



# Care for Kids La Paz



Care for Kids La Paz Newsletter

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## From the President's Desk

**It's a blessing to be able to run a charity. It's also been a wild run, like riding a stallion bareback. We are continually astonished at how much the charity has grown and the hope and optimism people have considering their circumstances after Hurricane Odile devastated their homes and all their belongings.**

**Maria is a 67-year old widow with soft eyes and an inviting face. She lives alone in a small, concrete block home that took her three years to build. When I met her, her home was partially in ruins. A small, torn tarp substituted as a roof and the dirt floor was littered with plastic bottles and pails of water. She lost her roof in the hurricane winds and all her possessions were stolen. She slept on a rotting mattress under the stars.**



Thanks to generous donors, we were able to get her place more liveable - new roof and floor, 45 kg propane tank filled with propane, stove, dishes, mattress, sheets, blankets and towels - and although there's more work to do, we thought you'd like to see some of the changes [here](#).

Our regular mission of providing food and scholarships for children suddenly expanded into helping families rebuild their homes, such as Maria's, or at least to replace some of the destroyed items. I'm learning more about the art of construction than I ever wanted to know but when I see the finished product, I'm astounded at the change.

The blow from Hurricane Odile has been a crushing one for many of the families in Vista Hermosa. Myra has four young children and eats at a neighbour's because her house was destroyed. Esperanza, 57 years, is a single mom of an 11-year old daughter, who rebuilt her home of wooden pallets with blankets and sheets for walls. Antonia's concrete home crumbled, she's expecting their fifth child, her husband was just seriously injured in a job related incident (no WCB), and they are now living in a small wooden structure. These are just some of the tragic stories of families whose lives we feel blessed to be a part of.



We are trying to meet the challenge. So far, we have delivered about 25 mattresses, sheets, portable gas stoves, blankets, pillows and cases, sleeping bags for those cold windy nights, little girl's clothing, baby clothes and crib. We have also bought bags of concrete and metres and metres of gravel and sand to build concrete floors for four homes. Click [here](#), [here](#) and [here](#) for more photos.

Thanks to Jillene Roldan at Tailhunter's Restaurant and the fisherman who brought down 64 kg of used and new clothing and shoes, health care items, food, and school supplies, we were able to distribute them to many families in Vista Hermosa who were most affected by the hurricane. Tailhunter's is part of a non-profit charity program called "Pack for a Purpose" that assists travellers who want to bring meaningful contributions to the destinations they visit. More photos [here](#).

When the Mennonite women in Chase, British Columbia, heard about the devastation to some of the poorer communities in BCS, they immediately went to work by making two-sided quilts so that people could have something to keep them warm at night. These colourful quilts, which you can see [here](#), are incredibly beautiful and the families thrilled to receive them.

Last, but not least, our charity just celebrated its 9th anniversary! We started as a breakfast program with 55 children and then added a scholarship program. One of our students designed and wrote this beautiful tribute you'll see in the photos: "Many congratulations on your ninth anniversary! Thanks for helping this community progress and making the kids happy. I hope that God fills you with many blessings, life and health." Such awesome families we have come to know and love! Click [here](#) for photos.



Thanks to the generosity of our many donors, we couldn't do this work without them. One hundred percent of the donations for the Hurricane Relief Fund have gone to just that. Our goal is to continue with repairs and to replace belongings until the last peso is spent.

With the Christmas season approaching, would you consider helping our families in need? Twenty-five dollars will buy a food hamper, two bags of cement, one siding of wood, a set of sheets, pillows, or blankets. Please make someone's Christmas truly special!

God bless you.  
Barbara

### **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.