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Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation



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Enhancing Educational Experiences

Chris Amo—Foundation Board President

Having been a teacher of young children for 30 years, it is natural for me to be intrigued at the Refugio and also at Pasitos with watching the children discover, understand, and learn about new ideas.

Our Board has shared the importance of this vision as well, as we have supported and funded educationally-focused projects such as adding classroom space and materials at Pasitos; and funding fieldtrips, providing books and computer software, and coordinating tutors and volunteers to assist with educational needs for the children at the Refugio. I am proud to say that we now have a firm base at both centers from which to build and a renewed enthusiasm for enriching and enhancing learning opportunities.



During my time in Puerto Vallarta I have the pleasure most Mondays to spend time with the uniquely special children and staff at Pasitos where great strides have been made in the past six months towards increasing staff contact with individual children, expanding available educational materials, and teaching basic communications and life skills to many of the children. I love spending time with Martha, the kind Educational Specialist at Pasitos—she may be working on drawing circles on paper with one child, encouraging another to put a puzzle together, and helping yet another child to create a picture using glue and beans; while constantly encouraging each one to communicate in some way what they are thinking and trying. Their warm smiles with each successful experience clearly conveys what they are capable of and excited about in meeting these challenges.

Wednesdays are yet another delightful day at Pasitos as the children gather in the small front room for music and dancing class complete with very upbeat music, tambourines and other instruments, and fancy skirts for twirling around with a staff member dance partner.



At the Refugio, special craft projects are a hit any day. I continue to be amazed how these wonderful children are able to work cooperatively with each other, share willingly, and enjoy so very much the process of experimenting with ideas and materials. They are all very clever and talented. Once again this past February the children created twenty of the most magnificent piñatas that were used as

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The object of education is to prepare the young to educate themselves throughout their lives.

Robert Maynard Hutchins

Meet Some of the Children

Manuelito from Pasi-

Hola, my name is José Manuel Reyes and I am six years old. I have had meningitis since I was very young and recently had an emergency operation for a special spinal fluid pediatric shunt, made possible through funds from Compassion4Kids and the Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation. My mother, who works at Pasitos, and I are very grateful to all of the wonderful people who help us.



Zulin from the Refugio

Hello, I am Zulin. My brother, Carlos, and I have lived at the Refugio since last summer. I am 10 years old and my favorite color is pink. I love to do special art projects with the volunteers and like to mop the floors upstairs in the nursery area. I am learning how to use the computer and am practicing English words with the people who visit here. My favorite food is pozole (stew) and I want to be a nurse for babies when I grow up. I love my friends at the Refugio and also am happy when my parents come to visit and bring us special things on Sundays.



We cannot help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

Enhancing Educational Experiences

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decorations, and later auctioned off at our annual fundraising event. In addition, the children worked with some volunteers on embroidery projects, and sang like Mexican songbirds when Madre Lupita played her guitar. The children also enjoy the special attention of some local volunteers who come frequently to assist with homework and other educational endeavors.



need special individual assistance in order for them to be more successful in school next year (paid for by our Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation).

Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.

William Butler Yeats

THANKS TO YOU for your generous dedication and donations, all of these incredible children now have bright flames burning for a brighter, successful educational future.



Chris

As the summer months approach, pieces are being planned for a strong educational enhancement package for all of the children at the Refugio providing tutors for computer skills (paid for by Compassion4Kids) including research using the new internet service (paid for by our Foundation), a tutor for English and advanced skills for 6 of our older children (paid for by an individual donor), and a tutor to work 3 half-days per week with children who



The Double Benefit: Sea Life Park Sun, July 16

Pasitos de Luz is having a benefit at **Sea Life Park on Sun., July 16**, and we are hoping to make it a "double benefit."

First let me tell you a bit about Pasitos de Luz. It is basically a daycare center for children who are disabled, Pasitos now has over 73 active "clients," many of whom require the most basic and complete care, in many cases children are unable to even feed themselves. The value of Pasitos to the families involved is huge, as many families are single parent and that person must work if they are to make ends meet.

Many of you have seen the miracle that is Pasitos, but for those who have not, let me introduce Carlos and Mimi, brother and sister with a single father. First Carlos was born with a muscular deficiency that prevented him from walking, and then a year and a half later, Mimi came along, perfectly normal and beautiful, but without eyes! They are

completely devoted to one another and to watch Carlos be Mimi's eyes and Mimi be Carlos' legs is incredibly moving; as is the dedication of their young dad, who takes them about on his bicycle.

THE DOUBLE BENEFIT: Pasitos has been granted some land by the city to construct a desperately needed replacement facility (those 73 kids, 10 staff and regular volunteers crowd the space equivalent to a two bedroom condo!). The city has one condition for the land grant—that Pasitos de Luz begins construction by fall, so we have been on watch for benefit possibilities to buy those first bricks and bags of cement. Sea Life Park has generously volunteered their facility for Sunday the 16th of July—all of the delightful slides

and swimming areas, the shows, and lunch, too! They are donating all of the profit for the day at 40% of ticket sales. So that is the first benefit.

The second? We would like to take the kids from the children's shelter (Refugio Infantil Santa Esperanza) to enjoy this great outing and hope we can count on our friends to sponsor one or more children, at \$15 US per child, as well as the Madres and other workers at \$19 per ticket.

Thus, all the children at the two facilities will have a much appreciated day of sun and fun, and Pasitos' construction project will garner the first and critical funds to get started.

Note: Thanks to a kick-off from Tom & Nancy Eyer (Portland, OR) for donating funds for 10 children & 3 Madres to go to Sea Life Park.

As the Foundation grows, the exciting (and sometimes exhausting) news is that we are also involved in many new projects both at the Refugio and at Pasitos. Some are highlighted in our lead article and others involve meeting medical and dental needs, addressing safety and hygiene concerns, increasing support staff at both centers, building improvements, and planning for future needs.

Donations for both centers are historically low in the summer months, and expenses are often higher during this same time period. In addition to covering monthly expenses, we are currently in need of the following:



Current Needs

At the Refugio-

- Cribs for our ever-growing group of infants and toddlers,
- A "newer" PC laptop for administrative use,
- Funds and volunteers for special outings,
- Money to complete the grassy area in front of the building as a play space for the children.

At Pasitos -

- Tables, chairs, and shelving for the educational classroom,
- Games, puzzles, Braille books, and other special educational materials,
- A thermic mattress (soft),
- Volunteers to work with the children on a regular basis,
- Money to pay for a new entrance door for the facility.



You can designate that your donation go specifically to the Refugio or to Pasitos by sending us an email or including a note with your check made out to us at:

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

Thanks to all of you for caring as we do about these wonderful children!

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

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A Chat With Some Important People

From the Refugio:

Hello. My name is Lindsay King; I am from St. Andrews, Scotland; and I am helping daily as a volunteer at the Refugio. Actually, this is my second time here since I spent 6 months last year volunteering through Outreach International—a British gap year project.

Last winter I worked at a private nursery, mainly with children under a year old and also worked at a kids' club (2 to 12 year olds) at St. Andrews Bay hotel. Can you tell that I love children?

What I love most about the Refugio is being able to give the children all the love and attention they truly deserve. I don't manage to see all the various age groups everyday but I try to. I like to make sure they are all ok. The kids always shout *Lenci, Lenci* and I normally reply "*esperame*" (wait for me) as I'm busy cleaning or changing nappies, bathing babies, etc. There is never time to stop and rest, and if you do rest—there is something you should be doing! With 53 children, the Refugio keeps me busy but I love it and I wouldn't change it for the world. It is extremely rewarding. I know I give a lot in terms of work and love to the children, but they give twice as much back. Just to see a child smile or hear a giggle.

My family (mum, dad, sister, and brother)

are already planning their next trip back to the Refugio! If it wasn't for the PV heat they would have stayed all summer.

When I have to leave PV in September, I plan to go to the university to study Spanish. I hope to volunteer in an orphanage in Africa one day, but don't worry, I will never forget my children at the Refugio.

For more information about volunteering opportunities contact **Lindsay** at **linzuk@gmail.com** or see the Foundation web page—**MESSAGES** section.

From Pasitos de Luz:

Maestra (teacher) Martha Chávez is the kind and wonderful person you will meet if you go into the special educational classroom space at Pasitos. Martha has lived in Puerto Vallarta for 4 years after spending most of her childhood and adult life in Mexico City. She has one sister and two daughters, and loves spending her time encouraging and assisting the special needs educable children at Pasitos de Luz. Her gentle manner and creative ideas inspire all to do their best.



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
322 222 5713 (in Puerto Vallarta)



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

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



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

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Questions? Email Jim Boland
jimboland@aol.com