



Care for Kids La Paz Newsletter

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IN THIS ISSUE

[From the President's Desk](#)

[How Can You Help?](#)

[Mission Statement](#)

[Join Our Mailing List!](#)

QUICK LINKS

[Care for Kids La Paz Website](#)

[Email Address](#)

[Newsletter Archives](#)

[Donations](#)

From the President's Desk

The winds of change have been stirring in our charity. Nine years ago, we began a breakfast program in an impoverished community feeding children a healthy morning meal before they took off for school. The families who lived in the community, Vista Hermosa, had no access to piped-in water, basic sanitation and sewage, and little access to medical care or well-paid jobs. Many lived in one-room shacks made of tin and cardboard. Some had dirt floors on which they slept. Others cooked outdoors on an open fire due to the costly propane.

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Year by year, little by little, the community improved. Services were installed, families were able to build homes out of concrete block, buy cars and install cable TV. Fewer kids came for breakfast. For the past year, I kept asking myself if our charity was providing a service for a problem that no longer existed. No point in duplicating what the parents can already do for their children.

A few years back, the federal government opened up another section of land still considered part of Vista Hermosa. Numerous families from mainland Mexico moved to this area with a hope for a better life. For the most part, these families lack education and can only find poorly paid menial jobs. Many live like the first wave of families - in one-room houses built of patches of wood or tarpaper, dirt floors, and no electricity or piped-in water. They lived just far enough away that their children didn't come to our breakfast program.

It was through Hurricane Odile and the work our charity had and has been doing to help get people back on their feet that I was privileged to meet many of these families, hear their tragic stories, and assess their needs. It was then it dawned on me that our charity could close down the breakfast program and help out on a family by family basis. This would put us in a better position to offer a more flexible, tailor-made support to meet the needs of families and at the same time allow us to have more of a community focus while meeting the people in their homes. Never forgetting, of course, that children are our first priority.

Griselda is a perfect example of the families we're meeting. Griselda is a single mom with a 2 yr. old daughter who lives in housing of metal walls and a dirt floor. She keeps it as clean as possible but the reality is that her physical safety is at risk and she doesn't live in dignity. She is unemployed, her ex doesn't pay child support and she doesn't meet the requirements of receiving government support in the way of money or food. To meet her immediate needs, our charity bought Griselda food and propane to fill her empty tank. Photos [here](#).

These are the families we are getting to know and trying to help with food and other material goods. We are also looking for families whose children might qualify for the scholarship program, a program we would like to expand. Educating the next generation is the key to leaving poverty behind and not having to rely on hand-outs. It keeps children in school when they would otherwise have to be pulled out for lack of financial resources and it gives the family hope.

There are some government agencies whose mission is to offer help to the poor with food, bi-monthly cash payments, job creation, employment training and material for housing. However, a volunteer and I recently visited three of these offices and were told that due to the upcoming state elections in June, five months away, all the programs are on hold!

Regardless, our charity will do what we can with the resources we have to try to make a difference in people's lives and to ensure children will be able to thrive with food on the table, a roof over their heads and an education.



Every so often, little surprises come our way. Janey and Bob Harris, who live on a boat in La Paz, donated packages of socks and over fifty beautiful scarves Janey hand-knit to keep the kids warm on those cold nights. A group of us went to Vista Hermosa, driving up and down the dusty streets looking for kids. We didn't have to drive too far. The scarves were a big hit as you can see from the smiles on the children's faces [here](#).

You, our readers, through your support and donations, have allowed us to do this work. I believe it is our task to help those who are poor onto the ladder of ascendancy, to give them at least a foothold on the bottom rung, from which they can proceed to climb on their own. It's nothing short of an awesome and energizing mission!

God bless 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.