



February 2021 Newsletter

Tres Islas Orphanage Fund



We LOVE your Goodness!

It takes a certain kind of person to make a difference in the world.

To choose to help others. To fight for good.

THANK YOU for being one of them!

In this newsletter we want you to meet some people who **share the love** with TIOF. You will meet our facilitator, Gaudelia. She has been with TIOF from its early beginnings. Then we have our directors, who keep us updated on all the children's needs and progress. And lastly, we have one of our donors, Kim Giles, who first introduced me to TIOF.

She will share her creative way of expressing her love to the children.

Yours Truly,

Michelle



Over 30 years ago Donelle Manton was in Mazatlán on assignment to photograph children. She went to Orfanatorio Mazatlán along with a Mexican friend who lived in Mazatlán to photograph the children there. That friend was Gaudelia Cruz. When they found there was an inadequate amount of food there for the children, they went to buy groceries. That visit led Donelle to form the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund which would supply food for this orphanage and eventually 5 others over the next 30 years. In order to make this work, she needed a facilitator in Mazatlán. Gaudelia became this facilitator. Over the years she has faithfully transferred the funds for food, school supplies, hygiene and any other expenses required to maintain the health and safety of the children. Many times this has been done on short notice. She has also been invaluable in aiding in the organization of Spring Volunteer Week. She also has been our transportation when needed and participates in social events at the orphanages. (Phyllis Allen)

I have known Gaudelia for approximately 10 years and as the treasurer of Tres Islas for the last 5 years we have worked closely together. I have found Gaudelia to be totally dedicated to the day to day needs that Tres Islas provides. She is always willing to meet the necessities of the children. Her trustworthiness and caring nature make her a valuable asset to Tres Islas. (Connie Montanye)

Messages From the Orphanages

Hogar San Pablo

Hi there, Good morning,
It is with gratitude that we share these photos with you. We thank you very much for what you do for our home. You are always concerned that the children are well. God multiply your good deeds. This has been a very different from the previous ones because of COVID. We have not been able to receive visits. The children do not go to school. They have their classes remotely. It has been complicated because we do not have enough computers. We keep taking care of ourselves. We send you blessings from Mazatlán!

Norma Navarro



Orfanatorio Mazatlán

The girls and teenagers really liked your gifts at Christmas, Thank you very much. Girls and staff at the Institution are fine, we maintain all sanitary measures to avoid any contagion of COVID-19. This Monday, February 1, we received two more girls in voluntary shelter.(Voluntary Guard) is a program where we support families with limited resources, therefore the girls cannot continue with their school studies. We currently provide care to 20 girls and adolescents. In the Quality Education program, we have two teachers and a volunteer teacher who teaches girls mathematics through didactic materials, they are supporting girls in school learning, since it is difficult to learn through a digital platform .

Regards Rafaela Cornejo Valdovinos Director



Refugio Mazatlán

Happy 2021 to you and your families. Things are much the same here at Refugio Mazatlán. All classes are still online. We are full to capacity with 26 boys. It has been challenging and frustrating for the kids at times, but they have adapted well and their grades are better than ever. Everyone has remained healthy. Our needs at the moment might include funding for a weekend away from Refugio for the staff and kids. The boys have been confined to the home for the best part of 10 months now, with very limited outings to the beach or the malecon. We would love to rent transportation and a large home for a change of scenery and a weekend of therapy and outdoor activities. Our other ongoing need is for assistance with school fees. Most of our boys are in high school which is not free. The costs per student vary between USD500 and USD1,600 per year.

We thank the Tres islas donors who continue to make the weekly shopping trips to Soriana possible. We are also grateful for all the Christmas generosity .

Best regards,

Nicole and Guy



The boys shopping with their Christmas money.



FlorSer

We are sending you a videos with the gratitude of the adolescents .. I hope they serve you and thank you for your unconditional help ... Greetings !!!

In order to view these videos, you will need to open the attachments that are included in the email with this newsletter.

If you no longer wish to receive our newsletter, please let me know. Phyllis Allen , allendome@frontier.com





A THANK YOU FROM THE TREASURER ***

A HUGE thank you to all of our faithful, generous donors. Even though COVID has negatively affected our lives in 2020, it did not affect your wonderful, kind hearts. We appreciate each and every one of you immensely.

The Tres Islas Orphanage Fund statement of expense for 2020 is now on our website, tresislas.org under the Financials section . Our financial position at the end of 2020 was improved compared to 2019. Again, this is in part because of our charitable donors. Also, due to COVID we did not have the normal school expense or a typical Spring Volunteer Week.Connie Montanye, treasurer

Independent Donors

Our orphanages are also blessed with donors who spend several weeks to months in Mazatlán. In addition to donating through our fund and sometimes participating in Spring Volunteer Week, they are able to spend some time at the orphanages with the children. They often also take care of needs or add enrichment with their own funds. They are much appreciated by TIOF and the individual orphanages.

I first found Tres Islas Orphanage Fund in 2007, when I was bringing my children to Mexico for Christmas. I was looking for some sort of humanitarian project and found Donelle and Tom online. I first wanted to bring Christmas and supplies to one Orphanage, but the project quickly came to include 4 Orphanages and sheets, towels, toothpaste, shampoo, etc and a personal Christmas gift for each child. We ended up having to borrow a trailer and drive to Mazatlan because we had too much to bring. That was the most wonderful experience and we were in love with 100+ kids

We continued to help and donate for the next few years and then Donelle told me about a new project to open-Floreser-a home for girls that didn't fit with the other orphans because of their experiences and for many that meant trafficking.. My daughters did a service project to raise money to purchase beds and furniture for the new Floreser home. Then, we came down and helped paint and fix up the house too, an experience my girls will never forget. Ever since I have had a soft place in my heart for these girls and Floreser.

Last year, I had the chance to do Christmas with the girls at Floreser. I spent two months in Mazatlán taking them places and buying supplies for them.

The best moment I had with the girls was on the way to see Frozen. We stopped at a light and the girls suddenly tapped me on the shoulder and handed me about 40 pesos in coins and pointed to a young woman with a baby who was begging at the light. I let the girls give the money to her. I was so impressed with our girls that they were focused on helping someone else, when they have so little themselves. I think they knew, it might easily have been them on the street and they had to help.

This year on my trip to Mazatlán, the girls were quarantined with COVID. I was allowed to go to Florser. When I found out they had a lice problem, I was able to get them some supplies to take care of the lice.

I put it out on my Facebook, that I needed help to buy supplies and my friends and family sent money. I raised so much money that I am going to do some things at other orphanages this month too.

At the request of the girls, I was also able to have a pajama party with them. In spite of my lack of Spanish, we had a great time eating, playing games and watching a movie.

I can't believe how much some of them have grown in a year and what beautiful, fun, young women they are. Yvonne the psychologist is so great with them and they are thriving. Since my children are mostly grown I find such joy in bonding with these kids. It doesn't take much to make a big difference and show them that someone cares. You don't have to speak Spanish well or have much money either. Just a willingness to reach out and ask what is needed and care.

Kim Giles

