

Children's Shelter of Hope Foundation

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Minutes – Board Meeting

November 23, 2005 – 5 PM at VIPS Restaurant
in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico

Next Meeting Tentatively Schedule for week of February 5, 2006 in Puerto Vallarta

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

Board Members Absent: Anne-Marie Haynes.

Guest Present: None

There being a quorum, the meeting was called to order at 5:20 PM by President Christine Amo.
Amy Welch took minutes.

Amy Welch moved and Jim Boland seconded to approve the March 16, 2005 minutes.

PASS: 4 YES, 0 NO

President's Report – Christine Amo

New Donation Box at the Refugio (RISE)

Amo has installed a new donation box on the wall by the front door at the Refugio. Juan Carlos and Chris are the only two possessors of the keys for the box. Chris has left envelopes and instructed Madre Mari to have donors indicate if their donation is for calendars, donations to the Mexican charity or a donation to the US foundation.

2006 RISE Calendars

Amo has designed and printed 175 calendars. The printing cost is \$6. US and \$1.80-3.00 for mailing. Difference in mailing is due to mailing outside the US. Most donors who have donated \$150 or more, have received a calendar. Calendars are being sold at the Refugio for \$20 US. Juan Carlos Rios, president of the Mexican charity, requested 50 calendars to sell. He requested that he be sold these calendars at cost. It was agreed to sell Juan Carlos the calendars as requested, with 20 being immediately available. Amo will have the printer create 100 additional calendars because of the success of the sale. Juan Carlos will get 30 more calendars in late December when the new calendars have arrived from the US.

Email Listserv

Amo explained that she has approx. 450 email addresses in her listserv. Her latest plea by newsletter is for the expansion of Pasitos de Luz in Pitillal. Amo will continue to mail out periodic foundation updates to donors.

Treasurer's Report – Amy Welch

Welch distributed the current financial statement for the foundation. There is approximately \$6,000 US in the account. The board agreed that there should be a minimum balance of \$2,000 in the account. This balance does not include calendar money that Amo has collected over the last two weeks. The year end financial statement will be placed on the web site.

Website Changes

Amo has been reviewing the foundation website to broaden the scope of what we're presently doing. At first we focused primarily on the Refugio, which is still of primary interest. But we have broadened out to Pasitos de Luz (daycare for handicapped children) and will work on a transition home for children 12 to 19 years of age. Amo and her son, Dylan, will work with the web site developer Mike Mackay to add pages to the web site as well as work on updating the photos and mission.

Compassion4Kids dilemma

C4K President Julie Livingston has requested help to retrieve the \$2,000 US that was forwarded to the Mexican foundation for Lucia's potential heart operation. Since summer, Lucia and Madre Mari have gone to Mexico City twice to see the pediatric cardiologist. The doctor has now determined that Lucia does not need an operation, and that the hole should heal, although semi-annual visits are likely necessary as a follow-up. Consequently, C4K would like their funds returned. Mexican foundation president Juan Carlos Rios

explained that because of Mexican bookkeeping laws, that funds cannot be returned. After discussion, Sol Rios will speak with her husband about returning \$2,000 to C4K after the February fundraiser. Amo will let Livingston know of this discussion.

Domi's Nutritional Concerns

Amo explained that a friend of the Refugio, Domi, is concerned about the nutritional food value that the children are receiving. It is not uncommon that at the evening meal, the children receive only a few crackers (or cookies) and milk. Boland explained that sometimes they receive rice, but this is also lacking in nutrition as it is rice alone with no spices or supplements. Sol Rios explained that her husband Juan Carlos Rios, is working with a nutritionist to design suggested menus for the cook. This can perhaps alleviate the lack of choice and offer more selection of food for the children. Amo and Rios commented that the quality of the food served currently at lunch seems to be quite satisfactory with very little food wastage.

Welch explained that there are many web sites offering suggested institutional children's menus. School districts and the US Govt. are also good sources for ideas. One web site is: www.pps.k12.or.us/depts/nutrition

Funding Priorities

After some discussion, the decision was made to keep a minimum balance of \$2,000 in the account to pay for office supplies and filing fees to the state and federal governments. Presently we have a balance of approximately \$6,000.

The decision was made for December and January as follows:

\$ 500 US/ month for RISE –	to pay salaries for part- and full-time workers
1,000 US/ month for Pasitos de Luz (PDL) -	to pay salaries and produce and miscellaneous needs
400 US/ <i>one time only</i> for PDL-	for construction build-out
112 US/ month for Sarah Elengorn	\$112 (\$28 a week) for English and Computer lessons at RISE
<u>100 US/ month for misc mileage, medicine, doctor's visits, etc.</u>	

\$2,112 per month

Welch will place the funds in the ATM card currently held by Sarah Elengorn in Vallarta.

At the meeting it was decided that while Amo is in Vallarta, she will be in charge of the ATM card and distribution of funds. Amo to connect with Elengorn to get card.

Board Restructuring

Jim Boland suggested that perhaps there should be an executive board to make day-to-day foundation decisions and then a larger advisory board. Amo brought this idea to the board for a discussion. After limited discussion, the idea was dropped.

Future Visions for the Foundation

There is one main priority for the foundation, to establish a transition home for girls 12-19 years old. Additionally, the foundation is open to working with other organizations such as Pasitos de Luz (PDL). PDL is presently looking for property to break ground for a new facility. PDL has approximately 60 children in their daycare. Their total space is about 1,500 square feet.

Bylaw Revision to Broaden Scope of Work

Amo and the Welches will work to revise the bylaws to extend to a broader scope, such as working with children in the Bay of Banderas area. Initially we worked solely with the Refugio (RISE) but now we have expanded to helping children with dental work at RISE, Quimixto, and Pasitos de Luz. This winter the dental project will be extended to the village of La Cruz. Once a new set of bylaws are drafted, they will be presented to the board for discussion, revision and a vote.

Other Items from the Board

At some point, there may be a need to hire a full-time administrator in Vallarta to coordinate expenditures, purchasing, etc. This person will need to be fully bilingual in order to work with the foundation and its charities.

Welch left at 7:15 PM

Sol Rios moved and Jim Boland seconded that the November 23, 2005, meeting adjourn at 7:30 PM

PASS: 3 YES, 0 NO.