

Happy Spring to all – April 2016 Newsletter - Tres Islas Orphanage Fund update

It's been a busy few months since our last communication in January. Notably, a very successful Spring Mission Week – more to follow on that further in this update.

In addition to providing the (5) sites with food, clothing and basics necessities, the following was accomplished:

- The request for a freezer was met with a donor who raised money with her friends and was able to go to Orfanitorio Mazatlan and visit
- Tutors were arranged for (2) new girls at Orfanitorio Mazatlan – donor specified for education
- (3) much needed wall air conditioners are in the process of being purchased for Flore Ser – donor specified for FloreSer
- The school parish of St. Louise de Marillac sent handmade tote bags to the girls at FloreSer via a volunteer for Spring Mission week – they were made in the home economics class– additionally, all the classes taking Spanish class wrote over 400 cards/letters in Spanish and sent them via another spring mission week volunteer to the children at all 5 sites – an upcoming action item is to work through the logistics of creating a pen pal type program where the kids at the school can practice their Spanish and the kids in Mazatlan can practice their English by writing back and forth to each other.
- Needed dishes and cutlery purchased for Ciudad de los Nino's

Upcoming needs include:

- Roof repair at Hogar San Pablo – estimate \$3000
- (6) windows to be replaced at Ciudad at \$230 each or a lump sum of \$1380 – *donor specified one window has been purchased*
- (2) fans for Ciudad at \$70 each or \$140

If you would like to make a donation to one or more of these items, please fill out the donation form and designate which item you'd like to purchase. The address is PO Box 3005, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho 83816.

Web Site update: Another exciting development is the unveiling of the new TIOF web site. It should be operational in May. One of the great features will be the ability to make a donation online through the Bank of America. We have received several requests for this functionality, especially from folks that spend a lot of time traveling or living in Mazatlan.

Honorarium: Just a reminder, we have a process where you can make a donation in honor of someone else. You just need to provide their name and contact information along with your donation. They will receive a special card from Connie Montanye – Treasure of Tres Islas Orphanage Fund that explains the TIOF vision and provides your name as the giver. The feedback on several requests has been very positive. Just a reminder, as TIOF is a 501c(3) designated charity, it may be on the list for your company that provides donation matches – it's worth checking out.

Volunteers: We are looking for folks that want to partner with us in the area of Fundraising and Marketing and also with Spring Mission week. We anticipate about a 1 hour a month commitment to meet via Skype to share ideas and execute plans. Please reply back to this email if you are interested and on which committee you'd like to participate.

Spring Mission week update by Bruce and Phyllis Allen – Spring Mission Week Coordinators:

This year's mission week began on Saturday evening, March 5 when most of us gathered at Los Zarapes restaurant for a greet, meet, and eat session. Plans were made to meet the following day at Ciudad de los Niños to set things up for the fiesta which would take place Sunday afternoon. This proved to be a

very successful replacement for what had formerly been a beach party. All the children from the five orphanages gathered at Ciudad that afternoon to enjoy the many games that were provided, along with the usual hamburger and hot dog lunch.

Transportation to the different orphanages for the volunteers was arranged using the same two pickup-type taxis (aurigas) and drivers for the whole week. This proved to be a cheap and efficient way to get us all to and from each orphanage each day.

Monday we went to Hogar San Pablo where we painted the outside of the kitchen and dining room areas, as well as the outside of the bedroom walls. We also learned of roof leakage in the chapel area and Father Horacio's plan to have it repaired.

Tuesday was spent at FloreSer, with most of our efforts going toward painting the interiors of the four upstairs bedrooms, along with the common area between them. That evening, we were invited for a great dinner by the members of the Orfa Maz board at the lovely home of one of them.

Wednesday at Orfanatorio Mazatlan involved much painting in the halls at both ends of the bedroom, the bathroom, and the TV room near the office.

Thursday we returned to Ciudad where some roof repair was done, along with cleaning many of the outside walls by brushing dirt away, and then painting along the main corridor and back into the one along the bedroom.

Friday at the Salvation Army was spent painting the exterior walls, including the new storage building, of the girls dormitory. We also had time to paint the front of the dining room/kitchen building before enjoying the singing and dancing of the children.

Then, Friday evening, we all met at the Casa Country restaurant to discuss how things went, talk about possible dates for next year, and say goodbye to each other. The consensus was that we had a very successful week.

Here are a few pictures of the work that was done , the children at the Fiesta– followed by a stunning and warm Mazatlan sunset!







