



Care for Kids La Paz



Care for Kids La Paz Newsletter

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From the President's Desk

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. (It must have been the 150 oranges in my cart that made him curious.) This led to 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 a good variety of fruit and vegetables that are fresh but damaged and unsaleable. If you're in the area, please drop by their stand and support them. Click [here](#) for photos.

A church group from San Diego does mission work in La Paz and each year they visit our breakfast program. They played guitar and violin with voices like angels. One of the women,

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dressed up in cool attire, enthralled the children by making animals and hats out of balloons. The group also did a deep cleaning of the kitchen and dining area. Now the floor is clean enough to eat off of, if you like to eat off of floors, and the kitchen looks brand spanking new. A big thank you to the mission team. Click [here](#) for photos.

Jane and Richard Clemens returned to La Paz for two weeks to vacation in our beautiful city and to volunteer their time in our charity. The highlight of their trip was meeting with the family of the student, Michelle, they're sponsoring. (Dad was out of town for work) We were all treated as honoured guests in their humble home of a wooden frame structure and were served sweetbread and a cold cantaloupe drink. Michelle loves school and chatted about her classes, her activities and all the many things that interest her. Her generous spirit touched us deeply. Click [here](#) for photos.

Speaking of school....It's already the end of June and another school year has gone by. Summer holidays are a breath away!

This year we've had over 100 children attending breakfast three mornings a week. Many have come from the most recent addition of Vista Hermosa, the side where there's no piped-in water, electricity, or sewage. The homes are built from cardboard and pieces of discarded wood and corrugated tin roofs, many situated on the dusty plains, or cascading down the steep mountainside. It's hard to imagine, isn't it?

The cost of living in La Paz is high compared to other states in Mexico. Food, particularly, is expensive. Many of the families' basic staples are beans, rice and tortillas. Meat, fruit, vegetables and milk products are considered a luxury.

We feel so blessed to be able to offer these hungry children a well-balanced breakfast with the foods they don't receive at home. Research has shown that properly fed children are more attentive and can concentrate better in school. A significant improvement has been noticed in the grades of the children who eat breakfast before they go to school.

One of our students, Monserrat, will be graduating from high school in July with plans to go to university to study accounting. That brings us to thirteen of our students who've graduated since the inception of the program eight years ago. By the way, Monserrat's brother, Jose, who was in our scholarship program, just graduated from university with an engineering degree. We are so proud of all our students' accomplishments.

Four new scholarship students have entered the program, all in junior high. If you'd like to meet them, click [here](#).

One last thought. It's an honour and a joy to be a part of the lives of the children and families in Vista Hermosa by providing essential nutrition so kids can stay focused in school and scholarships so they can remain in school. We couldn't have done this work without you!

Your donations will help numerous children improve their lives and build a strong foundation from which they can thrive. And while it's true that we have come a long way since we began this charity, we've still got a long way to go. Which is why we continue to need your help.

So please support us, write us and give generously. No amount is too small to help a child out of poverty. Because every child deserves to have a future.

We would like to thank Cáritas Diocesana, California Chicken, Tortilleria La Buena (Olachea Market), El Uniforme, Zapateria Joli, Walmart, City Club, and the 5 de Mayo y Cabildo outdoor market for ongoing support, discounts and donations.

A big thumbs up to all the many mission groups and individuals who reached out with love in order to serve our precious children and their families during the school year.

This will be the last newsletter until September. Have a wonderful summer!

God bless you.
Barbara

The Face of Angels: Profile of Children of Vista Hermosa



Monserrat - 17 years

CFKLP: Congratulations, Monserrat. You have finished high school with outstanding marks. How does it feel to be finished school?

Monserrat: I feel so happy and excited for achieving and finishing. Just one more step out of many that I'll be taking.

CFKLP: When do you graduate and how will you celebrate your graduation?

M: Graduation day is July 9 at the Teatro (theatre). All the students in my class will celebrate it over a meal.

CFKLP: To what do you attribute your success at school?

M: Principally, to the unconditional support from my parents and your charity, and directly to my sponsors, Ken and Sue, and to you, Barbara, as the mediator between us.

CFKLP: What are your plans now? What are your dreams for your future?

M: To continue studying at the Technological School in La Paz. My dreams are to find an excellent job in order to support my family.

CFKLP: How has being part of the scholarship program affected your life and the life of your family?

M: It has helped us immensely. It not only helped me but also my family. Thanks to my parents, I had the motivation to do well so that I could remain in the scholarship program. The money we didn't need to spend on my education was used so that my

brother and sister could continue with their university classes.

CFKLP: Who was the person(s) who helped you the most in reaching your goal? How did they help you? How did they inspire you?

M: Not only can I give thanks to one person but to a number of people who contributed so that I could get ahead, the same people who encouraged me not to remain half in, half out, but to work hard. They had faith in me.

CFKLP: What would you like to say to other students to inspire them to work hard and stay in school?

M: I would like to say that we are so fortunate to receive this help. It's not just a short-term financial help but the actions and decisions we make as students now will affect our future. It's in our hands to decide whether we want to take up the call to work hard or not. We are the only ones who can make that decision.

CFKLP: Is there something you would like to say directly to the people who will be reading this interview?

M: How does the saying go? Every little bit helps. The scholarship program does a lot for us and I hope you are able to help financially in order to support the students and help the little kids who come for a plate of food. I know that you don't receive any goods in exchange for your donations but I believe the most significant way we can show our gratefulness is by saying thank you and to let you know that for each student who receives a scholarship, it's as if you placed another star in the constellation. It's something we students aspire to. 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 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.