



Care for Kids La Paz Newsletter

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From the President's Desk

Ten year old Yuliana moved from mainland Mexico with her parents and three siblings. Her dad was offered work that didn't turn out to be as full-time as he was led to believe. They arrived in La Paz with only what they could carry and are living temporarily in a relative's home, basically a 4 x 4 wooden structure. The family sleeps outside in two tents.

I met this family when we were handing out the last of eight mattresses. Click [here](#) for photos. We did, however, have four huge garbage bags filled with stuff donated from a friend's garage sale. I gave these to the family asking them to share with others what they couldn't use.

Visiting their home, I was taken aback to see they were living in tents and sleeping on the hard ground. The children were going to start school just after Easter holidays and had no school supplies or backpacks. Coinciding with this, a

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couple from the US visiting La Paz, Debbie and Ryan, contacted me wanting "to give back to families in need" while travelling. They inquired if there was a family they could meet and asked for suggestions as to what they could bring.

Couldn't have asked for better timing! With a pickup filled to the gills with ten used mattresses they bought from a second hand store in La Paz, four for Yuliana's family, Debbie and Ryan also bought and handed out new sheets, towels, backpacks, notebooks, candy, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, soap, T-shirts and pillows to some very happy families. There's nothing like an early Christmas! More photos [here](#).

Yuliana loved her pink backpack. Filling it with her new school supplies, she held onto it tightly. The next day, when I was visiting with the family, she had it on her back ready to go to school. The problem was her classes started in the afternoon and she still had three hours to wait. Every five minutes she would ask, "What time is it?" and each time her mother would answer, "It's still not time yet." Poor Yuliana could barely sit still for wanting to go to school and show her newfound friends her cool backpack. How a simple gesture can make such a difference!



More good news! The car we've been driving, the one donated years ago by a very generous Canadian, was getting too sick to fix without costing a fortune. The donor heard about this and recommended I look for another car and send

him the bill. What an offer and what a blessing! Considering the precarious roads with huge potholes and unmarked speed bumps, I thought a military tank would be perfect. Since they're hard to come by, I chose an awesome white 2013 Nissan Tiida!

Our charity received a generous donation of 2500 pesos (\$165.00) from Club Cruceros, an organization in La Paz devoted to helping charities and cruisers in Baja. We spent half the money towards more mattresses for those who have none or who have one not worthy to be called a mattress. The other half will be used to buy a 4-burner portable stove and 30 litre propane tank filled with propane for Yuliana's family. And even more photos [here](#).

Lastly, our charity had the privilege to introduce our scholarship student, Jennifer, and her family to her sponsors who were visiting La Paz. Both were very excited to meet one another and they had a great discussion about how Jennifer is doing at school (10 GPA), life in La Paz, and work and family related themes. The sponsors brought gifts for everyone and we parted feeling much richer for knowing each other. If you want to be a part of Mexican culture and help a student have a better future, a scholarship is the way to go! Email us to learn more about our program. Awesome photos [here](#).

A big thumbs up to all those who donated their time or goods to our charity this month. We couldn't have done this work without you: Segunda Juanito (Chametla), Al Miller, Vicki (Ibarra Pottery), James, Debbie, Ryan, Yvonne, Al, Kristen, Dani, John, and Sandy.

God bless you.
Barbara

The Face of Angels: Profile of Children of Vista Hermosa



Atzibi - 14 years

CFKLP: Tell us a little about your family: with whom do you live, what do they do?

Atzibi: I live with my mom and dad and older sister. My dad works as an assistant brick mason and my mom recently got a job working as a cook for a small restaurant. My older sister is also in junior high, like me. Now that my mom works, when my sister and I get home from school, I cook simple lunches like chicken soup, or eggs, or rice and beans, or quesadillas, while my sister cleans the house.

CFKLP: Have you always lived in La Paz?

A: I was born here. We've moved a lot because they increased the rent where we lived. It affected my schooling not because we moved but because the students would give me a hard time. I'm a serious person, I take studying seriously and some of the girls who don't want to study would give me a hard time. They call me uppity and think I think I'm better than everyone. They tease me because I study hard.

CFKLP: Your focus in your life right now is to study hard, get good grades, and go onto university so you can have a good future. That's your job. There will always be people who will give you a hard time for this but try not to allow this to steer you down the wrong path. You are an inspiration for those who want to do well in life.

A: I'll carry on even if they give me a hard time.

CFKLP: Good for you! What is the most important thing your parents have taught you?

A: To study hard, to behave well, to be a good person.

CFKLP: Tell us what education means to you?

A: To get ahead in life and become someone. I would like to be a doctor or criminologist.

CFKLP: Do you know that you can combine the two and be a forensic pathologist? Tell us some more of your dreams.

A: To have a small house. If I'm alone, I won't need a big home. To have a good life, probably marry but then maybe not, have a pet and maybe have two kids.

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

A: Now that I have a scholarship, it's one less worry for my parents. If I didn't have the scholarship, then I would only be able to buy school supplies little by little. I would do everything I could to continue with school but it would be a hardship for my family.

CFKLP: What activities are you involved in at school and at home?

A: I was the school principal in a short play to promote anti-bullying and to solve problems connected to this. I also helped raise money for those running for school queen.

CFKLP: What's the money used for?

A: It's supposed to go for school improvements but I'm not really sure. Rumour has it the principal bought an air conditioner for her office.

CFKLP: Hmm...And what do you do in your spare time?

A: For the past three months, I've been taking Tae Kwon Do. I really like it. I'm flexible, my body's in good shape, it teaches things like all the routines and exercises which help you with personal defense. It also helps you focus and to pay attention.

CFKLP: Have you tried your skills out on anyone?

A: (Laughing) Not yet. My sister and I help each other. They teach us the moves that will come in handy if someone attacks us. They are very simple moves but very effective.

I also like to sew, do arts and crafts and make small gifts for my family to show them how much I love them.

CFKLP: Tell us about your community service. Where are you doing it and what do you do?

A: I work in the DIF building (government building that teaches skills to the community). I supervise the kids doing their homework or help with the computers or water plants or help make piñatas. I'm busy all the time.

CFKLP: If you had all the time and money in the world, what would you like to do?

A: I would solve all the economic problems, pay people's bills, help families in need, and take my mother to see her mother who she hasn't seen in fourteen years.

CFKLP: That's a long time not to see a mother.

A: My mother was fourteen when she came to La Paz with my aunt. It's a story I don't know much about.

CFKLP: How would you define poverty?

A: It's not good or bad. It depends on how life was when you were younger, how well you did at school. For example, my mom tells me that because she didn't finish school, she now regrets it because had she finished, she could have had a better life. I want to study hard, have a decent job to overcome poverty. Poverty can be a motivator to overcome your situation to have a better life.

We're not really poor. We're okay but our economy is not good. We don't have a lot but whatever they give my sister and me is okay.

CFKLP: If you were President of Mexico, what would you do to improve the country?

A: I'd analyze the main issues my country has and make a plan to solve them, one by one, according to the priorities. If a family needs something, I'd help them first. Violence and drugs are a huge problem. I'd stop selling alcohol because it is a drug and mostly men consume it. I would limit drug consumption. Some drugs that are for health and cure diseases are sold on the street. They should be limited to the hospitals. As for violence, some have unresolved family issues from the past, some families face problems in the present, which make them feel angry and oppressed. Then they take it out on someone else.

CFKLP: Is there something you'd like to say to our readers to close?

A: Thank you. The scholarship is a way of motivating us so we can get ahead and then help others. Whatever support you're giving us today will help us help others tomorrow. This help will grow and spread. This generation will carry this help onto the next generation thanks to the support. This generation will be a testimony that dreams can be achieved and goals reached. My generation has an opportunity to become a generation of donors to sponsor other kids, if they want to.

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 online. 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.

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.