

**Tres Islas Orphanage Fund
Special Edition Newsletter**

August, 2022



August 2022 marks the 35th Anniversary of Tres Islas Orphanage Fund!

It began as a one-person effort to help orphaned children in Mazatlán.

Little did Donelle Manton know thirty-five years ago how many lives her efforts would impact because of her vision, spirit and generosity.

Our work today remains committed to that founding vision.

Reaching the thirty-five-year mark
is a testament to our generous and enduring donors and volunteers.

Here's to the next thirty-five years together!

There is a special message from Donelle and Tom Manton at the close of this newsletter. As you read it, we think you'll be in awe with the evolution of our great organization; and, we hope you'll continue to be inspired to help us carry on this meaningful mission.



Traditions During Tres Islas' Spring Mission Weeks

(Right) Circle of Prayer with the children and volunteers

(Left) Fun times at each orphanage with the children



Message from Refugio Mazatlán

Thank you Tres Islas Board - and thank you Tres Islas donors, for the generous contribution towards the tuition costs at Refugio Mazatlan. I hope you know how much we appreciate your kindness and what a difference this makes! (Tres Islas recently donated \$6000 for tuition so the boys can receive a quality education. Tres Islas still provides a grocery allowance every 2 weeks.)

Our latest "thank you" slideshow is below.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/m2h9aHPw6Y87FsAZ8>

Please use the link below for our latest news.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/y3y3u9qS6DwanGF27>

We look forward to seeing you down here again soon.
~ Nicola & Guy

Be sure to take the time to watch these two slide shows! They both show what a great preparation for a productive life the boys at Refugio are receiving.



The schools are opening at the end of August. With the help of Gaudelia Cruz Hernandez, the homes are already shopping for the school supplies, uniforms and shoes that Tres Islas provides. Since school was not in person last year supplies, especially uniform purchases, were limited — so there is a greater demand this year. Children do seem to grow!

When you read Donelle's message, you will understand how important this has been to Tres Islas in making the children feel accepted. Your donations truly help.

Additional Funding for Girls

Tres Islas received additional funds from a donor who specified their donations be used to further opportunities for girls residing in Orfanatorio Mazatlán, Flore Ser, Ciudad de los Ninos and Salvation Army Children's Home. The girls have begun to receive vocational counseling and after consulting with the directors of the homes, we're looking into possibilities for:

A social worker

Scholarships for advanced education/training

Quinceañeras (special celebration for age 15)

Opportunities to expand their social experiences

A note from the treasurer:

A huge **THANK YOU** to all of our generous donors for your continued support. Tres Islas feels blessed to be able to carry out the mission set forth 35 years ago because of your charitable giving.

It is **not too late** for you to become treasurer of Tres Islas Orphanage Fund. Please send your letter of interest or questions to one of the board members or to
Connie Montanye –tivconnieterry46@gmail.com –

SOON!!

A volunteer job with many personal rewards!



HISTORY of TRES ISLAS ORPHANAGE FUND

1987 Orfanatorio Mazatlán

1998 Salvation Army, part-time; 2003 full -time

2003 Hogar San Pablo, part-time; 2005 full-time

2006 Ciudad de los Niños

2009 FloreSer 2017 Refugio



**A Tres Islas 35th Anniversary Celebratory Message and Thank You
From Donelle and Tom Manton
Founders, Tres Islas Orphanage Fund**

Hello and Warmest Greetings Tres Islas Donors,

This month, as the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund celebrates its 35th year helping youngsters who live in Mazatlán's orphanages, we're writing to celebrate with you and thank you for your continued support of the children and orphanages these past 34 years.

To continually say, "Yes!" to helping – and ultimately growing Tres Islas to now helping youngsters in six orphanages – is a very special, blessed, life's endeavor and accomplishment – thanks to each and all of you, and many who participated the last 35years, who are now in Heaven. . .

When you think of Tres Islas. . .

Of course, the first thought that comes to all of our minds is of the children who need help; and, their devoted caregivers who are faithfully and lovingly by their sides nurturing them throughout each day and night.



Thanks to all of you through Tres Islas, the children have a continued financial stability that they and their caregivers can count on and look forward to uplifting, improving and sustaining their lives and their homes, the orphanages.

When you think of Tres Islas. . .

Please also think of Tres Islas Facilitator, Gaudelia Cruz Hernandez, who resides in Mazatlán, and who has faithfully and greatly participated in Tres Islas from the beginning 35 years ago this month when she took Donelle to Orfanatorio Mazatlán, the first orphanage Tres Islas began to help. Gaudelia has been helping ever since and is the constant "right arm" coordinator and pulse of each good deed and act of kindness for the children on behalf of Tres Islas.

Thanks to Gaudelia, the children's needs are fulfilled through coordinating purchases between Tres Islas' board of directors and the orphanage caregivers. Then, she transfers the proper documentation to the Tres Islas board of directors to relay and verify to all of you. All of this has steadfastly been accomplished for over three decades and continues to be the Golden Rule standard for charitable accounting.

Thank you, Gaudelia, for your 35 years of faithful and loyal assistance – and, for your continued help. . .you are Tres Islas' Rock of Gibraltar. . .



When you think of Tres Islas. . .

Please also think of Michael J. “Mike” Veselik, founder, editor and publisher of Mazatlán’s *Pacific Pearl* newspaper. For 30 years, beginning with its first issue September 1, 1992, the *Pacific Pearl* has brought Mazatlán to the attention to the world – not only as a tourist destination and excellent place to live, but also – and most importantly for so many – as a place where opportunities to help others – from children in orphanages, to animals, to preserving the environment and history and more – greatly exist.

In the mid-1990s, Mike learned about the endeavors of the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund and offered to provide a full-page story in the *Pacific Pearl* about Tres Islas’ endeavors. Because February is the busiest month for tourists – who would be picking-up a copy of the *Pacific Pearl* to read – and as a result could learn about Tres Islas and the opportunity to help, Mike suggested February was the ideal month for the story. Additionally, Mike offered to Tres Islas to place an ad in the *Pacific Pearl* each month and follow-up articles in several issues of the *Pacific Pearl* in the years thereafter.

That first story jump-started and catapulted Tres Islas to the attention of Mazatlán’s “snowbird” residents and visitors from around the world. Because of that issue – and issues since then – most folks have learned about Tres Islas, Mazatlán’s orphanages and the children who reside in them, because of the *Pacific Pearl* – thanks to Mike’s loyal support of Tres Islas.

In 2010, Mike and the *Pacific Pearl* were deservedly named Tres Islas Orphanage Fund’s Volunteers of the Year for their loyal support of Tres Islas and Mazatlán’s orphanages.

As we write our 35th anniversary Tres Islas Orphanage Fund tribute, we are so very sad to share that Mike passed away Wednesday, July 13th, 2022 in Mazatlán.

The kind and goodly Mike, who fervently believed in the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund and supported Tres Islas’ endeavors throughout the years, deserves a huge thanks and tip of the sombrero for all he and the *Pacific Pearl* have done for Tres Islas — and ultimately the children in the orphanages.

Vaya con Dios, ahora, querido amigo, Mike,. . .

y gracias por todo lo que hiciste por los demas . . muchas, muchas gracias. . . siempre. . .

Go with God, now, dear friend, Mike. . .

and thank you for everything you did for others. . . many, many thanks. . . always. . .

the branches.

JANUARY 2008 *Pacific Pearl* 17

Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Reaches \$200,000 Milestone

Fund celebrates 20 years assisting Mazatlan’s orphanages.

October was a milestone for the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund and children in the four Mazatlan orphanages the Fund serves. From the Fund’s inception to this October, the Fund passed the \$200,000.00 U.S. dollar mark in providing food, school supplies, shoes, uniforms, backpacks, computers, English and computer lessons, orphanage restoration projects and upgrades to the orphanages. The Fund serves Orfanatorio Mazatlan, the Salvation Army Children’s Home, Fr. Tovar’s Home for Boys Hogar San Pablo and Ciudad de los Ninos Orphanage.

What began as a newspaper assignment in 1987 “to photograph the children of Mexico” forever changed the

life of the Fund’s founder, Donelle Manton, the children in Mazatlan’s orphanages and donors from the U.S. and Canada whose contributions help feed, clothe and educate the children. The next Tres Islas Donor Mission Week will be April 5 -12. From teaching gardening and composting skills to creating sorting receiving rooms for clothes and personal hygiene items – and a beach party for the children, there is a place for everyone’s skills and the Mantons extend an invitation to all. The Fund needs and welcomes help; if you would like to help the children in Mazatlan’s orphanages, please visit the Fund’s website at:

www.orphanagefunds.org and contact the fund at: email@orphanagefunds.org

As part of always saying, “Yes!” to helping the children in the orphanages, once Tres Islas raised enough funds to continuously feed the children in Orfanatorio Mazatlan, Tres Islas began to make required school item purchases.

During one of our visits with the caregivers and children at Orfanatorio Mazatlán, one of the girls pulled-back the worn-out sole of her sandal to show us, and asked, “Could Tres Islas please buy new shoes? Not just for me – but for all of us? And if you can’t buy new shoes for all of us, you don’t need to buy just for me because that wouldn’t be fair to the rest.” As much as that young girl needed shoes, her request to not only purchase shoes for her – but for all the children – is an example of how much the children are bonded as a family unit and look out for one another.

And so, thanks to an appeal Tres Islas then made to donors, money began to be raised for shoes – for all children, not just one! – and their school supplies – uniforms, backpacks, school supplies and computers.



We captured that moment-in-time in a photo of that girl as she pulled-back her worn-out sole of her sandal – and it’s included in this month’s newsletter as a reminder of just how much Tres Islas has been blest to grow over the years and help the children in the orphanages Tres Islas serves.

When the youngsters left the orphanage on their first day of school that year, dressed in their new uniforms, shoes and socks, along with their backpacks full of school supplies, they were followed by a schoolmate whose mother walked with him to school each morning.

That night, the orphanage director shared with us that when the boy saw how nicely dressed the children were, he looked up at his mother and exclaimed, “I want to go live in the orphanage!”

Hearing that boy’s statement did wonders for the children – because they were dressed for success and had the school supplies they needed to succeed in the school year ahead.

And the children’s response to the boy’s statement that morning? They began skipping – all the way to school – full of happiness and personal pride. Thanks to all of you, Tres Islas donors, and your donations. . .

One final note. . .Tres Islas’ Spring Mission Weeks began when it came to our attention that the orphanages didn’t have enough funds to keep the children’s homes maintained on a regular basis.



This includes leaking roofs, crumbling walls, peeling paint, kitchen, bathroom, bedroom and study room needed repairs or replacements, failing or worn-out appliances, playground equipment and basic yard upkeep. The need for most of these continual upgrades is due to the orphanages being located so close to the Sea of Cortez that the salty air and dense humidity continuously erode structures and everything inside.



Of course, the choice for caregivers is always to provide food, education and medical needs for the children – and certainly before important home maintenance can occur.

Spring Mission Weeks were created out of need – and, to provide an opportunity to bring donors, the children and their caregivers together – so donors could get to know and forge friendships with the children and caregivers whom they’re supporting. Sharing time together, having the children participate in many of the improvements such as painting, allows the children to meet the good folks who help support them.

In 2004, to celebrate her 50th birthday, Tres Islas donor Laura Morrow organized a trip of her lifelong and closest friends to spend the week upgrading Father Tovar’s Home for Boys, Hogar San Pablo. The “best birthday ever” — which included repairing latrines, buying a new refrigerator, family room furniture and television and painting as many rooms possible in one week at the orphanage soon evolved into a return and expanded trip the next year and the next and then expanded to include making improvements at all the orphanages.

Thank you to everyone who has been able to come to these weeks and again, for your support keeping the children’s homes a safe place and a place of pride where they happily reside and grow into adulthood.

And so, when you think of Tres Islas. . .

Please also think of each and all of you who’ve made positive differences in the children’s lives.

Because each of you said, “Yes!” when given the opportunity to help in every way possible over the years, you all have made children’s lives better, provided them nurturing food, educational and medical assistance and opportunities to realize their full-potential when they grow up. Please continue saying, “Yes!” – and please share the opportunity with others – so the good deeds of Tres Islas may continue in this 35th year and beyond. . .

Last, yet most important, thanks be to God, for His great blessing bringing all of us together over the years, for all of us to be able help these children, their caregivers and the orphanages - making positive differences for the children; and, ultimately, our world. . .

Kind regards, appreciation and gratitude to you all,

Donelle and Tom

