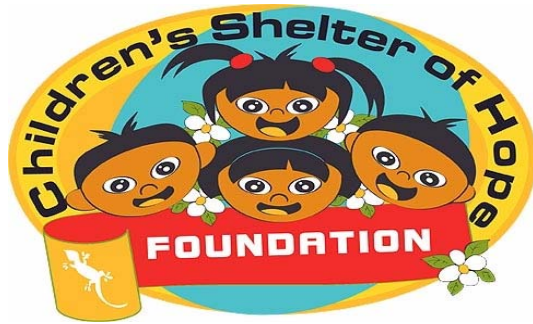


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Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation



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

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Big Steps

by Chris Amo

With this newsletter I am excited to share some big steps forward for the Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation, Refugio Infantil Santa Esperanza, and Pasitos de Luz.

At the **Refugio**, under the leadership of Foundation board member **Sol Martinez de Rios**, amazing changes in organization, medical and educational support, hygiene and cleanliness, volunteer efforts, and the overall well-being of the children and staff are taking place.



Sol, on left—helping Refugio children

Besides being very instrumental in the success of the major Refugio fundraising event on February 10 (see page 2). Sol and her husband, Refugio Board President Juan Carlos Rios Camarena, are currently working on the following improvements at the Refugio:

- Remodeling the downstairs bedrooms;
- Hiring tutors for struggling students;
- Opening the new Transition Home in April to welcome the first 5 girls (a home for girls ages 12 to 19 years of age);

- Installing a sprinkler system in the grassy area in front of the Refugio;



- Working with DIF (the Mexican-government social services agency) to limit the number of children being placed at the Refugio.

Sol's boundless energy is contagious and has been an inspiration to many of us who are regularly involved with the Refugio children.

And yet another BIG STEP at the Refugio, which literally brought tears to my eyes a few weeks ago – **David is walking!** With the support of a child-sized walker brought down from Canada, our little three-year old David, who has Down Syndrome, grabbed the walker's handlebars and **w i t h i n minutes** took off.

With a huge grin on his face, we all cheered him on.



Pasitos de Luz, the daycare center for children with major handicapping conditions, is continuing to move forward rapidly with their fundraising efforts towards construction of their new facility.

New to Pasitos is our wonderful and energetic **Lupita**, who chose to leave the Refugio in early January to follow a different path in her life.



Maria Guadalupe Padron—formerly Madre Lupita

Currently the Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation assists monthly in providing money for food and salaries for many of the miracle workers who offer encouragement and love to these "angelitos" each day.

Thanks to the efforts of all of us together we are truly taking big steps towards helping these wonderful children in the Puerto Vallarta area.

Chris



Meet Some of the Children

from Pasitos de Luz

Liliana Guadalupe Becerra

Our featured Pasitos child is Liliana. Lili lives with her mother and her 19-year old sister. Her mother works in a clothing store, and her sister works and attends school. Music is a big part of Lili's day—as she likes to dance to the latest hit songs. A special favorite food of Lili's is Dananinos (cake with milk and strawberries). Lili also likes visitors; she is very sensitive in noticing those people who show a special affection for the Pasitos children. Lili is an important part of Pasitos de Luz as she is one of the first to arrive each day, and usually the last child to leave. Those who know Pasitos know Lili.



Next time you're at Pasitos, Lili will be there to welcome you—she does not talk, but makes may happy sounds.

from the Refugio

Anita and Teresa

Anita and her big sister Teresa have been at the Refugio for over a year now. Ana (left) is two years old, and Teresa (right) is three. They love each other very much and look very much alike. However, their personalities are very different. Teresa is outgoing, active, and very verbal. She loves exploring new things and doing art projects. Anita is much more reserved and is only now beginning to speak. She loves having her bath each morning and grins widely if you tell her that she is beautiful.

One thing that these sisters have in common is that they both love to be held and given individual attention by visitors and volunteers.



The EVENT

By Lynne Simpson

The **5th Annual R.I.S.E. Fundraiser** held on Saturday, Feb.10, 2007, was an absolute success!

Congratulations and thank you to all who contributed to the event in the form of donations, planning, attendance and/or volunteering.

The American School welcomed over 400 people for an evening of food, beverage, entertainment, raffles, and live- as well as a silent auction.

Among the contributors were featured restaurants Lazy Lizard, Xocadiva, and Café des Artistes. The entertainment highlights were singer Carlitos, and Grupo Folclorico Municipal XIUTLA. Two of the raffle items were stays at Casa Karma and El Arrayan. Live auction items included Rio Caliente Spa, Blu by Len, and Playa del Sol Resorts.

The success of the event is owed



dearly to donations and to the strong teamwork of the 2007 RISE for Hope Committee. The theme of love and friendship rang strong throughout the evening as nothing of this magnitude could have been accomplished without the consistent dedication and support from individuals who worked hard in the name of R.I.S.E.

The final figures have nearly been calculated. We are pleased to announce that approx. \$36,000 usd has been raised through the annual fundraising event— and, again, thank you, thank you, thank you.



The R.I.S.E. family hopes to see you all again next year.



Next year's RISE fundraiser is scheduled for Sat, Feb. 9.



New and Improved

The new downstairs bedroom spaces at the Refugio will allow for much larger sleeping spaces for the older boys.

The newly-remodeled spaces also provide for a toddler bedroom which can be easily viewed at night through a window by Madre Chuy's bedroom.

These new spaces have also been tiled — in the bedrooms and the hallways — to make cleaning much easier. A new large wall cabinet will fill the space along one wall in the toddler's room. New, smaller, stronger beds have been ordered for the “monkey” toddlers, who have outgrown their cribs.



On Saturday, March 10, the local priest held a celebration to honor the 6th anniversary of the Refugio's founding.

Many generous donations to the **Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation** during the past months have allowed us to help **Refugio Infantil Santa Esperanza** with the following expenses by:

- Contributing **\$4,200 usd per month**; including \$1,000 usd to be used for new staff salaries;
- Donating **\$500 usd** for painting and repairs to the new Transition Home; plus, allocating an additional **\$1,200 usd per month** for expenses upon opening;
- Contributing the remainder of the funds needed to complete the cabinet work in the laundry room;
- Paying for the sprinkler system to be installed for the grassy area in front of the building;
- Purchasing emergency medicines and supplies, including an otoscope (medical device that looks into ears), for Nurse Ann; and
- Coordinating the work of a team of dentists who did exams, cleanings, extractions, fillings, and sealants for

Great Start for 2007

children at the Refugio and Casa Hogar shelters, and for village children in Quimixto and La Cruz de Huanacaxtle.

In addition, at **Pasitos de Luz** daycare the Foundation has helped with the following expenses by:

- Contributing **\$1,500 usd per month** for staff salaries;
- Donating an additional **\$500 usd per month** for the purchase of food, diapers, and other basic supplies;
- Providing new- and used clothing for the children and their families; and
- Purchasing specialized art and educational materials.

A great heart is better than all the heads in the world.

—Edward Bulwer-Lytton

Please help us to maintain this high level of support for these special children in the Puerto Vallarta area by sending a donation to our US-registered 501(c)(3) tax deductible foundation:

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



Thank You !

Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation



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Meet Two New Board Members

Judy McCormick—

from Gig Harbor, Washington

My husband and I first journeyed to the Refugio as volunteers in December 2003.

Each year since we have spent more and more time there doing what we do best—working and providing a brief respite for the Madres, employees, and full-time volunteers.

Although my gift is in the kitchen I have quickly learned to serve wherever needed and have surprised myself at how easily I can adapt.

We are still the owners of a small business, but our dream is to complete that part of our lives soon, so that we can spend time making precious memories with the children.



Gabrielle Roman Urtiz Whitten—

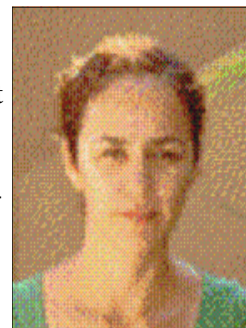
from La Cruz de Huanacastle (Puerto Vallarta area)

In January 2007, Gaby Whitten agreed to join the Foundation board.

Gaby attended Escuela Internacional de Turismo in Mexico City, receiving a degree in Tourism Administration. "I have never liked living in a big city, so when I met my future husband, John, we moved to Puerto Vallarta.

John, a social studies teacher at the American School, and I have a 5-year old son, Elliot. I manage private homes in the north bay area.

When I have time, I like to hike and volunteer in my community. I feel great empathy for children who do not have a chance to grow up in a normal family environment - this is my way to give back to my community."

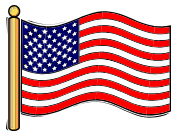


If you wish to contribute directly to the Refugio make your check payable to:

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

Questions?

Call or Email Carmen Berkowitz
carmengalvanpv@msn.com
322 222 5713 (Puerto Vallarta)



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Questions?

Call or Email Amy Welch—
amywelchpdx@hotmail.com
503 285 4007 (Portland)



If you wish to contribute directly to Pasitos de Luz make your check payable to:

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Questions?

Email Jim Boland
jimboland@aol.com

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