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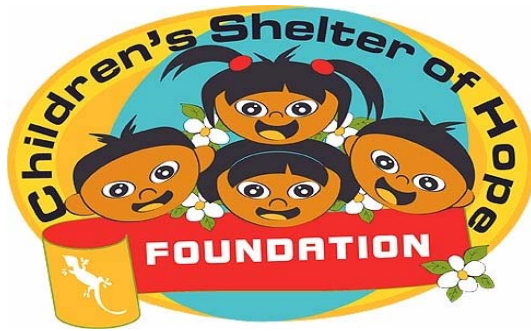
Foundation Address

505 N Tomahawk Is

Portland, OR 97217

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Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation



www.childrens-shelter-of-hope-foundation.org

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Giving and Receiving

Chris Amo—Foundation Board President

During this past month in Puerto Vallarta I have had the privilege of witnessing many amazing efforts of giving to our wonderful children at Refugio Infantil Santa Esperanza (RISE) and at Pasitos de Luz, the two major projects receiving support from the Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation. Many groups and individuals have arrived with gifts for the children and staff, loads of basic needs items and other contributions. It truly has been a special season of blessings.

In addition, there are a group of special individuals who constantly "go the extra mile" for our children. I would like to take a little time in this article to tell you more about them.

First in my mind is a wonderful young man, **Kevin Tang**. When he first arrived in Vallarta last July as an *Outreach International Program* volunteer at RISE, Kevin told me that he was at a turning point in his life. He was living in Lancaster, England and had graduated from Manchester Metropolitan University. He had begun his chosen career as an accountant when he



thought that there might be something important missing.

After spending many volunteer hours at RISE, particu-

larly upstairs watching over the babies, he assures me that he has found it – GIVING of his heart to others. During the past few weeks while Madre Lupita has been away visiting her family, Kevin has been with the babies many days from 8 AM to 8 PM—giving baths, fixing bottles, feeding, playing, hugging and laughing. He loves this work so much he has decided to stay on until May!

Another amazing person is **Sarah Eलगorn**, originally from



London and now Vallarta, Sarah arrived as an Outreach volunteer. Since July, Sarah has spent two afternoons per week at RISE teaching English and computers; delivering fresh fruits and vegetables to RISE and Pasitos; or taking children to see a doctor or specialist. In addition, Sarah is seen frequently at Pasitos de Luz helping them acquire special equipment and supplies needed for this group of severely handicapped children. Her smile and energy are contagious to everyone she encounters.



Many regular volunteers at the Refugio have stepped in to fill important gaps as well. When we were without a cook for a week in December several people signed up to prepare meals each day; other volunteers can be found helping with the toddlers or entertaining the older children; and other volunteers spend hours ironing.

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Meet Some of the Children

Brizia from Pasitos de Luz

I am Brizia and I have Cerebral Palsy. I have four brothers. I have severe nutritional problems along with respiratory ailments. I am better now thanks to the care and therapy I am receiving at Pasitos de Luz. I smile a lot and love to have someone rub my cheek and talk to me. Please help us so that Pasitos can continue to help me and the other children.



**We cannot help everyone,
but everyone can help
someone.**

David from the Refugio

By Alana Driscoll

Our astonishing two-year old David, who has Down syndrome, has made significant improvements in the last few months. Kevin, Madre Lupita and volunteers have been doing exercises to strengthen his arms and legs. Madre Lupita plays the “eyes, mouth and nose” name game with David. Kevin helps him with walking movements to increase his leg strength. David is now able to pull himself up in the crib and crawl like a caterpillar, showing off his big bump! David has become “a normal baby”— he cries and responds to different stimuli. David has grown into a unique individual with his own one-of-a-kind personality.

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Giving and Receiving

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Pasitos de Luz is located in the Puerto Vallarta suburb of Pitillal. Pasitos does not receive as many visitors or regular volunteers, in part because of location. Many family members of Pasitos children, however, were present to help with a very special Navidad celebration.

For all of these people, GIVING to others is important. However, I will assure you that there is some important RECEIVING happening, too – that warm feeling that you get close to your heart when you know you have been able to make a small difference in the lives of these children.



May we all carry this giving spirit with us into 2006.

Chris

Don't miss the Big Event !

R.I.S.E. For Hope Annual Fundraiser

For those of you who will be in Vallarta on February 18 (or need an excuse to plan a trip here) our major fundraising event for the Refugio will be on Saturday evening, **Feb. 18 from 5-9 PM at the Marina Vallarta Golf Club.**

This year's fiesta will include excellent food and beverages from many local restaurants, live music, folklorico dancers, entertainment from our precious R.I.S.E. children, auctions

and several new surprises.

Tickets are available now at several locations primarily in the Old Town Puerto Vallarta area for \$450 pesos each.

Please contact Chris at keithamo@msn.com if you would like more information about this spectacular evening.



David and Down Syndrome

Down syndrome is the most common developmental disability; it is caused by a chromosome irregularity sometimes called Trisomy 21 —referring to the 21st chromosome where the defect occurs.

Children with Down syndrome have a distinguishing physical appearance and a variety of developmental difficulties. Each individual is unique as to what their capabilities will be. They also experience a number of physical problems, that luckily for the most part, David seems to have escaped. Other than some respiratory and vision problems— physically, he is quite a healthy little boy. With good medical treatment and stimulation Down syndrome children can lead happy, healthy and productive lives. David certainly excels in the happiness department. He has a very happy and affectionate personality that makes him a delight to be around.



Canadian Foundation

By Anne-Marie Haynes



In a casual conversation with Chris Amo in January 2005, I was surprised to discover that there was no Canadian Foundation set up to assist the children at RISE. When I asked Chris why, she said, "because it is a lot of work to arrange."

I naively thought, how much work can it be to register as a charity? Over the next few months I was able to find out. This was not a simple task and attempting to do this myself proved overwhelming. A friend suggested registering with the Volunteer Lawyers Service offered through the Law Society of Upper Canada. In late November, I

was assigned to a lawyer. We met shortly after and began the legal process to form the *Canadian Chapter of the Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation*. We are now awaiting registration with Revenue Canada. When this process is complete, Canadians who wish to donate money will be given a charitable donation receipt to claim on their income taxes.

*Anne-Marie
Toronto*



At this time donations for basic operating expenses, medical, and educational opportunities, and other projects for the wonderful children at R.I.S.E. and at Pasitos de Luz are needed and much appreciated.

The Refugio currently faces expenses in excess of \$5,000 US per month simply to keep up with such basics as electricity \$370, chicken and other meats \$400, tortillas and tostadas \$80 and salaries for five part-time employees at \$920. In addition, we hope soon to be able to install a safety gate in the upstairs patio area to keep our mobile infants safe; purchase new changing tables, highchairs and a special mattress for David; funding for medical and dental examinations; pajamas, diapers and formula for our growing number of

Current Needs

infants and toddlers; provide for advanced educational opportunities for older children; and fund a reserve for medical and dental emergencies.

Your donations are very important in making all of this happen!

Many thanks to all of you who have made generous donations to the Refugio, Pasitos or the Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation.

Share our websites with your family and friends:

refugioinfantil.com

pasitosdeluz.org

childrens-shelter-of-hope-foundation.org

Please send your checks to:

Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation
505 N. Tomahawk Is. Drive
Portland, OR 97217 USA

*By Feb. 1, donors of \$100+
will receive our 2006*

Refugio Infantil Santa Esperanza calendar.



Because Pasitos de Luz is physically much smaller, their basic utilities are less. However, they require \$400 each month for diapers, powders and creams; and over \$4,000 US per month to pay salaries to their educational specialists, physical therapists and other essential staff members who see to the many special needs of these children.

In addition, there is a great need at this time for educational games and toys; and specialized rehabilitation equipment.



Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation



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A Chat With Some Important People

From the Refugio:

Sister Maria de Jesus Moreno Guerrero, or Madre Chuy, as she is lovingly called at the Refugio, is from San Luis de Potosi in Central Mexico.

As a child she enjoyed looking after her 3 brothers and 2 sisters, who now live in Monterrey and Charca.

Since becoming a nun at age 22, Madre Chuy has dedicated her life to helping the children in Puerto Vallarta— first at Casa Hogar and now at R.I.S.E.

She spends much time each day doing laundry, ironing, taking care of the older children and conducting evening prayer.

She laughingly reports that her favorite part of the day is when she can rest and pray for peace and the strength to carry on with what she is doing.

Madre Chuy is passionate about her dedication to the Refugio children and particularly appreciates that she can be her own manager—free to organize things the way she and the other Madres like.

Her warm and tender manner shows clearly why she is loved and respected by all who have the pleasure of knowing and working with her.

From Pasitos de Luz:

Cesar Sánchez Santiago, the welcoming and friendly young man who often greets volunteers at Pasitos de Luz, is the brother of founder and director Yolanda.

As an energetic and focused 28-year old, he has devoted the past 3 years to being full time at Pasitos— helping primarily with administrative and financial responsibilities.

He spends many long hours each day searching for funds to keep Pasitos operating; shopping for basic needs; communicating with potential donors; working with staff; looking after the individual needs of the special children there; and giving LOTS of hugs, kisses and encouragement to everyone around him.

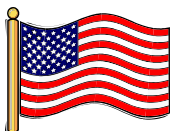
Cesar has a very deep passion for his work— he's an inspiring role model for us all.



If you wish to contribute directly to the Refugio make your check payable to:

Refugio Infantil Santa Esperanza, AC
R. Flores Magon #251
Col. Benito Juarez
Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco Mexico

Questions? Email Carmen Berkowitz
carmengalvanpv@msn.com
011 52 322 222 5713 (Puerto Vallarta)



If you wish to claim a charitable contribution for USA tax purposes, make your check payable to:

Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation
505 N. Tomahawk Is. Dr.
Portland, Oregon 97217
USA

Questions? Call or email Amy Welch
amywelchpdx@hotmail.com
503 285 4007 (Portland, Oregon)



If you wish to contribute to Pasitos de Luz, **DO NOT MAIL DONATIONS**, but visit Pasitos at:

Pasitos de Luz
545Exiquio Corona
Col. Bobadilla
Puerto Vallarta, Jalisco 48295
Mexico

Questions? Email Jim Boland
jimboland@aol.com