



Care for Kids La Paz



Care for Kids La Paz Newsletter

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From the President's Desk

Señor Hiker Ken Burningham acquired that title because he spends winters in La Paz while taking hardy hikers on scenic trails through the Sierras and beaches. Ken also likes to do a bit of canning in his spare time in beautiful British Columbia. He generously donated to our charity 33-pint jars of the most tasty homemade jam ever - blueberry, strawberry, strawberry-rhubarb, red plum and black plum - that will light up your taste buds. Linda Mills decorated the lids with attractive material and ribbon and we gave them to the mothers as gifts on Mexican Mother's Day.

How do you explain the look and taste of rhubarb to someone who's never heard of it? Even though I purposely left out the part in my explanation about the leaves being poisonous, that jam was the last to be picked. However, reports from the moms filtered in that all the different flavours were to die for especially the one with the rhubarb.

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Go figure! Click [here](#) for photos.

We had another visitor, Blanca Portella Heil, who, with her husband Les, own a [B&B](#) in La Bocana, the north part of this state on the Pacific side. While visiting our beautiful city for a month, Blanca contacted our charity. She brought clothing, shoes, toys, crayons, school supplies and other goodies for distribution.

Blanca's love is to teach English. We somehow managed to round up about 25 kids and some moms, too, who were willing to sit in a hot room to learn a language which most will hardly use but would be a benefit to have. Or maybe they came because they heard there would be cake and fruit. Blanca's system of teaching was riveting, it kept each child's attention and the children really responded to her. Two young university men, one who receives a scholarship from Blanca, joined us and we had an hour of complete joy. Blanca taught two more times before we all said good-bye but she's hoping to return when La Paz is a little less warm. Click [here](#) for photos.

On the corner of 5 de Mayo and Cabildo lies an outdoor fruit and vegetable stand with discounted prices owned by two brothers, Jaime and Jesus. After I was shopping there for a number of months, Jaime asked me if I had a restaurant for which I was buying. This led into a conversation about the charity and the breakfast program and ended with Jaime promising to help in any way he could. We now receive a discount on the already discounted food as well as free fresh but damaged fruit and vegetables. We're so grateful for everything free that comes our way and if the food doesn't get eaten by the kids at breakfast, the moms take it home. If you're in the area, please drop by their stand and support them. Click [here](#) for photos.

God bless you.
Barbara

The Face of Angels: Profile of Children of Vista Hermosa



Michelle - 13 years

Translator: Guina

CFKLP: Tell us a little about your family?

Michelle: I live with my mom, dad and younger sister. My dad works for the military and with dogs to locate drugs and other things. My mom doesn't work. We've lived in Vista Hermosa for five months and before lived in another community in La Paz. My dad acquired the land in Vista Hermosa for free a while ago and some official person in Vista Hermosa told us we had to occupy it or lose the property.

CFKLP: What was the change like for you, moving from a home with electricity and piped-in water to no utilities?

M: It was a big change at first but I'm getting accustomed to it. It's actually better here because without television, I do other things. When I had television I spent too much time at home.

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

M: To be educated, to have manners, to be a better person, to be aware of the dangers and to have values such as respect for others.

CFKLP: Your marks at school are excellent, almost all 10's. Have you always done well in school?

M: No, in primary school I only got 7's and 8's. Because of my father's job, we were moved around and being in different schools affected my grades. All I wanted was to get good grades and a diploma from the school. When I entered junior high, I made a decision to work hard and get that diploma. My mom and dad finished high school.

CFKLP: What are your dreams for your future?

M: I want a profession. Maybe in criminology or as a veterinarian or maybe even go to military school or the air force where I can get a good education.

CFKLP: If you study hard, the world will be open to you. I've no doubt you'll do well. How has the scholarship helped you and your family?

M: It motivates me more to work hard and we have less expenses.

CFKLP: What lessons have your parents taught you about education?

M: To study hard and gain wisdom. They have said that with an education I will be able to distinguish between right and wrong, I can help others to avoid drugs and not go down the wrong path.

CFKLP: Tell us about a personal achievement that makes you proud?

M: I've been tutoring a student and his grades are improving. When he started he was getting 6's and now he's getting 8's. It makes me proud to help my classmates.

CFKLP: You're a very active girl. What do you participate in at school?

M: Sports. I'm on a soccer team but we got beat in the competition. I like to run and make goals in soccer. I'm a good player. I like other sports, too, like volleyball and basketball.

CFKLP: Tell us about your study habits. Do you study a lot or do things come easily for you?

M: When I finish my homework, I try and move ahead in my schoolbooks and read up on the things that interest me or something I'm curious about.

CFKLP: No wonder you do so well in school. Where are you doing your community service?

M: I help my physics teacher. If some students don't understand what he said, he asks me to explain to them what he tried to say because the kids understand me better. Our class has one of the best GPA's in the school. Sometimes the teacher has to do other work. He asks me to put teams together in the class and I choose the worst students on my team so I can help them get better grades. I also help out with two other classes - math and ethics. I understand the teachers very well, I learn fast and when I have time left over, I help others.

CFKLP: Do you get paid for doing the physics teacher's job? (We laugh) Do you get a hard time from some of the other students because the teacher counts on you?

M: Sometimes. I remember a time the teacher gave us a guide for a test and I answered all the questions correctly in class. The teacher told me I didn't need to write the exam because I already knew the answers. The other students got angry. Sometimes they're jealous but I don't pay any attention to them.

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

M: Principally, I'd make the school system better. I want every child to have the opportunity to go to school and a school close by. Some kids have to walk great distances to go to school. I saw that on TV. I also heard that in Africa children die every hour. I'd put in institutions to give those children what they need to survive and better security for everyone. I would ensure there was no more danger or corruption in the world and I'd build institutions to protect stray animals. I would also like to put in laws to help lower the contamination of the planet and exploitation of the earth.

CFKLP: What beautiful ideas! Talking about poverty, how would you define it?

M: Children who don't have clothing or shoes and nothing to eat. They live in houses

built of carton or they don't have anywhere to live. I know a little girl who goes to school but after she has to help her parents sell donuts and Nopal (an edible cactus) on the streets.

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

M: I'd put in more schools. We have institutions that are supposed to help but don't because of corruption. I'd put in more parks and entertainment centres like karate clubs where young people can meet and not get into trouble with drugs or alcohol. Our schools don't have enough material. Some classes don't have desks. I'd banish casinos so people won't spend their money there. I'd build shelters for the homeless. Many people treat others badly. I'd teach people values and to respect others.

CFKLP: We're going to have a beautiful world with you as President. Would you like to close this interview by saying something directly to our readers?

M: To those who are helping, it's really worth it. There are many children who want to study but don't have the opportunity. There are children whose lives we know nothing about and they simply don't have the means to study. The breakfast program is a good thing because the children get a good meal and it's a nice gesture to help others. Thank you.

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 online. 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.