive at this orphanage they haven't received much of a school 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 orphanage caregivers don't request them and the Fund doesn't purchase them. School item needs are assessed a second time - mid-year - and only purchased 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: \$3,353.81 - including computers, printers, paper (Last year: \$1,691.95).

School shoes: \$773.03 (Last year: \$400.53).

School uniforms: \$1,643.21 - including school books (Last year: \$669.06 - uniforms only).

Backpacks: \$301.45 (Last year: \$235.16).

Education classes: \$748.02 (\$64.74).

Total purchases this year for Orfanatorio Mazatlan for school supplies, shoes, uniforms and backpacks: \$6,819.52 - increase due to computer/printer purchases. (Last year: \$2,997.02).

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

School supplies: \$5,295.97 - including computers, printer, paper (Last year: \$510.97).

School shoes: \$556.81 (Last year: \$639.54).

School uniforms: \$831.89 (Last year: \$548.59).

Backpacks: \$413.51 (Last year: \$239.79).

Education classes: \$727.41 (Last year: \$708.01).

Total purchases this year for the Salvation Army Children's Home for school supplies, shoes, uniforms, backpacks and education classes: \$7,825.59 - increase due to computer/printer purchases. (Last year: \$2,774.45).

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

School supplies: \$2,880.88 – including computers, paper purchases (Last year: \$708.13).

School shoes: \$721.02 (Last year \$1,279.42 – incl. \$587.25 for tennis shoes).

School uniforms: \$772.65 (Last year: \$793.65).

Backpacks: \$442.05 (Last year: \$187.22).

Education classes – tutoring, tuition and registration: None. (Last year: \$276.93).

Total purchases this year for Father Tovar's Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo for school supplies, school shoes, uniforms, backpacks, education classes and computers/printer: \$4,816.60 59 (Last year: \$5,822.63).

### **Ciudad de los Ninos**

School supplies: \$4,291.00 – incl. school books, computers, printer, white board, paper purchases (Last year: \$918.39).

School shoes: \$522.80 (Last Year: \$1,304.95).

School uniforms: \$1,396.17 (Last year: \$1,109.72).

Backpacks: \$300.24 (Last year: \$207.96).

Education classes – tuition and registration: \$662.00 (Last year: \$936.17).

Total purchases this year for Ciudad de los Ninos for school supplies, uniforms, backpacks and education classes: \$6,965.56 – increase due to computer/printer purchases (Last year: \$4,477.19).

### **FloreSer**

School supplies: \$394.75 – incl. school books and tuition (Last year: \$970.71).

School shoes: \$234.28 (Last year: \$183.36).

School uniforms: \$400.55 (Last year: \$623.46).

Backpacks: \$160.71 (Last year: \$222.66).

Education classes: \$662.00 (Last year: \$262.69).

Total purchases this year for FloreSer for school supplies, uniforms, backpacks and education classes: 1,852.29 (Last year: \$2,262.88).

Total school supplies, uniforms, backpacks, computers and printers purchased for all orphanages: \$22,878.84 (Last year: \$9,700.54).

Total school supplies, uniforms backpacks, computers and printers purchased represent 27.03% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction (Last year: 12.88%).

Total school shoes purchased for all orphanages: \$2,807.93. (Last year: \$3,807.80).

School shoes purchased represent 3.32% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction (Last year: 5.06%)

Total education classes paid for all orphanages: \$2,592.78 (Last year: \$4,825.82). Education classes represent 3.06% of the Fund's expenditures, not including construction (Last year: 6.41%).

School supplies represent 19.16% of the Fund's expenditures (Last year: 6.29%).

School shoes represent 3.32% of the Fund's expenditures (Last year: 5.06%).

School uniforms represent 5.96% of the Fund's expenditures (Last year: 5.19%).

School backpacks represent 1.91% of the Fund's expenditures (Last year: 1.41%).

Education classes (Tech/English classes/tuition/registration) represent 3.06% of the Fund's expenditures (Last year: 6.41%).

This year, all school related items (school supplies, shoes, uniforms, backpacks and education classes represent 33.41% of the Fund's expenditures (Last year: 24.35%).

We're proud - and grateful - to let you know that in addition to Nalleli sharing her college education opportunities with you on the first page of this annual report, thanks also to your donations, Aida, who also lives at Ciudad de los Ninos, is studying to become a chef! This has been Aida's dream for many years and she asked that we thank you for paying for her tuition, her registration and for her class needs. She is doing wonderfully, really enjoying her classes and getting a lot out of them. She said if it wasn't for Tres Islas' donors' support, she would not be able to attend college and earn a degree where she can take care of herself.

Jesus Alberto - who also wrote you the first page of this annual report - is a junior in high school. As many of you remember, Jesus has received perfect grades since first grade and was crowned "king" of his junior high graduating class because of his excellent grades throughout his school years.

When he graduates from high school, he would like to attend college to become a nutritionist.

Both Nalleli and Jesus would like to go to the U.S. or Canada and study further and possibly work one day.

Your support of Tres Islas' education funds will be greatly appreciated and, as is verified by all three youngsters, as examples, thanks to your support, these youngsters are able to receive quality educations - and would not - if it wasn't for your kind and generous support.

Thank you!

### **Classroom and computer updates**

As part of our reporting to you on the classroom and computer updates, we offer a huge debt of thanks to Andrea, from Florida, for her fund-raising to sponsor numerous purchases below - and for overseeing the needs, ordering, delivery and installation of them. In addition, she has spent a large portion of the past year helping the youngsters at the orphanages with their homework after school, including teaching them English, math and science. Thank you, Andrea, for your good heart, time, expertise and for making the positive difference in the after school program that you have.

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

The long-awaited and much-dreamed about classroom, office (and laundry room that was part of the entire building construction) came to complete fruition this past year!

In the building shell west of the kitchen and dining room, we forged a plan with Captains David and Marianela and donors Bob and Deb, of Michigan, who volunteered to create a plan to scale - thanks, Bob and Deb - job well done! - for three separate rooms: a designated classroom complete with computer workstations, an office and finished laundry room. Those who've visited the Salvation Army Children's Home will recall the "laundry" was a shed-type atmosphere with dirt floors, with the washing machine in the center of tools, hoses and "whatever" piled on top of each other.

The goal was to have a classroom where the children would study (they were studying on the dining room table that was reverted to an eating area - for which they cleared-off their school books and study materials, even when they were in the middle of a school project). The classroom would have computers for the students to complete their homework on - and a place to learn computer technology and English.

Thanks to your donations, in early 2011, each room was completed with tile floors.

During Spring Mission Week 2011, donors painted the classroom and laundry room walls and constructed shelves to store laundry soap and incidentals on and erected a table where clothes could be folded.

Bountiful and heartfelt thanks to donors Mike and Ann from Wisconsin, for their generous donation that purchased 10 computers, a printer/scanner/copier and 10 surge protectors to bring the classroom to completion early in 2012! This is a huge gift and will help the children complete their homework and participate in the after-school studies program - presently being taught by Andrea from Florida.

As part of meeting Tres Islas' annual educational needs, we are again humbled to offer thanks to Caroline and Roxanne from California for all they do; and in this case, for purchasing the tables and chairs for the classroom. Their loyal, educational support truly is "the wings beneath (the children's) feet." And donor Bonnie from Minnesota. . .always there and always ready to help. . .no matter the distance or time. . .we thank you for purchasing the air-conditioner to keep the computers cool (so they don't overheat) during the summer.

We are grateful to you ALL.

### **Orfanatorio Mazatlan**

While Orfanatorio Mazatlan had computers, some were not working and their software was out-of-date.

Four computers were purchased to replace the non-working ones, office chairs were purchased for the children to sit on - plus one printer/copier/scanner/fax machine was purchased for overall use by the children and caregivers.

### **Ciudad de los Ninos**

Four computers and four surge protectors were purchased for Ciudad, including one laptop and printer for Nalleli's college needs and one printer/copier/scanner for the classroom and for overall use by the caregivers.

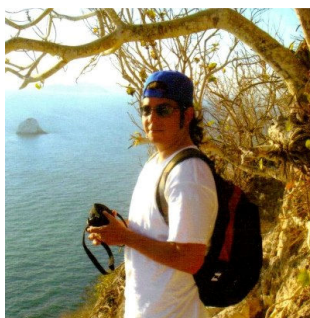
### **Father Tovar's Home for Boys. . .Hogar San Pablo**

Five computers, one printer/copier/scanner and one computer monitor to replace a monitor that no longer works.

### **FloreSer**

One printer/copier was purchased.

## Christmas 2011



### **Christopher Jemio The Christopher Fund**

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 gentle, thoughtful and 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 2011 was again 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. From new shoes, sweaters, pajamas, undergarments - each child felt loved and appreciated during this most-special of seasons.

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.

If you would like to help purchase Christmas gifts for the children, we would appreciate your support; please contact us. If you'd like to help purchase Christmas dinners, please designate your Tres Islas donations to the Christopher Fund.

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 respond 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.

This past Christmas, donors provided gifts from new shoes, pajamas, undergarments, clothes and towels – all by special request from the children.

The children carefully – with emphasis on the word *carefully* – open their gifts, not ripping the paper; instead gently removing it and then after they've opened their gifts, they either place their gifts back in the wrapping paper and re-wrap the gift to take it to their bedrooms or they carefully fold the wrapping paper to be used a second time. All of this without being told! For the children, the anticipation of receiving and opening a gift is held in high regard and a moment to truly enjoy – a precious site to watch and appreciate.

Thank you for making magical Christmas moments happen.

### **Construction Fund**

Many construction improvements take place as part of – or in conjunction with – the Fund's annual Spring Mission Week, which traditionally begins the first Friday after Easter. We invite everyone to join next year's trip (Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup> – Saturday April 13<sup>th</sup>) and all the fun!

Other construction improvements are made as needed. For example, this year, at Ciudad de los Ninos, there was a substantial underground water leak. In Mexico, water is a precious commodity and the loss of any of it is detrimental – especially when water is needed to take care of 30 children each day – as is the case at Ciudad de los Ninos. In addition to that need, the space between Ciudad's kitchen and the storage room where dishes, pots and pans are washed and kept was an open space. When the monsoon rains came, rain would leak inside the two buildings through the windows and doors. Rather than put a cement roof over the open space, Madre opted to do as had been done at the Salvation Army Children's Home – have a fiberglass roof installed to let light in. The cost of both removing/replacing the water pipe and adding the fiberglass room totaled \$1,961.08.

During Spring Mission Week 2012, Padre Horacio, director at Father Tovar's Home for Boys, Hogar San Pablo, let us know the sewer pipes on the north side of the orphanage was severely damaged – it hadn't been repaired/replaced for around 30 years – and as a result, sewage was backing up into the restrooms. He asked if Tres Islas donors would please be able to pay to have the drainage system replaced. Thanks to a specified donation by wonderful Colorado donors, the sewer pipes were replaced as needed for a cost of \$1,605.77.

At the Salvation Army Children's Home, the septic system collapsed. The system was built in the mid-1990s – so this is the first time it needed to be replaced/repared. Thanks to the hard work and quick response of donors who raised \$1,508.60 to replace the entire system, everything was in excellent working order within just a few weeks.

So, we truly do our best to steward every donation and item to its maximum.

Several projects are earmarked, "donor-specified" – meaning, donors have made donations specifically to cover the cost of the improvement itemized.

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

### **Orfanatorio Mazatlan**

Orphanage improvements this year, including the much-anticipated and needed 33 new lockers that young Cole Philipp from the Northwest Territories of Canada (you'll read more about the Herculean fundraising efforts of Cole later in this report) raised the money for over a three year period totaled \$16,279.07 (Last year: \$5,227.76).

- \$12,190.59 – 33 lockers – made of termite-resistant wood
- \$1,202.75 – Stainless steel kitchen shelves for food storage
- \$441.63 – Receiving room clear, plastic storage bins
- \$292.72 – Restock receiving room supplies (everyday sundries such as soap, etc.) (Donor-specified)
- \$327.21 – Laundry bags, shoe bags, hangers, etc. for each girl’s new locker
- \$305.37 – Lifetime folding tables – to be used for children’s projects, etc.
- \$139.72 – Repair water/termite-damaged kitchen walls/clean stainless steel kitchen exhaust fan
- \$193.75 – Stainless steel mixer – replacing old non-commercial grade mixer
- \$370.91 – Commercial-grade stainless steel blend – replace non-functioning/non-commercial grade blender
- \$750.02 – Paint, brushes, etc. for donors to paint walls: Spring Mission Week
- \$38.84 – Photo printer paper and ink

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

Orphanage improvements this year, including the purchase of appliances, totaled \$7,193.60 (Last year: \$8,205.08).

- \$1,508.60 – Replace collapsed septic system with new system
- \$79.99 – Kodak camera kit
- \$293.34 – Restock receiving room supplies (everyday sundries such as soap, etc.) (Donor-specified)
- \$443.84 – Purchase mini-split air-conditioner for computer classroom
- \$1,514.00 – Replace large palapa where youngsters study under, receive folkloric dance lessons and eat in the summer when the weather is hot and humid
- \$38.14 – White board for computer classroom
- \$953.85 – Paint, brushes, etc. for donors to paint walls: Spring Mission
- \$38.84 – Photo printer paper and ink

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

Orphanage improvements this year totaled \$3,684.23 (Last year: \$1,806.33).

- \$734.01 – Walls/ceiling repairs: infirmary and psychology rooms
- \$79.99 – Kodak camera kit
- \$5.21 – Memory card
- \$93.09 – Clothes rack (to hang/dry/move clothes on)
- \$292.95 – Restock receiving room supplies (donor-specified)
- \$38.84 – Photo print ink and paper
- \$641.10 – Spring Mission Week paint, supplies
- \$135.73 – Spring Mission Week paint for life-size mural on north wall of orphanage
- \$1,605.77 – Repair/replace sewer pipes on north side of orphanage (dorms/restrooms)



## **Ciudad de los Ninos**

Orphanage improvements this year, including appliances, totaled \$3,464.95 (Last year: \$8,066.62).

- \$38.84 – Photo print ink and paper
- \$187.63 – Repair toilets
- \$111.14 – Install new stove
- \$292.49 – Restock receiving room supplies (Donor-specified)
- \$49.42 – Computer classes white board
- \$404.79 – Automotive shop repairs to orphanage bus (transport children)
- \$2,260.92 – Repair/replace buried water pipes (connection to entire orphanage), new fiberglass roof over dishwashing area, new kitchen area screen doors, windows
- \$42.99 – Spring Mission Week supplies (most on hand)

## **FloreSer**

Orphanage improvements this year, including appliances, totaled \$2,542.70 (Last year: \$8,198.86).

- \$559.38 – Reconciliation room and bathrooms wall construction repairs
- \$151.41 – Second floor exterior security door (bedrooms/bathrooms area)
- \$327.65 – Two new toilets and seats
- \$463.68 – Clothes dryer
- \$93.22 – Spring Mission Week landscape plants
- \$560.85 – Spring Mission Week paint and supplies
- \$38.84 – Photo printer paper and ink
- \$193.57 – Restock receiving room supplies (Donor-specified)

## **Spring Mission Week 2012**

Spring Mission Weeks would not be possible without each of you, your kind donations that permit making necessary improvements to the children's homes, coming to Mazatlan to spend time with the children, volunteering at the orphanages to make the improvements and verifying how your donations are being stewarded. Thank you for the support you give to the construction fund; your donations enable all of the improvements needed to be implemented.

Visitors to the orphanages say Tres Islas' sponsored orphanages are the most up-to-date, positive and nurturing orphanages they've ever visited – this is 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 Gaudelia "Fella" Cruz Hernandez of Mazatlan who 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, she helps organize Christmas parties, makes Christmas purchases and ensures each detail is met with perfection.

+ + +

So, wonderful donors, as you read the improvements made, please take a moment to reflect that it's because of and thanks to you that the improvements to the children's homes take place - and without you and your support, they wouldn't happen.

+ + +

### **Spring Mission Week 2012**

In April, thirty-five energized donors came to Mazatlan for the Fund's eighth annual Spring Mission Week to make necessary improvements to upgrade the children's homes, the orphanages, spend meaningful time with the youngsters and their caregivers, renew friendships with one another and welcome new donors.

The week began Friday evening with donors gathering for dinner at the seaside barbecue restaurant "Diego's" as we all watched the first of many beautiful Mazatlan and Sea of Cortez sunsets.

Saturday, donors began making improvements at the orphanages starting at FloreSer.

On Sunday, donors hosted the annual barbecue 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 the traditional giant prayer circle on the beach and joined hands with one another. The Fund's chaplain, Fr. Joe, from Pennsylvania, Father Horacio David Sanchez from the Salvation Army Children's Home stood in the center of the circle, turning around and around as Father Horacio first prayed out loud in Spanish and Janet translated into English 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.

The circle of prayer has become a meaningful part of the all-children's beach barbecue. Having the children from all five orphanages stand side-by-side and hold hands with donors, caregivers and one another on the beach, steps away from the aqua-colored waters of the Sea of Cortez as their caregivers stand center and pray for them is a heartwarming, memorable moment. Those dining inside La Costa Marinera Restaurante are awe-struck at the sight and waiters tell us that the patrons, too, assume a moment of silence as the prayers are being offered.

When the prayer-in-the-round concluded, the children ate all the delicious barbecue and 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 while orphanage caregivers enjoyed a much-deserved afternoon of relaxation at the beach.

As you'll see in the Year In Review presentation we've included, the beach barbecue continues to be a highlight of the week for children and donors. The children always ask 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 feel welcome to specify that area on Tres Islas' donation form.

In conjunction with Spring Mission Week 2012, donors, caregivers and youngsters enjoyed a hearty lunch together at each of the orphanages and a tamale fiesta was provided at Orfanatorio Mazatlan - all by specified donations.

## **Spring Mission Week 2012 - What Donors Accomplished**

### **Orfanatorio Mazatlan**

Thanks to the Herculean fundraising efforts of 14-year old Cole Phillip of the Northwest Territories of Canada, the 21 broken-down lockers that have been at the orphanage since it first began, were all replaced - plus 12 additional lockers added! - so each youngster will have their very own locker. We are more grateful to Cole and the all of Northwest Territories residents who financially donated to support Cole's "Pay-It-Forward" project the last three years than we can adequately express. Even though most of you have never met the children who reside at Orfanatorio Mazatlan, you have shown them friendship and love and help with your exceptional time, devotion to Cole's "Pay-It-Forward" project and your donations.

In conjunction with installation of the new lockers, 2012's Spring Mission Week's improvements included:

- Giving a fresh coat of paint to the walls above the new lockers.
- Adding wicker totes to the lockers so each girl can store her clothing in an organized fashion.
- Adding duffel bags for storage of shoes and clothes in need of laundering.
- Removing the existing wooden shelving unit in the kitchen that stored the children's food and replacing it with a stainless steel shelving unit purchased by Tres Islas donations that will make for a much-more sanitary storage of the children's food.
- Painting the kitchen walls that were repaired with funds from Tres Islas donors.
- Painting the inside of the outer courtyard wall where the children's playground and washing area is located.
- Restocking the receiving room bins with supplies for the year.
- Installing computers and printer for the after-school program.

Tom and Kim from Oregon sponsored the delicious fish taco lunch - complete with all the trimmings with the mouth-watering recipes lovingly created by them especially for Tres Islas' donors during Spring Mission Weeks. Fr. Joe from Pennsylvania and his terrific mom, Geri, from New Jersey helped Tom and Kim prepare the food. We really appreciate all the effort and time that went into this successful and yummy lunch. Thank you all.

After lunch, New Mexico professional clowns Janet, Benita, Delores and Janet once again put on a clown show for the children and had the children participate - which none were shy about! The clowns made balloon hats for the girls to wear and participate in the show. This event was again a big

hit with all the children who laughed and laughed and smiled the biggest smiles we've ever seen. Thank you New Mexico clowns for clowning around with all the children!

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

During Spring Mission Week 2012 donors:

- Painted the exterior walls of the boys' dormitory.
- Painted the exterior walls of the computer classroom, office and laundry room.
- Installed the computers and printer, classroom tables and chairs and prepared it for an everyday classroom setting.
- Restocked the receiving room bins with supplies for the year.
- Installed curtain rods and curtains in the boys' and girls' dorms.

The delicious lunch at the orphanage that day with the children was prepared by Gaudelia "Fella" Cruz Hernandez - who is a former chef. She prepared authentic Mexican food which we all enjoyed eating outside, underneath the large palapa.

As an added treat after lunch - in a special performance for Tres Islas donors - the children donned native costumes from the vast regions of Mexico and performed authentic, folkloric dance routines for us! Donors were invited to share in some of the majestic and festive dances with the children.

As part of the children's education, Tres Islas pays for the children to learn the folkloric dance steps from each region in Mexico, the history of the region, the history behind the dance and the costuming.

During Christmas seasons, the youngsters perform their dances for Mazatlan residents and visitors.

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

Prior to Spring Mission week, the psychology and infirmary rooms were constructed and their floors tiled - thanks to Tres Islas donations. The rooms were ready for donors to paint!

During Spring Mission Week 2012 donors:

- Restocked the receiving room bins with supplies for the coming year.
- Painted the psychology room and infirmary.
- Painted the computer classroom.
- Installed computers and printer in the computer classroom.

- Painted portions of the exterior walls of the dining room, kitchen, nuns' quarters and the first floral garden.
- Painted the north wall of the building/patio area that overlooks the basketball/volleyball courtyard and Sea-of-Cortez as Tres Islas begins turning it into the respite, meeting and study area Padre Horacio envisions for the boys.
- Painted a very special mural on the north wall of the basketball/volleyball court yard. Many, many thanks to Sean, BeeBee and Janet from New Mexico for this. Sean, who is a professional artist, sketched the massive, life-size mural by hand, then painted it - along with help from the boys. This beautiful mural depicting Jesus with hands outstretched to children - is a masterpiece and we thank Sean, his mother BeeBee and everyone for bringing this monumental artwork to fruition.

At noon, several of the orphanage's patronatos arrived to share time with the donors and have lunch together. The patronatos are comprised of the some of the finest group of businessmen in Mazatlan who genuinely take an interest each and every day in the boys' life and all aspects of the orphanage goings-on.

Donors ate an exceptionally delicious lunch with the boys, caregivers and patronatos that Javier prepared on the commercial-grade barbecue grill that a wonderful Tres Islas donor purchased for them two years ago. Father Horacio said he regularly uses the grill (he's also quite the master chef!) as an incentive for the boys and on special occasions for them.

After lunch, the wonderful ladies from New Mexico who are professional clowns, Janet, BeeBee and Janet made funny balloon hats for the boys, Father Horacio and Father Joe.

### **Ciudad de los Ninos Orphanage**

During Spring Mission Week 2012 donors:

- Painted and organized the classroom and prepared it for the new computers and printer, where the children will be able to complete their homework, learn computer skills and study English.
- Painted the kitchen ceiling that was repaired due to damage by water, causing the plaster to come loose.
- Painted the first inner courtyard where wall repairs had been made.
- Restocked and organized the receiving room bins with supplies for the year.
- Cleared the orphanage roofs of tree and shrub debris.

The children, orphanage staff and donors enjoyed a very delicious lunch of fresh garden salad, spaghetti and BBQ ribs from Madre's favorite restaurant, Cocina de Ana's.

Our day was highlighted with Nalleli (whose thank you letter to you is on the cover page of this annual report) playing her guitar and singing for us. Nalleli also prepare and spoke a very heartfelt thank you - in English - to all donors - for all you provide for her and the 29 other

youngsters who live at the orphanage. Nalleli explained they have food every day thanks to Tres Islas donors and she is attending college to become an English teacher, thanks to Tres Islas donors. She shared with us the goals of Jesus Alberto, who wants to become a nutritionist and Aida, who wants to become a chef. Nalleli said that thanks to Tres Islas donations that support the educational classes and educational supplies fund, she and the other youngsters are able to go to school, college and trade school. She asked that we all please continue our support because we give all the children the gift of hope for a bright future.

### **FloreSer**

FloreSer is Mazatlan's newest orphanage and was the first of its kind in Mexico – devoted to young girls and teenage girls who've been rescued from being forced into prostitution, sexually abused in their homes and/or physically abused. Cristina Pena, president of Orfanatorio Mazatlan, is the founder and vice-president of FloreSer. Gaby Perez is FloreSer's president. Translated, the name FloreSer means "to bloom or to blossom."

This year, thanks to Tres Islas donations, the construction of the psychological, spiritual and reconciliation room – a located in the north building on the orphanage compound – where the girls will go to address the healing process they need – has been completed. Located below the sewing center Tres Islas donations completed last year, the psychological, spiritual and reconciliation room is be a welcomed addition to the girls' lives.

During Spring Mission Week 2012 donors:

- Painted the psychological, spiritual and reconciliation room and spruced it up for use.
- Painted the dining room, kitchen and office.
- Planted tropical shrubs and trees in the backyard garden.
- Painted murals on the courtyard wall and walls of the outer restrooms – again thanks to Sean, Janet and BeeBee from New Mexico for creating and painting these magnificent murals – there are not enough words to do the murals at FloreSer and Hogar San Pablo justice for the beauty they have brought to the orphanages. Thank you.
- Restocked the receiving room bins for the coming year.
- Presented the girls with their new blender, toaster and clothes dryer purchased by Tres Islas donations.

The yummy lunch at FloreSer was sponsored by Floyd, Donna and Val, from Canada, who prepared delicious sandwiches, fruit plates and yummy desserts that were enjoyed by the girls, caregivers and donors.

After lunch, we listened to a presentation from the board of directors regarding the purpose of reconciliation and healing program and were presented a beautiful plaque honoring Tres Islas donors for the significant role Tres Islas donors have played in helping establish FloreSer and for the positive difference donors and your donations have made in the lives of the girls.

## 🚩 Upcoming and On-going Needs at the Orphanages

In addition to weekly food and education costs, the following 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 them on your donation form. Thank you in advance, for your meaningful support.

### ➤ Restocking the Receiving Rooms at all Orphanages

An annual, on-going need is to keep the receiving rooms at all five 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.

🚩 To restock each orphanage's receiving room every 6 months costs between \$350.00 - \$400.00.

## Orfanatorio Mazatlan

### ➤ Little Luciana

The last five years, we've shared with you the needs of adorable Little Luciana who was born with facial and left ear deformities.

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

During gestation, the disorder twisted Luciana's facial alignment and at birth resulted in - impeded - her ability to clearly speak, properly chew (and ultimately properly digest) her food.

Thanks to your support, the Fund was able to send Luciana (who is now 8 years old) to Casa Azul in Monterrey, Mexico - the only medical clinic in Mexico which treats this type of defect.

Doctors took an impression of Luciana's mouth and a device that looks much like a ball was placed in Luciana's mouth which she wore 24-hours a day, with the exception of when she ate. The device, used to straighten Luciana's jaw with the rest of her face, was adjusted every four months. The cost of creating and fitting new device was \$150.00 U.S. dollars. For this reason, each quarter Luciana and her caregiver traveled to Monterrey - so she could be measured for a new device, allow 24-hours to create and mold it and then fit it into her mouth.

Since receiving her treatments, orphanage caregivers are able to understand Luciana's words and she's correctly able to chew her food.

While her medical treatment by doctors is free, Luciana and one of the orphanage caregivers, Rafaela, who is the director of day-to-day administration, 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.

The medical device improved her defect and began the alignment. Because she succeeded so quickly, she became a candidate to have one of her ribs removed and implanted into her jaw that will hopefully enable her jaw to properly begin normally growing on its own.

In the summer of 2011, when Luciana's condition was optimum for her surgery, Tres Islas donations provided the funds needed and, thanks to you, Tres Islas donors, Luciana and Rafaela made the trip to Monterey right on time, as scheduled!

While the surgeons kindly donated their skills for free, the anesthetic and related operating room supplies were not able to be provided. For those costs, Tres Islas paid \$3,100.00. The total cost of the trip - including the anesthetic and related operating room supplies and first follow-up visit one month later, came to \$7,770.59.

Prior to her surgery, doctors drew Luciana's blood to run the usual post-op tests. One test they performed was to learn the status of her vitamin and mineral levels - expecting that she would need to take vitamin and mineral supplements prior to her surgery.

To doctors' surprise, Luciana's blood work showed her vitamin and mineral levels were fine - and no supplements were needed! This is a testimony to the quality of food your donations purchase for the children in the orphanages - so thank you, once again, Tres Islas donors, for all you do for the children!

Luciana's surgery was a success and Luciana and Rafaela need to make follow-up doctor visits to Monterrey to monitor her progress every few months.

She was also seen by a plastic surgeon, who 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.

Your continued donations to help Luciana for her upcoming doctor visits and for her future surgery would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your prayers, your donations, your kindnesses and concern for this precious little girl who has a wonderful future - thanks in very large part - to each and every one of you. Thank you!

✚ **The cost for Luciana's doctor visits every three months averages \$900.00.**

➤ **Medicine**

There are five Orfanatorio Mazatlan children who must take medicine every day - two suffer from epilepsy. We are seeking a donor - or donors - who would like to sponsor the purchase of the children's prescribed monthly medicine on an on-going basis. Please contact us if you're interested.

✚ **The cost of the monthly medicine is \$132.18 - or, \$1,586.14 per year.**

➤ **Construction Needs**

- ✓ Clothes dryer: \$569.67
- ✓ Repair/waterproof and seal leak in kitchen and dining room ceilings: \$772.44
- ✓ Repair walls from humidity damage in main locker room: \$111.62
- ✓ New closets from girls' bedroom: \$1,516.55
- ✓ Replace kitchen pantry: \$625.10
- ✓ Repair, paint tables/chairs in children's dining room: \$1,735.95

✚ **Total Orfanatorio Mazatlan construction needs is \$5,331.33.**



## Salvation Army Children's Home

### ➤ Dance Classes and Regional Costumes

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 \$45.00 per week September through the second week in December. 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 visitors to "the Pearl of the Pacific" - and interacting with them after the dances - is invaluable.

If you'd like to sponsor one week - or as many weeks' dance lessons as you'd like - please feel welcome! - and indicate your donation is for the "Salvation Army Children's Home dance lessons" on your donation form.

✚ **The cost for the children's annual, folkloric dance lessons is approximately \$800.00.**

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

#### ➤ Additional food

There are 10 new boys at the orphanage - for a total of 35 youngsters. Padre Horacio has asked if Tres Islas would be able to purchase additional food each week.

✚ **The cost for additional food would be \$50.00 each week - for a total of \$2,600.00 per year.**

#### Construction Needs

When it rains, water pours into the chapel because the original windows/original window construction has wide-gaps between the windows and their frames. Repairing/replacing the windows, as needed, would be a huge help and preserve the chapel, the place where the boys worship and have a quiet place to think, reflect and pray.

✚ **The cost to repair/replace the windows/window frames is \$5,505.77.**

## Ciudad de los Ninos Orphanage

### ➤ Education needs

#### Nalleli's and Aida's College Needs

As you read on the first page of this year's annual report from Ciudad youngster Nalleli, has begun college. She continues to live at Ciudad while she attends college.

Having the privilege of knowing Nalleli for 14 years, and knowing the exceptional student and young lady she is, we couldn't make a finer recommendation to you for your support. Professor Gabino Covarrubias, who is one of Nalleli's English professors, says, "Tres Islas donors are getting their monies' worth supporting Nalleli's education. She is one of my star pupils and she will one day soon become an excellent English teacher!"

Aida, who has begun studying to be a chef, is very sincere about her studies, too. She dreams of being a top-notch chef and is studying very, very diligently.

If you're interested in supporting Nalleli's and or Aida's college educations, please let us know. As in every area, we'll atone to you for every cost and keep you updated on her college life and studies.

✚ **The estimated cost for Nalleli's and Aida's annual college expenses are \$2,000.00 - \$3,000.00.**

#### Computer Classroom

Now that the computer classroom has been set up, Madre Velia has given us the estimate for blackout curtains for the classroom that will repel heat – a much-needed necessity to protect the integrity of Tres Islas' computer purchases. If you'd like to sponsor the classroom curtains, please let us know.

✚ **The cost for the vertical blinds for the computer classroom is \$579.63.**

### ➤ Tractors

Ciudad and the Salvation Army Children's Home could both use a heavy-duty lawn tractor, which they would share, to mow down the weeds that grow every year. This would be a huge help to ward-off fire danger and it would also give donors who visit Mazatlan in addition to Spring Mission Weeks something valuable to do. Keeping the weeds/grass mowed would be a significant help and improvement to each orphanage. Ultimately, we'd like to purchase a small farm tractor with a front-end bucket, bush-hog mower and tiller so they could have a garden at Ciudad and the Salvation Army Children's Home. Or, perhaps someone reading this report will know a business that would be interested in donated any of these needed machines.

✚ **The cost for a lawn tractor would be approximately \$4,500.00.**

## FloreSer

### ➤ Table Service

Since the inception of FloreSer, the girls have been eating off of donated table service. None of it matches, most is chipped and not the right size for family-style meals. We'd like to purchase melamine table service plus silverware so the girls could have decent table service and silverware to eat with. Also, having decent, everyday supplies, gives them confidence and makes them feel important.

🗇 **The cost for a 20-piece place setting of table service and silverware is \$167.82.**

### ➤ Construction Needs

- Repair non-working ceiling fans: \$65.43
- Install shower head, faucet in sink plus hoses bathroom 1: \$34.64
- Install shower head, faucet in sink plus hoses bathroom 2: \$34.64
- Install shower head, faucet in sink plus hoses bathroom 3: \$80.83
- Install door latches in each of the above bathrooms: \$28.87
- Change-out bathroom needs (toilet, shower) bedroom 4: \$60.05
- Install security lock on new balcony security door (door paid for): \$11.55
- Install clothesline on balcony: \$42.34
- Install new kitchen faucet, including hoses: \$59.89
- Install clothesline on first floor (less labor-intense than on balcony): \$11.55

🗇 **Total cost for all the above FloreSer needs is \$597.61.**

### **Tres Islas Orphanage Fund's Spring Mission Week April 5<sup>th</sup> - April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

We accomplished a great deal during Spring Mission Week 2012 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 5<sup>th</sup> - April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013. We encourage volunteers to arrive Friday, April 5<sup>th</sup>, as we'll start orphanage improvements and activities at one of the orphanages Saturday, April 6<sup>th</sup>.

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 5<sup>th</sup> - April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013, 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**

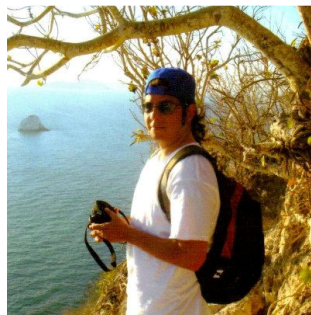
The escrow account serves as the main depository account for the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund. Each donation is deposited in the Fund’s escrow account. From there, donations earmarked for other accounts are transferred into those accounts.

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)**



**Christopher Jemio**

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 pleased 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.

### **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 Geraths**

**April 15, 1934 - February 4, 2010**

"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 first 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. She also organized and coordinated the first "adopt" a child for Christmas program - at Orfanatorio Mazatlan - which for years she lovingly oversaw - in conjunction with the children's Christmas dinner.

Donations to Gloria's Kitchen will allow the purchase of an additional \$50.00 per week of fresh fruits and vegetables for each of the orphanages.

We invite you to please continue the positive impact Gloria's life had on the children by carrying on her goal of providing them nourishing food each week through donations to "Gloria's Kitchen."

### **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 for food 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're budgeting \$150.00 per week because there are 35 boys there now. We're budgeting \$125.00 per week for FloreSer, which currently has 13 girls.

**On average, how much have we budgeted for each child's food in the coming year?**

**Here's the math:**

- The total food budget for all five orphanages = \$45,500.00.
- \$45,500.00 divided by the 126 children in all five orphanage = \$361.11 per child per year.
- \$361.11 per child per year divided by 52 weeks per year = \$6.94 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:**

<b><u>Item</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>
Food	\$45,500.00
Christmas dinners	\$ 1,150.00
School supplies	\$ 3,500.00
School shoes	\$ 3,050.00
School uniforms	\$ 4,600.00
School backpacks	\$ 1,550.00
Education (Classes)	\$ 7,800.00
Medical	\$ 6,210.00
<b>Total for <u>all five</u> orphanages</b>	<b>\$73,360.00</b>

Total projected expenditures for all five orphanages for the coming year, including construction, appliances and Luciana's medical assistance, is \$96,010.00.

Please refer to the attached summary spreadsheet for itemizations of expenditures at each orphanage for this past year, projected expenditures for the coming year and a comparison with expenditures during the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

Dividing the projected \$96,010.00 for the coming year by the 126 children present in the five orphanages at this time, amounts to \$761.98, or \$2.09 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, safe and quality life for an entire year!

This past year's expenditures of \$117,804.34 divided by the then 114 children in the five orphanages at that time equaled \$1,033.37 annually or \$2.83 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 5<sup>th</sup> – April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 (arriving April 5<sup>th</sup>). 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 *2012 Year in Review* presentation on enclosed compact disk was made with *Windows Live Movie Maker* software for viewing on your computer. If you need the presentation in a different format (DVD 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 feel welcomed to share the disk with family, friends and others – such as your church and organizations with whom you’re affiliated. The presentation will also be available for viewing online at our webpage.

### **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, uniforms, backpacks, shoes and many of the construction projects for all five orphanages continues 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.

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 25 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 the orphanages.

Because of Fella’s 25 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 food, 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 “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. Fella 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 "lightning rods" - meaning, when we need advice, they're 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.

The Fund has been blest for over 16 years to have the loving presence of Janet and Bob Schmitt and we can't 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 and received Tres Islas' "Guardian Angel Award" in 2012.

### **Cole Philipp, Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Volunteer of the Year 2012**

How does one pay adequate tribute to a 14-year old boy who seemingly appears out of nowhere - like an angel - works tirelessly over two years while attending school full-time - and because of his Herculean fundraising efforts donates \$36,635.06 to help children - most whom he's never met - two countries away from where he lives?

While there aren't enough words to thank Cole Philipp, his mom, Stefanie, dad, Jeff, brother, Liam, grandmother, Mem, school teacher Jodie - who inspired the idea in him, family members, classmates, friends, members of Canada's parliament and businesses, the results that will come to fruition as a result of Cole and his efforts will stand as a monument to his integrity, generosity, dedication and kindness to others less fortunate than he.

Because of all Cole has done - and represents to the words "charity" "selflessness" "donation" and "volunteerism" - we were all proud and humbled to present Cole Tres Islas Orphanage Fund's 2012 Volunteer of the Year award.

Presented to Cole at Orfanatorio Mazatlan on April 19, 2012 by last year's recipient, Teresa Jemio, who shared with Cole the important difference one life can make - no matter a person's age and no matter how far they may live - from those in need

We salute you, Cole Phillip: your efforts help better the lives of many children; your example helps better us all.



**Cole Philipp, of Canada’s Northwest Territories, presents \$36,635.06 from his fund raising to Tres Islas, then cuts the ribbon for the 33 lockers, one of the many benefits received by the orphanages.**

+ + +

The award was first presented to all Tres Islas donors by Cristina Pena and the board of directors of Orfanatorio Mazatlan for over 20 years of service to that orphanage. The award has since become a “traveling award” which is awarded to a Tres Islas donor or donors each year for the exceptional difference they’ve made for children residing in the orphanages.

The first Volunteer of the Year recipients, in 2007, were Helen and Bill from Michigan and Bucerias, Nayarit, Mexico who have loyally helped the children for 15 years.

Gaudelia “Fella” Cruz Hernandez was the recipient in 2008; Lena Brown, 2009; Michael J. Veselik and Mazatlan’s *Pacific Pearl* Newsmagazine 2010, Teresa and Christopher Jemio “The Christopher Fund” 2011.

+ + +

### **Passages**

Each and every donor is a very dear friend in varying and vast ways. The Tres Islas Orphanage Fund could not do all 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 all grieve and morn for the loss of our loved ones.

William E. "Bill" Chase, Jr.  
1933 - 2012



You won't see photos of Bill Chase standing around or rarely sitting – because Bill was constantly working on a project to help others and was always making sure everyone and everything was well taken care of. And so, after Bill's lovely and loving wife of 57 years, Helen, let us know the sad, sad news of Bill's sudden passing September 3<sup>rd</sup>, we began looking for a photo of Bill that best-described his energy, dedication to good work and love of others. The first thing we noticed was the only photos of Bill were those of him helping others – like the photo above – taken of Bill feeding Mazatlan's poor who live on the city dump and eke out an existence.

And in each photo we came across, along with Bill laboring in love on behalf of someone else – he was always smiling. Smiling that great big, grandiose smile, that was part of his trademark of benevolence.

Bill was the eternal "doer." He founded Warren Pattern Makers Association Union, founded Golden Hawk Golf Club and Banquet Hall and was former owner of Wolverine Products.

After Bill's "retirement," he and Helen bought a piece of property on the highest hill in Bucerias, Mexico, where they built a beautiful winter retreat and then began helping locals establish businesses.

Bill enjoyed supporting the orphanages through Tres Islas, volunteering on Spring Mission Weeks and learning how he and Helen could continually help.

A "typical" Bill phrase was, "Let's 'cut to the Chase'" he'd quip with his famous grin crossing his face at the pun he'd just made, "What do you need, what will it take to help the kids?"

Because of their compassionate, loyal support to Tres Islas and the children, Bill and Helen were the first recipients of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Volunteer of Year Award in 2007.

In addition to his devoted wife Helen, Bill is survived by his children, Sheryl, Susan, Tim, Dave and Matt, 14 grandchildren, his brother Chuck, and many children in the orphanages who greatly-benefitted from his and Helen's donations and genuine caring.

We're sure when Bill reached Heaven on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, true to his kind, benevolent style – the first words that most-likely crossed his lips, were, "Hi, I'm Bill. Let's 'cut to the Chase' – may I help you with a project up here?"

We love, miss and honor your life, Bill. You made everywhere a better place because you were there. . .

## A Tres Islas 'tip of the hat' to the Following Businesses. . .

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

When you're away from Mazatlan, please be sure and read Mazatlan's best news magazine, Mazatlan's *Pacific Pearl*, by going online to [www.pacificpearl.com](http://www.pacificpearl.com). When you're in Mazatlan, pick up a copy – it's free! And it's Mazatlan's most helpful guide!

For 20 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.

### **Sean Harkness**

A very special "Thank you!" to guitarist and song-writer Sean Harkness for donating the use of his wonderful music on the *Year in Review 2012* photo presentation. Please visit Sean's webpage at <http://seanharkness.com>. We're sure you'll appreciate and want to make part of your musical collection the works of this very talented and kind-hearted gentleman.

### **KPNW 11.20 AM Radio - Oregon**

Radio talk show hosts Bill Lundun and Robb Holloway kindly invite us from time-to-time to join them for on their morning radio program *The Wake-up Call*. Reaching homes and businesses throughout Oregon's Central Willamette Valley, we're grateful to Bill and Robb for graciously inviting us to share Tres Islas goodness and needs with their listeners "loud and clear" across Oregon's airwaves.

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 may visit EPUERTO at [www.epuerto.us](http://www.epuerto.us).
- **Staples** in Roseburg, Oregon for donating the paper on which you read this annual report.

- **InPrint** 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 each of you, the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund is in its 26<sup>th</sup> 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 of your 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*

Donelle Manton, Founder

*Tom*

Tom Manton, Vice-President



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

Yahoo, Folks!