

## Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation

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### Minutes – Board Meeting

January 24, 2006 – 5 PM at Jim Boland's house  
in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

*Next Meeting Tentatively Scheduled for week of March 26, 2006 in Puerto Vallarta*

**Board Members Present:** Christine Amo, Jim Boland, Sol de Rios and Amy Welch.

**Board Members Absent:** Carmen Berkowitz and Anne-Marie Haynes.

**Guest Present:** None

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 5:40 PM by President Christine Amo.  
Amy Welch took minutes.

*Jim Boland moved and Sol de Rios seconded to approve the November 23, 2005 minutes.*

**PASS: 4 YES, 0 NO**

## President's Report – Christine Amo

### Updated Brochure, Newsletter and Web Page

Amo presented a new brochure and newsletter. The Foundation newsletters will be mailed in late January to donors of \$100+. The new Refugio brochure reflects 3 Madres and a new group photo. As Pasitos de Luz is a new focus for the Foundation, information about Pasitos is included in this newsletter. Information about the status of the Canadian chapter is also included in the newsletter. Jim Boland expressed concern that we seek permission from families before their name or photo are used for the web or in newsletters or brochures. Welch will forward a Photo Release form commonly used in schools, asking if Jim and Carmen can translate the form. <http://inside.pps.k12.or.us/webpub/release.pdf>

### Website Changes

Amo presented a visual for a changed web site to include a more sophisticated site with drop-down menus which include new projects such as Pasitos de Luz; the Canadian branch of the foundation; message board; and an archive page of brochures; newsletters and past articles. The web site is also being changed so that we can change the photos and articles without having to go through our web site developer Mike Mackay.

*Chris Amo moved and Jim Boland seconded to spend \$1,000 USD with Mike Mackay of DataCat! web site development and \$200 to Dylan Amo to update our Foundation web site.*

**PASS: 4 YES, 0 NO**

### English and Computer Instruction

Sarah Elengorn is unable to continue working with the Refugio to teach English and Computers. Elengorn's new schedule with Compassion includes working with Pasitos de Luz and the women prisoners and their children, which precludes her from having time to work with the Refugio. Elengorn does know of a computer teacher from Pittilal who is familiar with the computers and children at the Refugio. Amo will contact Compassion4Kids to see if they wish to continue to sponsor this service.

## Overwork Concerns – Jim Boland

Board members Sol de Rios and Jim Boland expressed concern that the Madres seem tired and overworked. As two Madres left the Refugio this summer to move to Guadalajara, only 3 Madres remain. The Foundation is helping fund part-time staff to clean and cook. A discussion ensued regarding the need for a bilingual administrator to organize volunteers, lead tours, collect and distribute funds, and organize tasks such as picking up- and taking the children to school. Welch expressed concern that this needs to be a priority from the Mexican Board and that the Foundation could perhaps contribute to this person's salary but will not hire the individual. de Rios estimated the cost of hiring an administrator at about \$600 US per month.

## Bylaw Changes – Amy Welch

Amo discussed the proposed bylaw changes to broaden the scope of the Foundation's mission. The main proposed change is in "Article I: Purpose." The change would include serving not only the children at the Refugio, but children and families in the Bay of Banderas area.

*Jim Boland moved and Sol de Rios seconded to accept the proposed changes in the bylaws.*

**PASS: 4 YES, 0 NO**

## Foundation Emmanuel – Sol de Rios

de Rios has become involved with a Christian group out of Guadalajara which has opened a group home for children of the prisoners in Ixtapa. Presently there are 5 children of prisoners living with this Christian family. The family has rent-free housing and has the option to rent a house next door to their home. The family wants to increase the number of children living with them but have no funds to provide for additional children. de Rios thought that perhaps some of the prisoner's children which are currently housed at the Refugio, Casa Hogar and Street Boys of Vallarta, can one day move into this home to be nearer to their parents. Amo asked why additional housing was needed, when there is likely room at the Refugio and Casa Hogar. de Rios explained that most of these children are street children and will run away from the Refugio or Casa Hogar. The thought is that one day the boys could live in one house, and the girls in a second house next door. Amo requested more information about this group and to investigate their legitimacy before we donate any extensive funding.

## Treasurer's Report – Amy Welch

Welch distributed the current Foundation financial statement. There is approximately \$23,000 US in the account. This balance does not include the \$630 US expended for the current newsletters and brochures. Periodic financial statements and the year end tax filing will be placed on the web site.

Amo is presently working with Pasitos de Luz and the Refugio to seek a financial statement which outlines their expenses and income. As our bylaws stipulate, it is essential that the inner workings of these organizations are transparent to the Foundation. The Refugio has promised to share their financial statement with the Foundation in February. Pasitos de Luz will share their accounting with the Foundation in the next week.

## Dedicating Donations – Amy Welch

Occasionally checks are accompanied with notes requesting that donations be specifically directed to, e.g. the Refugio or Pasitos. Upon other occasions the notes request that the funds be distributed as one person directs them to be spent. Recently one Refugio board member who solicited a successful contribution from a foundation, directed that the funds be immediately disbursed to the Refugio. After much discussion, the board decided that while we will honor the request to disburse the funds to the Refugio, the money will not be immediately handed over without direct instructions as to what the funds are to be used for.

## Transition Home – Sol de Rios

de Rios was asked about the status of a possible Transition Home for the children at the Refugio, between the ages of 12 and 19. de Rios explained that this will likely be a topic of discussion at the February Refugio board meeting. de Rios extended an invitation to the Foundation board members to attend said meeting.

## Funding Priorities – Chris Amo

After some discussion, the decision was made to distribute **February funds** as listed below:

\$ 500 US/ month for the Refugio	to pay salaries for part- and full-time employees
500 US/ month for Pasitos de Luz (PDL)	to pay salaries for part- and full time employees
400 US (\$100/week) for Pasitos	to buy miscellaneous food and other basic needs such as diapers
100 US/ month	for misc mileage, medicine, doctor's visits, etc.
<u>200 US one-time for Foundation Emmanuel</u>	to pay for food and miscellaneous needs
<b>\$1,700 USD for February 2006</b>	

Welch will place the funds in the ATM card currently held by Christine Amo in Vallarta.

*Amy Welch moved and Sol de Rios seconded that the January 24, 2006, meeting adjourn at 7:10 PM*

**PASS: 4 YES, 0 NO.**