



Care for Kids La Paz Newsletter

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#### From the President's Desk

**Like mothers, like chocolate. Two blessings that most of us wouldn't want to do without. On Mother's Day, we honoured our volunteers by throwing a small fiesta with cake, juice and boxes of Hershey Kisses. Mothers in Mexico are the hub in which the family revolves. What better way to say thanks for their loyalty and love than to give a sweet kiss!**

**Marco is a young man studying to become a nurse. Unfortunately, his mother, a single mom with three teen-age boys, did not have the financial resources to buy him a stethoscope. Our charity was glad to help out because a nurse without a stethoscope is like a piano without its keys.**

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Comanche is 75 years and lives alone in a clean, one-room home made of rotting wood with a metal roof. He's hard of hearing and walks with a cane. Thankfully, his neighbours keep an eye on him. A donor provided a rocking chair and our charity gave him the material to build a concrete floor and you can see in the before and after [photos](#) the difference a concrete floor can make. But his home really needs a makeover as well as a bathroom so that he can spend his golden years living with a bit more dignity. Any offers?

Jane and Richard Clemens had the privilege of returning to La Paz for a week's vacation and the pleasure of visiting Michelle, the youth they sponsor through our charity. This is a brief story of their visit.

"Michelle and her mother told about the terrifying night when they survived Hurricane Odile. Although part of their roof blew off, their one room cement block home stood solid. One of their neighbors was not as fortunate and a mother with her children came knocking on Michelle's family's door after their home literally blew away and Michelle's family provided a harbor for them to ride out the storm, as both families huddled together surrounded by cement block walls and under a partial roof. Thankfully the roof has been repaired as families rebuilt their lives.

Despite having so few material things, we were treated royally with freshly pressed melon juice served with delicious pie. This family has plenty of love to go around. During our visit Michelle's dad arrived bringing Michelle's paternal grandmother and her aunt and uncle from the mainland for a visit. There were heartfelt hugs with love as this extended family was united for the first time in many years. What a gift to witness this joy!

One leaves a visit like this very aware of not taking anything for granted. There is no running water, or dependable electricity, thus a refrigerator is a luxury. There are small living spaces inhabited by many, walking up a steep dirt hill is how one arrives to this home. Yet in the midst of this simple setting is a youth, Michelle, who loves to learn and is excited to go to school, loving parents who provide for their family and visiting extended family through Dad's job and Mom's homemaking. And mostly awareness that this family has hopes and dreams as do all families: for their children to grow up well, for health and safety, for a life with meaning and loving connections.

We are better people because of knowing Michelle and her family. Thank you Care for Kids La Paz for giving us the opportunity to sponsor Michelle." [Photos](#) of visit.

What better way to learn about the Mexican culture and be involved in the life of a student and family than to sponsor a child yearning to continue their schooling. For more information about the program, click [here](#).

God bless.  
Barbara

The Face of Angels: Profile of Children of Vista Hermosa





Brandon - 17 years

**CFKLP:** Tell us about your family?

**Brandon:** I live with my 5 siblings - four sisters and a brother - and my mom and dad. I'm the oldest. My parents right now have work but it's not always that way.

**CFKLP:** When your parents don't have work, how does your family manage?

**B:** They save little by little in small amounts and when they don't have work, they take from the savings. I help them.

**CFKLP:** How do you help them?

**B:** When we were younger, I would take care of my siblings by fixing meals and watching them while my parents looked for work. Now that we're older, I can work, too. I have a job in a small store nearby as a clerk who stocks, sells and even buys the merchandise. I've been working for nine months and the owners trust me. I really like the work. Before this job, I would help out the family during holidays by working in the fields, under the sun, picking chillies, tomatoes and strawberries. It was very hard

work. We'd work from 4 am - 5 pm for 105 pesos a day (\$7.00). Sometimes we wouldn't even have water or food. They didn't care if we ate or not. We would pick the fruit which was taken to trailers shipped to (the Mexican state) Sinaloa and trucked to the US and Canada.

CFKLP: Wow! I had no idea. I need to remember when I'm back in Canada visiting family that the food in the store that says 'Grown in Mexico' is probably picked by exploited Mexican labourers paid poor wages by owners only interested in getting rich. Grown locally isn't always a good thing.

B: Now I have a job I like. I work from 7 am - 1 pm and then go to school.

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

B: To finish school, to get ahead, and to help my brothers and sisters to accomplish their goals. For instance, my brother wants to be an architect so I need to succeed in order to help him. Also to be polite, well-behaved, to value what I have and to study hard and be someone in life.

CFKLP: School is expensive, you have a big family and there are times your parents don't have work? Is there something your family doesn't have that they need?

B: Probably food and clothing.

CFKLP: When your parents aren't working, is it a worry for you?

B: Yes, a lot. What I make at the store isn't enough to support everyone.

CFKLP: What are your dreams for your future?

B: Have a good home, be someone in life and help my siblings accomplish their dreams. I want to be an entrepreneur in business.

CFKLP: Do you believe this dream is reachable or is it something you'd like to accomplish but don't think it's possible?

B: I can make it. The store where I work helps me. They give me confidence. I administer everything because they trust me. When I finish high school I want to go onto university and study Commerce, I think. I'm not sure yet.

CFKLP: What does education mean to you?

B: It's important to go to school so you don't get cheated by the people who think they know more and are better than you. If they see you as ignorant or uneducated, they'll try and take advantage of you.

CFKLP: How has the scholarship helped you and your family?

B: Before I didn't have the money for uniforms and tuition. I'm thankful for that now. The money for bus fare is nice so I don't have to walk an hour to school.

CFKLP: Your day is really full. If you had all the time and money in the world, what would you like to do?

B: Help the poor and people in need with food, clothing and scholarships.

CFKLP: When you were 11, do you remember me interviewing you for this newsletter? \*

B: Yes

CFKLP: Do you remember your answer?

B: No

CFKLP: At that time you were going to school but also helping your dad at the car wash where he worked and also helping out with your siblings. Your answer was, "Rest."

B: But now I have to be concerned about others. We're getting into hurricane season, lots of people will be in need, including us. Last year our house was shredded to pieces.

CFKLP: Your family has done well putting your home back together. You now have a concrete floor and a roof that doesn't leak. Are you involved in any activities?

B: I play soccer and I box. There's a gym nearby where I can go for free.

CFKLP: How would you describe what poverty is?

B: Someone who's hungry, has no support from others, has no money. We're poor but in an average way, not like what real poverty is.

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

B: Less corrupt police, free education, build homes and give food to those who need it the most.

CFKLP: Before we end this interview, is there anything you'd like to say to our readers?

B: I would like to them to know my story and follow how I've turned out. There are a lot of kids in poverty who are hungry and are willing to overcome their situation but can't because of a lack of resources. I want to thank my sponsors, angels sent by God, to help me stay in school.

CFKLP: I've always been curious about something. There are eight people in your family. Many times your family doesn't have work, you all live in one room and your needs are many. But always, each one of you is smiling. I've been to your home hundreds of times and never have I seen anything but a smile on your faces. What's going on? Where does this happiness come from?

B: Instead of feeling sad, we smile. We always have the hope that some day we'll accomplish something like maybe the hope of having a nice home. My mother has always been a smiling person. When she smiles, she brings happiness to people and people tell her that.

\*You can read the interview with Brandon in the January 2010, newsletter [here](#).

## 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](#)  
[GoodShop](#)



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](#)

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.



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](mailto: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.