



# Care for Kids La Paz



Care for Kids La Paz Newsletter

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## From the President's Desk

If you've never shopped at a second hand store in Mexico, you've never really shopped! Just imagine a huge warehouse filled to the gills with used stuff one on top of or intertwined with each other: clothing, dolls, tables, chairs, recliners, toys, cribs, refrigerators, home décor, picture frames, bookcases, baby carriers, bikes, electronics, computers, fax machines, kitchen gear, sheets, blankets, pillows, bed frames, mattresses and more stuff. What is

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junk to one person is a treasure to another. If you are a smart one-stop buyer, you can furnish your whole home here.

This is where Roxanne, a visitor and volunteer from Canada, and I, went to buy queen and single mattresses at Juan's Segunda. Although it's been six months since Hurricane Odile, families in Vista Hermosa are still feeling the effects. Having a mattress to sleep on is one of their priorities. It's not uncommon for a family of five to occupy one bed.



Juan gives our charity a great discount and, with a small cost for gas for his truck, delivers the mattresses to the homes we've allotted. Mattress delivery photos [here](#).

While we were at Juan's store, Roxanne and I searched through endless tables and boxes looking for sheets and blankets, and toys for two little girls and their baby brother who had nothing to play with. The look on the girls' faces when we presented the dolls was worth the exhausting work of searching for them. They couldn't grab those dolls fast enough out of our hands and I've since learned from their mom, they carry them in their backpacks wherever they go. We also bought the girls new runners to replace the ones that no longer fit, however, the shoes didn't have quite the impact as the dolls. Oh, little girls and their dolls! Check out photos [here](#).

People ask me how I find the families who need help. Actually, they find me. When we delivered the mattresses, a number of moms came up to the truck looking for an extra bed. It was the perfect time to ask a little about them and their needs. It was heartbreaking to hear how they've been struggling since the hurricane and how desperate they are for something as simple as a mattress, something most of us take for granted.

Most of us also take for granted a stove. No so in Vista Hermosa. A number of families cook on an open fire. It's exhausting work looking for wood, which is not plentiful in the desert, and then heating up the water for beans or rice. They don't have electricity and buying a 2- or 4-burner portable stove and propane tank with propane is expensive.

Maria and her family were one of the families we met. Roxanne and I learned more about them when we delivered a mattress to their very humble home with dirt floors, walls made from slabs of wood, a metal roof and a wood fire for cooking. Maria loves gardening and grows basil, rosemary, and some fruit trees. Her husband works in construction and takes jobs when he can get them. They are the parents of three children, two living with them, one who's in high school and a potential scholarship student for the next school year.

Later in the week, when we arrived at Maria's home delivering a stove and propane tank, she was overwhelmed at the kindness bestowed on her and her family. She couldn't wait to tell us how well she has slept since she got the mattress. I imagine her family will eat better, too! It's moments like these that remind me how simple gestures can make such a difference in someone's life.



Lastly, a most thoughtful family visiting from British Columbia brought a suitcase weighing 50 lb of new and used clothing for adults and kids, shoes, school supplies, miniature cars, Spider-man caps, crayons, and hair clips. The family, a charity volunteer, and I drove to Vista Hermosa, parked the car on the main dusty road, and before we hardly had the car doors open, moms, dads, babies, toddlers, and school age kids suddenly appeared. These are the families who lost homes and belongings in the hurricane, families very

grateful for the donations, especially the clothing. Two hours later, after we had given everything away, we left inspired by the gracious way these Mexican families have handled hardships and their gratitude for the things that come their way. Photos [here](#).

Before I sign off, I'd like you to read Rozanne's letter, a beautiful testament to the work our charity is doing in Vista Hermosa.

Pure Joy!

Today, I witnessed pure joy . . . as I watched a Vista Hermosa mother of four carefully unwrap a new four burner propane stove. Until now, she has been cooking with one pot balanced over a wood fire just outside the door of her family's humble two-room home.

Excitedly, she patted her palms back and forth, forming a perfect imaginary tortilla, as she told us of all the things she could now cook for her family.

While children's education is a primary focus of Care for Kids La Paz (the goal being to break the cycle of severe poverty in communities like Vista Hermosa), they also take a holistic approach by serving broader, immediate needs of these families.

Spending time with Barbara Spencer was an incredible opportunity to view first hand the impact that a relatively small on-the-ground charity can have. Prioritizing needs within the community is done with tremendous care and skill--stretching donated funds to address the most urgent needs and accomplish small miracles. A mattress to sleep on, a stove top to cook on--how basic, how practical, how life changing!

There is one thing I know for sure: the return-on-investment of a donation to Care for Kids La Paz is pure joy--for everyone involved!

Roxanne Lind  
Saskatoon, Canada

God bless you.  
Barbara

## 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.

If you have any children's books in Spanish you'd like to donate, please contact me at: [careforkidslapaz@yahoo.com](mailto: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](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.