

# Remembering Janet Schmitt - A Life of Service-

The Mazatlan community lost a great friend and many Mazatlan charities lost a dedicated, compassionate volunteer who made a positive difference everywhere she helped with the passing of Janet Schmitt this summer. Janet, who died August 2nd at the age of 80, will be missed by her family, friends and Mazatlecos whose lives she graced with love, kindness, compassion and service.

In her 20 years in Mazatlán, Janet always said, "Yes!" to helping those in need; and her active presence in Mazatlan charities – along with her husband of 61 years, Bob – will live on in her good works.

The Schmitts came to Mazatlán in 1978 and when they retired, they made Mazatlán their winter home – living in Las Canoas, Vista del Mar and Solaria Towers, making many friends among Mazatlecos and the expatriate communities.

In the 1990s, Janet began overseeing the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund's "Adopt-a-Child for Christmas" program ensuring children in Mazatlán's orphanages received Christmas presents and a Christmas party each year. She also focused her attention at the Salvation Army Children's Home.

For 15 years, Janet helped facilitate Tres Islas' construction improvements at five local orphanages. Janet's involvement helped enhance and advance the lives of more than 500 children in Mazatlan's orphanages.

Janet and Bob attended the Vineyard Church and for 16 years led "La Vina's weekly bus tours of "the Mazatlán tourists never see" – taking visitors around the city; concluding at the city dump where folks make a marginal living by scrounging in the trash each day. Janet, along with the tour participants made

350 lunches daily and personally handed the lunches to the dump workers – along with a smile, a hug and a "Dios le Bendiga" (God bless you)!

Janet was active in Hands-Across-the-Borders and served on the Board of Directors for the Salvation Army Children's Home. Most-recently, Janet expanded her benevolence to Roots and Wings, a much-needed daycare center for children of parents working at the dump.

She helped develop a biennial shoe and gift giving program for the children of La Pastoria, a rancho community forty miles from Mazatlán.

Janet and Bob sponsored a number of Mazatlán children's educations – giving the gift of success to deserving youth who otherwise would not have received those educational opportunities.

In 2008, the Pacific Pearl honored Janet and Bob for their charitable works by naming them "Mazatlan's Pacific Pearl Citizens of the Year" and in 2012, the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund awarded Janet and Bob the "Guardian Angel Award" in honor of their devotion and dedication to the children of Mazatlán.

Janet's family and friends will gather for a "Celebration of Life" December 30 at Solaria Towers. Her ashes will be scattered in the sea in this City of Mazatlán the place Janet loved above all others.



Janet & Bob