

News from the Villa

Friends of Villa Infantil

March 2008

The mission of the Friends of Villa Infantil is to serve the needs of the children by giving of ourselves, our time, our resources and our skills to enhance their lives and provide a safe environment and an opportunity for education, growth and development

The Babies are Here!

Guadalajara will be hosting the 16th Pan American games in 2011. Preparing for this prestigious event has necessitated urban renewal to provide accommodations for the thousands of spectators and athletes who will attend the games. Part of that urban renewal has practically been knocking at the door of what we refer to as "The Baby House" in Guadalajara. Infants who are not yet walking have been housed at the Baby House until they join the older children at Villa Infantil. Since demolition and reconstruction was scheduled to start in March, causing noise and dust as well as scattering mice and rats looking for new homes, Madre Rosa, two of her helpers and ten new babies have come to the Villa to stay until things quiet down in their Guadalajara neighborhood. Infants ranging in age from 2 to 18 months are settling into life on the south shore of Lake Chapala. Three darling girls and seven handsome boys (including a set of twins) are the newest additions to the family at Villa Infantil.



Chili Cookoff

Volunteers organized by Marilu Amici and Sandra Cartwright turned out Friday, February 15 through Sunday, February 17 to sell delicious breads donated by Jackie Kellum. How fortunate FOVI was to have such a popular item donated. Jackie sells her breads at the Ajijic tianguis so her famous breads sold out quickly. The demand was so great that the inventory was cleared before 1 o'clock on Saturday!

Marilu made a quick trip to Rochatas Bakery in Jocotepoc and received a generous donation of truffles to add to the purchase that she made.

Many thanks to Jackie for baking and donating her wonderful breads and for all the volunteers who tended the booth throughout the weekend. We would also like to thank the people at Rochatas Bakery in Jocotepoc and Coca-Cola who lent umbrellas that protected the volunteers from the sun and heat.

2008 Villa Infantil Golf Tournament & BBQ



February 25th was the date of Friends of Villa Infantil's first Golf Tournament & BBQ which was held at Chula Vista Country Club. Tickets for both the tournament and the BBQ which followed were sold out in the week before the event. The winners for the Men's Foursomes were Mike Bishop, Harry Matherson, Ken Fish, Moyra Fish (Photo Left.) Winners of the Mixed Foursomes were Chad and Toni Olsen, Lorraine Farrow, and Narciso Corona. (Photo Right) Forty-eight golfers participated in the tournament and seventy-two more people joined the golfers for the BBQ meaning 120 generous Lakesiders supported the event. Entertainment was provided by Carol Bedford.

Our thanks go to Kevin Finnerty who worked so hard to organize this very successful event and the many, many volunteers who assisted him both before and during the event. Net proceeds from the event were over \$25,000 pesos. Please see page 4 for more photos and a list of donors.



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Visiting the Villa

If you are visiting the area and would like to arrange a visit to the Villa to see your sponsored child, it's easy to do. Please contact Barbara Finnerty at barbarafinnerty@gmail.com and she can coordinate the visit for you and also help to arrange transportation if necessary.

Normal visiting hours at the Villa are:

Monday - Friday: 10 to 12 & 4 to 6

Saturday 10 to 1:30.

Donations & Receipts

Friends of Villa Infantil is grateful for all donations. We thank you for understanding that we cannot issue receipts for donations that do not pass through our organization. If you would like to make a donation directly to Madre and would like a receipt from Friends of Villa Infantil, please contact either Tom Watson at Tom.casawatson@gmail.com or Michael Cook at mikecookcottingham@hotmail.com. Both Madre and Sister Pati appreciate the kindness and generosity all the sponsors have shown on their visits as they arrive with food, clothing, supplies, medical supplies, toys, donations, and lots of love smiles and hugs for the children.

Website

FOVI is in the process of creating a website that will furnish you with updated information and serve as an archive for our newsletters. Please feel free to visit the site. We hope to have much more information available soon. Please contact Sally Pachulski, the Newsletter Editor/Webmaster, with any questions or suggestions you might have for articles. She can be reached at newsletter@friendsofvillainfantil.org. The new site's address is www.friendsofvillainfantil.org.

No Sweets PLEASE!

Madre Maria has once again asked that we refrain from offering the children sugary treats. Imagine trying to save 31 sets of teeth from cavities! Remember, a hug or a moment of your time will stay with the children much longer than a lollipop or cookie.



Sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring one of the children at the Villa Infantil orphanage. Your financial contribution will help provide an education and assist in assuring the general well-being of a child.

You will receive newsletters, regular updates, and photographs of the child you are sponsoring. Visiting and communicating with your child is encouraged and we will translate any correspondence you would like to share with him or her. For more information, please contact Tom Watson by email at Tom.casawatson@gmail.com

Please Join us for the Next Meeting

You are cordially invited to the next meeting of *Friends of Villa Infantil*. Please contact Shirl at shirlthegirl21085@yahoo.com for date, time and location information.

Contact Information

Sponsorships

Tom & Sallie Watson (376) 766-3396 or
e-mail Tom.casawatson@gmail.com

General Information on Villa Infantil

Sandra Cartwright (376) 764-0093 or
e-mail sncmex2@yahoo.com

General Donations

Michael Cook (387) 763-0184 or
e-mail mikecookcottingham@hotmail.com

Fundraisers & Events

Pat & Ron Thompson (376) 766-3293 or
e-mail coolbreeze127@gmail.com

Homework Assistance

Sandra Cartwright (376) 764-0093 or
e-mail sncmex2@yahoo.com

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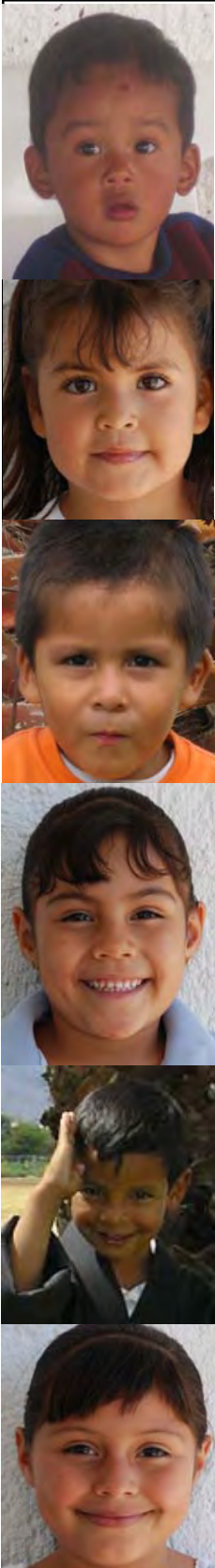
Please make your check payable to:
Villa Infantil and send to:

Outside Mexico:

Villa Infantil
c/o Tom Watson
827 Union Pacific Blvd.
PMB 71-346
Laredo, TX 78045-9452

Within Mexico:

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P.O. Box 18
45800 Jocotepec
Jalisco, Mexico

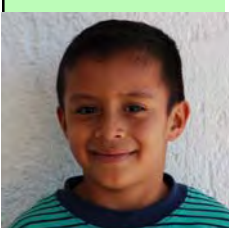
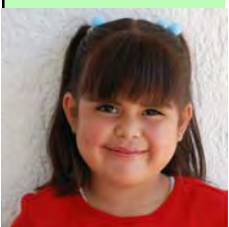
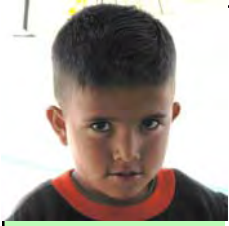


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Lucky Red Envelopes for the Villa



Lisa Le and Robert Taylor had planned a wonderful fundraiser for the Villa. Last summer they booked the clubhouse at Racquet Club for an evening in February 2008 and planned to hold a Chinese New Year's Dinner as a FOVI function.

Unfortunately, last summer's flooding and the subsequent damage and destruction in Racquet Club forced them to cancel the event. Recently, however, they took two cartloads of groceries to the Villa. Lisa, who loves cooking, has held several cooking classes at their home at which she asked for donations. The couple also hosted two small dinner parties to celebrate the Chinese New Year. At these parties, lucky red envelopes were handed out and the guests were asked to donate their lucky money to the Villa. Those generous donations helped to fill the two grocery carts.

Lisa and Robert say they like to take every opportunity to educate people about Villa Infantil and make people aware of the children's needs. As those of us who are members of Friends of Villa Infantil know, often just talking with people about the Villa can create enough interest to transform the curious to donors and sponsors and help to make significant impact upon the lives of the children.

Thanks to Lisa & Robert and the many other people who raise funds for Villa Infantil in many inventive and fun ways!



The Children at School

Madre Maria reports that, thanks in part to the small classes at the school they attend, the children are doing very well. Madre and the teachers work closely to identify and deal with any academic and social problems the children may encounter. This team approach in solving problems as they arise, in addition to tutoring, extra attention, and working on socialization issues, helps the children grow in a supportive and nurturing environment.

Extra Curricular Activities

Many of the children are getting old enough to be participating in extra curricular activities. **Margarita** is a cheerleader and has recently competed in two competitions with her team. Several of the school aged children are taking karate lessons. **Emanuel, Lupita, Katia, Jose, and Jonathan** all recently participated in a karate tournament and **Emanuel** took first place in his division. Taking part in extra curricular activities helps the children develop in areas outside the classroom. Many of the Friends who have visited the Villa over the past months have commented on how poised, confident, and mature many of the school aged children have become. These activities play a big part in that, and, most of all, the children are enjoying themselves and having fun!

The Toddlers

The toddlers... Well, you've been reading about the school aged children and the babies but what about the toddlers? The Villa's newest toddler is **Angel**. He arrived at the Villa at the end of January. In just a few weeks he has gone from being shy and withdrawn to fitting right in with the other toddlers; **Antonio, Fernando, Ramon, and Linda**. These five smiling, fun loving children with their boundless source of energy and curiosity are a joy to be around.



Health

Special thanks to Bob and Roberta Kuhn who recently arranged to have a doctor perform medical checks on the children. Escorted by Bob and Roberta out to the Villa, the doctor from Arizona examined all twenty-one children.

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2008 Villa Infantil Golf Tournament & BBQ



Thanks to the Following Who Donated Prizes and Services

Restaurants

- LaBodega Restaurant & Bar
- 60's In Paradise-Jocotopec
- Jose's Illusion
- Ristorante La Forchetta
- Toscana Pizzeria
- Ristorante di Milia
- La Taverna
- Fonda Doña Lola
- Golden Dragon Restaurant
- Tony's
- Tio Domingo
- Piccolo's
- Kennington Pub
- Giovanni's
- Thirsty Turtle
- Señor Sushi
- Rivoli's

Businesses

- Nacho's Trash & Treasures
- Dos Lunas Galleria
- Diane Pearl Collections
- Lois Cugini's Opus Boutique
- Lakeside Mall
- Paz Liquor
- Chula Vista Country Club
- Tour With Us
- Edith Salon
- Change of Pace
- Phoenix Golf Center

Individuals

- Chad & Toni Olsen
- Carol Wood
- The Sargent Family
- Carol Bedford.....Entertainment
- Cecile Menu.....Posters
- Jack Warren.....Award Plaques
- Bob Croog..Artwork/Plaque Lettering
- Jeanne Chaussee.....Publicity
(The Guadalajara Reporter)

And special thanks to ALL our wonderful volunteers who worked so hard to make this event a success.