



July 2020 Newsletter

Tres Islas Orphanage Fund



Hello Tres Islas Friends,

We hope this newsletter finds you safe, well and enjoying some sunshine during this chaotic time in our world.

As you well know, the economic impact of Covid-19 has impacted the entire world. No corner of our society has been left untouched, including the nonprofit sector. [The effects of the pandemic have impacted TIOF donations.](#) The serious decline in our contributions is affecting our ability to help and assist each of the six orphanages/homes. The most important needs being food, education, shelter and medical. As a board, [our first and foremost responsibility is to see that each orphanage receives weekly fresh food.](#) Tres Islas was created because one inspired woman saw the need for nourishing food for the children on a weekly basis.

We believe that [honest and transparent communication with our supporters](#) allows each of you to see and feel of the importance of your faithful donations. We hope this newsletter will validate this for each of you!

This newsletter will include information on Tres Islas's finances, orphanage directors updates, our new Facebook page and more. We want you to know how much your giving and support means to Tres Islas to help provide for the children.

May the following confirmations remind you of your support to Tres Islas's purpose: [*I believe in the mission](#) [*I believe my gift can make a difference](#) [*I am personally fulfilled when I give](#) [*I want to give back to the Mazatlán community](#) [*I want a tax benefit](#) .

We as a board want to [thank you for your ongoing support](#), your generosity, previous and forthcoming. May our recent solitude from Covid-19, inspire us not to retreat but to gather strength to press forward.

God bless,

Michelle

-Reflections from a long time donor/volunteer-

Fourteen years ago I saw an article in the Mazatlán English newspaper (Pacific Pearl) about a group who volunteered at the orphanages called Tres Islas. My friend and I joined the group and that was the beginning of a wonderful adventure. Each year we worked at the 5 different orphanages doing things the caregivers didn't have time to do. Painting, cleaning the supply closets and sharing lunch with the children. We did art projects, decorated shirts, and one year we decorated cupcakes (that was a mess but fun). We had beach parties and carnivals. My day was complete if a bunch of 4 year olds hugged my knees.

I have loved learning about the Mexican culture and food. Most of all I loved to see the children grow.



Mary Cotruzzola



To our faithful donors – THANK YOU VERY MUCH for your continued support. As a reminder, our primary missions are to first feed the children and secondly to help with school supplies. We truly appreciate and depend on your donations.

We are hoping you will help us overcome the deficit that we are facing. We know the Covid epidemic has had some effect. With school supplies needing to be purchased beginning in July we are asking our donors to please send additional support at this time. School starts in August. The approximate budget for school supplies is \$8,000. Last year the school expenses for five homes was \$8,616. School supplies include uniforms, shoes and backpacks. As you know, these kids continue to grow.

Every single day approximately 135 children receive 3 nutritious meals a day thanks to your faithful giving. This is at a cost of just over \$5,000/month.

We do not like asking for more but we find that we must.

If you would like to help defray the cost, [donations for school supplies would be greatly appreciated](#). Just note “[school supplies](#)” with your donation. As always, your help is deeply appreciated.



Thanks to a designated donation, solar panels have been installed at Orfanatorio Mazatlán.

Here is the response we received from the orphanage director:

We are very grateful to Tres Islas for supporting the installation of 8 solar panels that will provide energy to the air conditioning equipment to cool one area of Orfanatorio .

We choose this area because could be used to study, to read, to watch tv, and other activities. For the girls concentrate in Reading or working Math its difficult, but summer heat makes it harder, we have see that providing the right environment render better results, to have an appealing space could boost learning, playing, sharing, and other activities that build the grounds for the progress of this kids.

Gabriela Ramirez, Orfanatorio de Mazatlán IAP



Tres Islas Orphanage Fund Board

Michelle Bonner, President

Guillermo Prado, Vice President

Treasurer, Connie Montanye

Secretary, Phyllis Allen

Board Member, Chris Christensen

An Update on Corona Virus in Mazatlán from Refugio San Pablo

We locked down Refugio Mazatlan on March 24. Schools in Sinaloa closed that same week. We offered those boys who have families the option of staying at Refugio or returning to their families temporarily. 12 boys remained, and Beremundo, his wife and kids, as well as Oscar (our psychologist) moved into Refugio. This was an enormous sacrifice for them and they stayed until June 1. They helped the boys with their online classes and did everything in their power to help ease the boredom, frustrations and fear for the kids during that time. Financially this was difficult because we continued to pay the rest of our staff who stayed home, and of course we compensated Beremundo and Oscar for all their extra time and hard work as well. On June 1 the other staff members returned (not ideal as they go back to their families every day - but we just had no other option). We have strict rules in place regarding mask-wearing, hand-washing, temperature checks and social distancing. Thank God, so far so good and all the boys are healthy - but also desperate to get out and about again! The only excursions they have had since March have been to swim in our pool.

As you probably know, the virus does not appear to have peaked in Mexico yet. The hospitals in Mazatlan are full. At the same time, the restrictions have created a desperate humanitarian crisis. It would break your heart to see the hardship and suffering. As a result, the economy is starting to reopen (probably prematurely but also probably essential). Restaurants are open with 40% capacity and many stores have reopened as well. They have lifted the "Ley Seca" (ban on the sale of alcohol) but there are restrictions around gatherings (which the alcohol ban was supposed to help prevent) - no congregating allowed anywhere, even in private homes. Beaches and hotels remain closed for now. Rumour has it that schools will continue to operate online in August - or perhaps kids will be divided into groups alphabetically and attend just 2 days per week so that social distancing can be achieved. Bottom line is that not much is likely to change at Refugio for several more months.

We are, as always, beyond grateful for all the support that we receive from TIOF - and we certainly hope that it can continue. The weekly (or bi-weekly) grocery shopping is a godsend and we so value our relationship with the board and donors. The lives of these kids are being changed and the positive impact will be felt by many others as a result. We are so proud of their resilience and celebrate all their achievements. They are on their way to becoming well-adjusted, happy, successful community members who are socially responsible and altruistic. Thank you for all you do to help make this possible.

With gratitude

Nicola and Guy

What You Can Do To Help!

- Keep your donations coming
- Sign up for smile.amazon.com. A percentage of your purchases can go to Tres Islas
- Donations may be made with PayPal on our website or by check to PO Box 3005, Coeur d'Alene, ID 83816
- Keep informed by following us on **Facebook** (Tres Islas Orphanage Fund), **Instagram** (tresislasorphanagefund), or our website (tres islas.org)

