



April 2020 Newsletter

Tres Islas Orphanage Fund



Dear Donors,

We hope our Spring Newsletter finds you all safe and well.

At this unique time in our world with the outbreak of the Covid-19 Pandemic, the TIOF board sends [love, light, courage and hope](#) to you and your loved ones.

In the midst of this crazy time when the news is full of concerning statistics, there is a bright light found in the many acts of kindness being performed. [At this time, a little help can go a long way.](#) In this newsletter we hope you can see and feel the many small and simple actions from our donors and caregivers in hopes of protecting the children and themselves during these uncertain times.

We thank you for your continued connection with TIOF. Even though the world is slowing down, we are reminded even more that our efforts in helping to provide for the children have and are making a difference!

TIOF cherishes our relationship with each of you, our donors, our TIOF Family. We send [virtual love and hugs](#) to every one of you!

Michelle



Spring Volunteer Week

Due to COVID 19, Spring Volunteer Week was not able to achieve the planned projects at each of the homes. Salvation Army Children's Home and Refugio cancelled our scheduled times with them because of illnesses in the homes.

We began the week with a "Welcome" dinner on March 14th with 13 volunteers in attendance: Jim and Holly Bier, Guillermo Prado and friend Helen, Jan and Jennifer Christensen, Carmen and Rob Osborne, Gaudelia Cruz, Donna and Floyd Fausak, and Terry and Connie Montanye. Chris Christensen joined the group on Monday.

We plunged forward and were able to work 2 days. We painted wrought iron railing at FloreSer and painted the main outside wall of Orphanatorio Mazatlán. Both of the projects were huge improvements. By Wednesday we had decided to cancel the remainder of the week. The news about the virus was becoming more and more urgent and some of us were ready to return to the USA.

We also authorized the purchase of needed electrical wiring for the lights at Hogar San Pablo to be installed. The lights were purchased last year. Some of these lights will be installed at the basketball court so the boys can play at night.

Many thanks go to Jim Bier and Guillermo Prado for organizing SPRING VOLUNTEER WEEK. Also many thanks to the volunteers who worked so hard on those 2 days. Their time was appreciated by all. We were sorry that we were not able to complete all of the projects.

Spring Volunteer Week

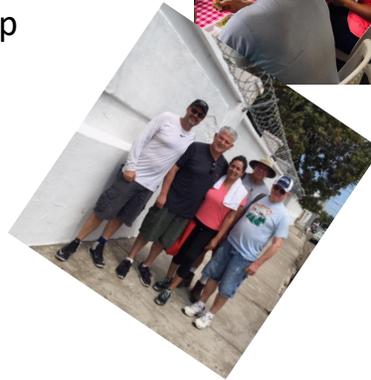
FloreSer



Orphanatorio
Mazatlán



The group



Thoughts on a missed Spring Volunteer Week

Who would have thought when we were planning to go to Mazatlán for another Spring Volunteer Week that the world would be in such chaos as the time drew near. The Corona Virus Pandemic-caused a number of us who have faithfully attended to reconsider. Age was a major factor as many of our volunteers are in the highest risk group. Others wanted to make sure they were able to get home for family events. As the disease progressed we began to worry about those volunteers who had been able to attend. We were happy to know that they were able to get home safely or shelter in place there in Mazatlán. Some of us are not sure that in another year we will be able to attend. We missed the companionship of our fellow volunteers and the joy of interaction with the children. Hopefully, we will be able to participate next year.

We especially are thankful that some were able to attend and do some work. We are also very happy that they are safely home. **Thank-you volunteers!**

Phyllis Allen



Michelle reached out to the orphanages to see how they are meeting the challenges facing them with the Coronavirus pandemic. Here are some of their answers:

FloreSer

Hello!

We are so grateful for your concern to us. For now, all our girls and caregivers are ok. We give thanks to God no one is sick. We don't need anything for now. We also hope that you are well.

I take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of the board of trustees, managers and girls from Floreser for your weekly donation in pantry and support in work at home, by painting the railings of the stairs in days gone by.

just as you ask God to protect us, doing our part also by following prevention protocols,

Refugio San Pablo

A week ago we "locked down" Refugio. When the schools closed down we offered the boys who had "homes" or families the option of staying with us, or going home. However they may not do both, no back and forth. 11 boys stayed at Refugio. Beremundo, his wife and kids, as well as our psychologist, Oscar, have all moved in to the Refugio - well above the call of duty so we are MOST grateful. It's not easy to be locked up with 11 impatient, hormonal teenagers, and it's definitely going to get harder and harder as the weeks drag on! We sent the rest of our staff home and they are still receiving full pay. Schools are closed until April 20 at this point, but I would bet anything that they will not reopen this school year. The teachers are assigning online homework assignments but no classes. The boys are all healthy at the moment, thank goodness.

We think the most immediate needs are being taken care of at this stage, thank you for your concern. We are always so grateful for the support of Tres Islas and it's reassuring to know that we can consistently count on you. It means a great deal, thank you. We have you and all the donors in our prayers as well. This will no doubt be a very long and challenging period for everyone.

With our sincere thanks

Guy and Nicola

Melinda Gebraad from The Gems of Mazatlán reported for Salvation Army Home and Ciudad de los Niños:

Salvation Army: - With schools being closed, it was decided that the quantity of children needed to be minimized to reduce staffing needs and chance of transmission Many of the kids have gone to a family member or a temporary foster care situation, and the gates to the kids home have been locked. All the kids are doing their homework on line, which is being administered by Adriana (she says her phone is going bezerk!) Their cupboards are full and Back 2 Back is also standing by to deliver food and supplies when needed.

Ciudad de los Niños: - All I know here, is that nuns have also locked the front gate and are not allowing anyone on their property.

Orphanatorio Mazatlán

We're fine and healthy at the Orfanatorio de Mazatlán. I want to ask if it's possible to buy groceries and cleaning items (toilet paper, cloro, pinol,etc) this Month.????

What You Can Do To Help!

-Please keep your donations coming. We are making sure that each orphanage is getting the groceries and supplies that they need.

-If you are ordering more online items, please consider signing up for smile.amazon.com. A percentage of your purchases can be designated to go to Tres Islas.

-Donations may be made with [PayPal](https://www.paypal.com) on our website or by [check](#) to

PO Box 3005, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816