



April 2021 Newsletter

Tres Islas Orphanage Fund



SPRING has ARRIVED!

The Season of new life & new beginnings.
A sense of optimism, renewal & hopefulness.

In February and March, several of our board members traveled to our beloved Mazatlán. It felt good to be back to our “pearl of the pacific.” To feel the warmth of its sun, the sandy beaches, the blue sky and the friendly people. Finally, time again to enjoy the beautiful and charming city, albeit in a different way than the past....wearing masks, temperature checks and social distancing. Our board members were able to visit the children’s homes to check with the directors for any specific needs and to attend the every other week grocery shopping trips where fresh food is purchased for the children. Tres Islas is indeed grateful for your continued support that helps feed, clothe, educate and shelter these precious children. Read on to see more of what your donations are providing for!

With Heartfelt Thanks,
Michelle



Grocery Shopping



Ciudad
De Los Niños



FloreSer



Refugio
Mazatlán



Orfanatorio
Mazatlán



Salvation Army
Children's Home



Hogar San Pablo

When Tres Islas Orphanage Fund was started over 30 years ago, the primary mission was to provide nutritious food to the children and their caregivers. That has remained the main goal since that time.

Tres Islas Orphanage Fund provides food for approximately 135 children and their caregivers living at 6 homes each week at a cost of a little over \$5,000/month. The allotted amount for each home is determined by the number being served.

Before COVID, shopping was done weekly. Since COVID it was scaled back to every two weeks for more protection of everyone.

It is because of your generous donations that TIOF is able to feed the children.

Thank you for your faithfulness!

News From the Orphanages & Other Information

FloreSer

A donor has given \$2600 to FloreSer to provide an English tutor 2 days a week for this coming year. This tutoring will begin in April.



Increase in Children

Orfanitorio Mazatlán and Ciudad de los Niños have had an increase in children with both now being at 20. Their grocery allowances have been evaluated and adjusted to meet their needs.



Orfanatorio Mazatlan

Some air conditioning in group areas and some solar panels have been installed at Orfanatorio Mazatlán. This was made possible by a generous donor. This will make it more comfortable in the areas where the girls study and sleep.



Computers Needed

Due to the necessity of attending school online, the orphanages-in particular Hogar San Pablo-are in need of computers. Donations for this specific purpose would be welcome.



We are receiving about \$35 a quarter from Amazon Smile. If you are an Amazon Shopper, it is very easy to designate a charity through [amazon smile](https://www.amazon.com/amazonsmile).

Other than turning on **AmazonSmile** in your account settings and choosing a charity, the experience of shopping through **AmazonSmile** is the same as shopping on **Amazon** the regular way. **You**'ll see the same prices, the same products and the same expedited shipping options. If you are a Prime member, that will remain the same.

Spring Volunteer Week

We are very hopeful that by later this year or spring next year, the pandemic will be under control and we will be able to again meet in Mazatlán for a wonderful volunteer week. In the meantime, we can be evaluating our past experiences in relation to changes that might be made.

-Is March the best time of year? Earlier? Later? Fall? Winter?

-Help with accommodations?

-What do you enjoy doing or have the talents to do?

[Please let us know if you have suggestions!](#)

For those donors who have never attended:

This week has become for those who go a "workcation". For most of us it became a fulfillment of a desire to do more than just visit beautiful Mazatlán and be served by its citizens. We wanted to give back in some way. We still enjoy the beaches, hotels and restaurants during the week; but we donate 1/2 of each day or several days to helping at the children's homes.

TIOF Donors Share

On the next 2 pages are stories from donor/volunteers who have made Tres Islas a part of their lives and how it enriched their lives. Not all of you faithful donors will be able to make this commitment nor would we be able to serve the children's homes in the manner that we do without the donations that all of you make. **Thank you!**

Laura Morrow
Saratoga, Wyoming

The Founder of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund, Donelle Manton, and I were childhood friends – since we were 11, when we were cast as angels in the nativity scene Christmas program at the Assembly of God Church in Cheyenne, Wyoming. We've remained Sisters-by-Heart for decades.

My journey with Tres Islas began in May 2004 when I decided I wanted to do something special for my birthday. I phoned Donelle to ask if there was anything I could do to help her with the orphanages Tres Islas supports? She replied, "Of course! We just took on Father Tovar's Home for Boys – Hogar San Pablo – and need HELP." Soon after, about nine of us, including Donelle arrived in Mazatlán. This was the start of Tres Islas' annual Spring Mission Weeks 17 years ago in May.

I was able to raise around \$3,000 + dollars by doing fund raisers to purchase a new and much-needed, refrigerator, hot water heater, plus catch a 140-pound Marlin off the shore of Mazatlán to feed the boys, as well as cleaning the kitchen, bathrooms and other orphanage areas. The time we all shared was priceless and changed all of our lives forever.

I continued going on Spring Mission Weeks until my clothing and gallery business grew to the point I wasn't able to get away. I'm a fashion designer, so my passion with the girls at FloreSer – the fifth home Tres Islas began to serve – was spontaneous.

My spouse and I spent a winter in Mazatlán during which we helped organize gifts and activities for the children in the orphanages. The next year, 2011, I devoted three months working at FloreSer. It was bit of a struggle at first because I spoke very little Spanish and the girls at FloreSer didn't speak English – except for one. Donelle and I worked together over the phone coordinating the sewing room's construction and preparations.

My wonderful neighbors and business associates in the Saratoga, Wyoming community and I raised money to buy sewing machines, and all the furnishings and materials for the center. Additionally, some Canadian ladies who'd been helping and working with the girls, donated home sewing machines.

When we finally had the sewing center up and running, the girls and I had become so close. We learned to communicate with our eyes, gestures – and Google translate!

Two of the older girls had sewing project assignments from their school and came to me for help! They had to design and produce a garment. It was a wonderful experience. And, to help them feel like they were contributing to FloreSer, I had them all make quilts and pillows for their bedrooms after we had the rooms painted just for them.

There are no words to say how this has changed my life. The love, energy and success of the girls I worked with says it all. I still keep in touch with about five of them through Facebook; and have watched them grow-up and have families of their own.

I sent one a note saying how happy I was for her life and she wrote back, "I would not be here if it wasn't for you."



**Floyd and Donna Fausak
Evansburgh, Alberta**

We have been involved with TIOF for 14 years and it has been an absolute joy. It began when we started vacationing in Mazatlán. We wanted to give back to this Mexican city that had provided so much fun, culture and relaxation for our family. I googled "missions in Mazatlán" and Tres Islas popped up. I emailed Donelle who was the founder and contact person. She warmly responded and invited us to a spring mission. During that mission we worked at 5 different orphanages/homes and met people of like mind and heart. We were sold and have attended all the spring missions held annually ever since with the exception of 2 (Being on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land and now Covid)

Over the years we have felt very comfortable to bring our children, other friends and family to join us on mission. We knew they would be welcomed with open arms and would be shown appreciation for the work done. We have been blessed to have made lifelong dear friends that have come to visit us in Canada and that we have visited in Mazatlán and the US! The people within TIOF have taught us so many things. We have learnt patience and humility.....To patiently wait to hear what the homes would like us to do, not to suggest anything because they will politely agree and not say what is most needed.. We have humbly learnt that what works most effectively and efficiently at home is most often not the best way to do it in Mazatlán. When we are baffled or don't understand why something is done the way it is we now say "There is a perfectly good reason. we just don't know the reason quite yet!"

By being involved with TIOF we have gotten to know the children in the homes and their caregivers. We have realized that these beautiful children of Mazatlán are very happy, loved and well taken care of. We know that what we are doing is truly making a difference. There is nothing more treasured than realizing that these precious souls are not going to bed hungry because of TIOF. The caregivers we have gotten to know have shown us the true definition of "selfless acts of love" many of whom dedicate their lives to the children they care for.

We know we are better people because of TIOF. The virtues and attitudes we show are a reflection of the friends we have made here and we will be forever grateful!

Kindest Regards
Donna and Floyd Fausak

