



Care for Kids La Paz



Care for Kids La Paz Newsletter

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From the President's Desk

What kid hasn't wanted to make themselves fly? Unless I witnessed it myself, I would not have believed it possible. But kids can fly...and I saw it with my own eyes.

Just before Christmas holidays, a family of five contacted the charity expressing a desire to be of service to the children who live in Vista Hermosa. Their eldest, a 17-year old daughter, had been on a mission trip to Costa Rica where they went into the villages to play with the kids. The younger two daughters wanted the same kind of experience while they were in La Paz.

This was a slam-dunk. An impromptu visit, stopping the car on any dirt road in the community, would bring a mountain of curious children, who without electricity in their homes and no TV, were always playing outside.

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One sunny afternoon, just before New Year's, the Harman family and I drove to the community and stopped the car on a dirt road. We didn't wait long for word to get around that there were soccer balls, licorice, toothbrushes, yo-yos, bubbles and paints to decorate faces. This is where the flying kids enter the picture.

The concept behind flying is one of those power-wheels vehicles for kids and the courage to ride it down a steep, rocky, dirt road, trying not to fall off or hit anything. It's an adrenaline rush for sure and the fun associated in riding a kids' toy, not to mention the danger involved when there are four kids riding on one small plastic car.

A steep hill and a kid's car are like magnets for boys. Four passengers of hyperactivity flew down that road not once, but five or six times, trying to outdo themselves each ride down. The true miracle was all four tires remained intact and no kid was thrown off the car. But I suppose that even if they lost a passenger, it would give them more mileage to their story that no doubt they're still talking about. Thank you to Rhett, Stephanie and daughters for giving the children of Vista Hermosa a very special day. Check out the photos [here](#).

The charity had another request from a couple who wanted to make a child's Christmas a little brighter while they were also visiting La Paz. I met a family of five - Mom, Dad, and three boys aged 4, 2 and one month - who were excited about meeting the Elliott's and celebrating an early Christmas.

The family lived in a one-room home with a dirt floor and one bed. A hammock spanned the width of the room and was used as a crib for the baby. No electricity, no piped-in water, no sewage.

The husband, thankfully, had work, although it was in Cabo San Lucas. His schedule was two weeks of work and then a weekend home. Sadly, he hadn't been paid in weeks - not an uncommon event in Mexico - and there was no food to be seen.

The two older boys were so engaging and talkative, we couldn't stop laughing. Joy was that moment when the children unwrapped their gifts - a truck for the older boy and a tractor with all the bells and whistles for the younger one - and seeing their eyes sparkle. The baby slept through the whole event and missed seeing his mom open his gift of clothing. The parents received a box of food and a four-burner stovetop to replace the one that was broken.

We stayed for the longest time chatting with the boys and getting to know the parents a little better. It was difficult for us to leave because of the bonds of friendship that were forming. Those are moments I wouldn't trade for the world.

The world is full of roads that lead us to God. We make a life by what we give. Check out the photos [here](#).

God bless.
Barbara

The Face of Angels: Profile of Children of Vista Hermosa



Oscar C. - 14 years

CFKLP: Tell us a little about your family?

Oscar: I live with my parents. My older sister is married and lives with her husband and daughter and my older brother lives on his own. My dad is a temporary construction worker. When he doesn't work on construction, he sells things from a cart. My mom is a housekeeper and her work is temporary, too.

CFKLP: What is your family's greatest need when your dad isn't working?

O: Food. There have been times when we've had no food.

CFKLP: What is the most important thing your parents have taught you?

O: My father has always emphasized studying. He didn't have the opportunity to finish school and he always tells me to keep studying so I can be a better person. I agree with him.

CFKLP: You've lived in Vista Hermosa for four years. Where did you come from?

O: We initially came from Los Mochis (a city in the Mexican state of Sinaloa). We lived in an apartment in La Paz where we had electricity and water but had to pay rent. We didn't have enough money so we moved to Vista Hermosa.

[His mother adds: When we got the lot we're living in now, we had a certain amount of time to move onto it or we'd lose it. At the same time, we couldn't afford the apartment anymore. We had three kids in school and with the cost of uniforms, school supplies, tuition, shoes, and bus fare, we couldn't stretch our money. We came immediately to clean up the lot and two days later moved onto it. We put in four posts and wrapped blankets around it and used a tarp for the roof that someone had given us. That was our home. When we came here the children didn't know there was no running water or electricity. One time we had nothing to eat and my husband went to the dump to look for food. My husband took them to school on his bike, one on the front and one on the back. The eldest took the bus to high school. Little by little, we were able to buy the things we needed or people donated things: clothes, blankets and used cardboard to start a fire. That's how we cooked because we couldn't even afford propane. With Oscar's scholarship, I don't have to worry about food. We even have enough money to buy him a new T-shirt. I used to cut his hair to save money but now he can go to the barber, himself.]

CFKLP: What's it like to live without electricity and running water?

O: I have to get up early to warm the water to wash. I must do my homework before it gets dark. We use candles a lot. We have dinner with candles. It's difficult.

CFKLP: I'm thinking of the many readers who have dinner by candlelight to celebrate something romantic. In your situation, this is not always so. (Oscar smiles) Why is education important to you?

O: To better my situation.

CFKLP: What are your dreams for your future?

O: I'd like to buy a house or have something better than what we have now. For a career, I think I'd like to be an auto mechanic.

CFKLP: In your opinion, how has the scholarship helped you and your family?

O: It has helped us save. We aren't spending the money on bus transportation and uniforms, which cost a lot. Without the scholarship, there would be more pressure on my family, they would try and find support from other people, such as looking for a used uniform or an extra shirt.

CFKLP: Where do you do your community service?

O: In the DIF (Department of Family Development) building. I sweep and file things. It's okay but I would like to teach kids to draw.

CFKLP: Maybe we can help you with that. What extra-curricular activities are you involved in at school?

O: I draw well and my school asks me to help with the mural on special days. I also play on a soccer team for another community.

CFKLP: If you had all the time and money in the world, what would you do?

O: I'd travel to where the rest of my family lives in Mexico.

CFKLP: Tell us something about yourself that makes you proud?

O: I accept people for who they are. I don't complain, I don't criticize people and I try not to say anything without thinking first. I don't like to judge people or gossip.

CFKLP: Those are beautiful qualities. What does poverty mean to you?

O: The doors are closed. There are lots of dreams that will never be fulfilled. Poverty takes away our dreams.

CFKLP: To get to this place, how poor is poor?

O: Generally, the family isn't educated. If the father has no education, then probably the son won't become educated either. For me, to study is the way out. I've thought about this a lot. Parents need to encourage their children to study.

CFKLP: How do your parents encourage you?

O: They remind me of the situation I'm living in. They encourage me to study and give me examples of why I need to study.

CFKLP: If you were President of Mexico, what would you change to make this country a better place to live?

O: I'd ban corruption. I'd give economic help to those who need it. I'd generate jobs, hire more police to prevent drugs coming in from other countries, I'd up the surveillance so no more guns cross the border. I'd generate more jobs, more schools, and ensure every community has running water, sewage, and paved streets.

CFKLP: If you could be the spokesperson for the children who are involved in our charity's programs, what do you think they would say to our readers?

O: The sponsors don't know how we live and how important their support is. It's so important for us, not only for the children but also for their families. Now and in the future, they will be forever grateful for the help. When my sponsors see me finish my career, they'll see the results of their financial support. I want to thank all of you on behalf of the children.

How Can You Help?

Please remember to use the search engine GoodSearch.com and GoodShop.com so that our charity can earn money every time you search the internet or shop on-line. Go to their website and select Care for Kids La Paz (Dilworth, MN) as your designated charity. It doesn't cost users a thing and those pennies can really add up!

[GoodSearch](http://GoodSearch.com) [GoodShop](http://GoodShop.com)

We are now on Facebook! If you already have a Facebook account, go to the Care for Kids La Paz Facebook page. If you'd like to receive updates on your newsfeed such as photos or events, please 'Like' us and 'Share' us. Liking and sharing us helps us get around. [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/careforkidslapaz)

Help spread the word about Care for Kids La Paz. Do you belong to a group or a school who would like to hear more about us? We'd love to come and talk about our work. Better yet. Visit us in beautiful La Paz and you can give your own presentation.

If you have any children's books in Spanish you'd like to donate, please contact me at: careforkidslapaz@yahoo.com [Email address](#)

There are a number of students with good grades who would like to have a scholarship. If you would like to share in a special relationship with a student and their family, please drop me a



line for more details at careforkidslapaz@yahoo.com [Email address](#)

If you're travelling to La Paz, please keep a little space in your luggage for books, toothpaste, toothbrushes, pencils and children's vitamins.

Please keep our charity in your prayers!

May your hearts be continually filled with the love and peace of God.

Mission Statement

Care for Kids La Paz is a non-profit charity dedicated to improving the lives of impoverished children and families in La Paz, BCS, Mexico. We provide long-term support by guaranteeing access to food, health care and education to children.

Through our commitment, Care for Kids La Paz strives to achieve lasting improvements in the quality of life of underprivileged children giving them the opportunity to become healthy, self-reliant individuals.