

Friends of Niños Adelante

Fall-Winter 2007 Newsletter

A TRIBUTE TO TWO SPECIAL PEOPLE

Niños has been blessed to have some outstanding members, whom have used their time and talents to foster the growth of our program. At this time, we would like to put the spotlight on one of these couples.

After visiting Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo for several years beginning in the early 90's and donating to Niños Adelante, Tyrone and Delia Bujold became sponsors in April of 1996. Their first student was Ramiro Servin Perez.

Ty was instrumental in the formation and chartering of Friends of Niños Adelante in 1999 and served as board president for six years, then, past president for an additional two years. Under Ty's guidance, the program grew in numbers from 100 students to the current 220. Also, through his attention to fund raising, the bank account grew substantially. This was a significant asset to the growth of funding more services for the student's needs.

Ty founded the English instruction classes concept and negotiated to find class meeting space and materials. He continues to coordinate the volunteer instructors and faithfully teaches classes every year.

Delia served as treasurer for Friends of Niños Adelante. She has also stepped forward to volunteer countless hours where needed in the program. Her valuable time spent on fundraising and other activities has been a behind the scenes asset to the organization.

Ty and Delia have been very active, dedicated, and a valuable asset to the Program. They, along with others, have been the backbone of this growing service organization. We thank them for all their hard work and efforts. We hope they realize how very much they are appreciated.

9TH ANNUAL FUNDRAISING REPORT

The 9th Annual Friends of Niños Adelante fundraiser was held at the Sheraton West in Minneapolis on September 21, 2007. This annual event generates funds

that are used for Niños Adelante operating expenses. These expenses include office rent in Zihuatanejo, office computers used by the students to communicate with sponsors, internet connection, special needs and college funds, the end of the year fiesta for the students, a small salary for office support in Zihuatanejo and other expenses that may arise.

This year was a record year in terms of donations, participation, and funds raised. The fundraiser was made up of donated items that were used in a silent and live auction. There were over 150 individual items donated at various levels of value ranging from \$25 to \$1650. The over 100 participants experienced a great evening of fun, food, drink, and generosity. Final income figures are not yet in, but after all expenses are covered, we expect to generate approximately \$19,000...an all time high for this event. All of this was made possible by the hard work and support from many volunteers.

This year's event contained some creative ideas:

Wall of Wine....This was a wine rack with 15 bottles of wine in it and an extra 3 liter bottle of wine on the side. Raffle tickets were sold and this Item alone generated over \$1000.

New Live Auction Item.....Chicklet gum was purchased from the "kid vendors" on the streets in Ixtapa and Zihua. Pictures of the vendors were taken. The gum was our last live auction item. The "priceless" gum was sold for \$350. Keep in mind there were multiple packs!

Guest Speaker, Bill Baker, a new sponsor, visited Zihuatanejo in February 2007. He spoke about his family's experience of meeting their student for the first time. It was a touching story that he shared, causing several of the attendee's to come forward after the event and volunteer to sponsor a student.

While the auction was a lot of work, the volunteers had fun doing it and the results speak for themselves. We are very blessed to have such great and generous people supporting a noble cause. We are also grateful to the many businesses and individuals for their donations.

FRIENDS OF NIÑOS ADELANTE BUSINESS DONOR LIST 2007

The following establishments have made a generous donation to the Friends of Niños Adelante Fundraiser. We ask that you please support these businesses!

In Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo

3 Amigos Restaurant, Zihuatanejo
dal Toscano, Restaurant, Ixtapa
Bogart's Restaurant, Ixtapa
Frank's Restaurant Bar & Grill Ixtapa
La Malinche Restaurant, Ixtapa
Rueben's Restaurant, Ixtapa
Il Mare Ristorante Restaurant, (La Ropa)
Mamma Norma & Deborah and Deborah's Chili Beans's Restaurants, Ixtapa
Morelos Restaurant Ixtapa
Soleiado Restaurant Ixtapa
Villas Miramar, Zihuatanejo
NH Krystal Hotel, Ixtapa
Barcelo Hotel, Ixtapa
Pacifica Hotel, Ixtapa

In the Twin Cities Area

Lexus of Wayzata, Wayzata, MN
Lexus of Maplewood, Maplewood, MN
Village Chevrolet, Wayzata, MN
Dr. Jeff Hall, Chanhassen, MN
Lifetime Fitness, Chanhassen, MN
Vine Hill Chiropractic, Minnetonka, MN
Flash Photography
Gokhan Cukurova Photo Studios
Teri Bennett, Artist, Tonka Bay, MN
Art Holdings, Golden Valley, MN
National Karate Institute
Caterer Nipa Bhatt, Minneapolis, MN
Mainstream Boutique, Chanhassen, MN
Pinky's Nails, Edina, MN
Salon Sparatoria, Victoria, MN
Larame Paradise at Salon Sparatoria, Victoria, MN
Liza Lavaty at Salon Sparatoria, Victoria, MN
Christine at Salon Sparatoria, Victoria, MN
New Reflections Spa & Salon (various locations in west Metro)
Jungle Red Salon, Minneapolis, MN
Chris Rose and Henricksen Office Furniture, Minneapolis, MN
Sheraton Minneapolis West
Lakeside Liquors, Long Lake, MN
Hartman Companies Inc., Victoria, MN (Landscape Co.)
Hero! Office Systems
Tonka Bay Marina, Tonka Bay, MN
Maynard's Restaurant, Excelsior, MN
Yumi's Sushi, Excelsior, MN
Floyd's Bar Victoria, MN
Buffalo Wild Wings
Chipotle Restaurants
Major/Close Management Group (UBS Financial)

Redstone Restaurant, Plymouth, MN
Axel's Restaurant
John Phipps at the Lafayette
Mark Sampson at the Lafayette Club
Sorella Wine & Spirits, Minneapolis, MN
Scharber & Sons, Inc. Rogers/Long Lake, MN
Anderson Builders Inc. Minneapolis, MN

SPECIAL SPONSORS

Dedicated, caring people are the heart of Niños Adelante and everyone involved in our organization shares those qualities. This year we would like to honor some very special sponsors whose dedication and caring spans many years.

Merle and Pat Barth of Houston TX., Grant and Maryanna Langlois of Little River RI., and Loraine McClevey of River Forrest Il., all share the distinction of having joined Niños Adelante in 1981. Twenty-six years of faithful support is quite a record. An achievement that is very much appreciated by all of us involved in Niños Adelante, especially the ninos.

STUDENT NEEDS

Many sponsors ask, what do the students need or want the most. We always ask our student that question. Many times we find the ninos are very reluctant to give us an honest answer. (By honest, we don't mean they would lie, but it is difficult for them to come out and ask for something.) So, we put the question to Jose Bustos, our man in Zihua. Jose's response was as follows:

1. Back packs: The kids use them for everything, especially for school supplies, books, etc....you can't go wrong with a back pack.
2. Shoes: These are expensive and they can all use them. Hard part here is figuring out the correct size. Jose says you should do your best knowing the age and sex of your student. Good luck with that!
3. Clothes: New or gently used clothing is always appreciated.
4. Watches: they all like them but very few have one.
5. School supplies: Calculators, note books, paper, pens....etc.
6. Personal hygiene items: We like to bring tooth brushes, tooth paste, deodorant, etc.
7. Electronics: This might be a bit much, but every kid in Mexico loves electronics.....especially lap top computers. While some of them don't even have electricity, a computer is a real dream. CD players with a battery charger have been well received.

We hope this helps. These students are like kids all over the world, they want the same things, but many will never have them. Good luck and thanks for all you do for the niños.

COMMUNICATION WITH YOUR STUDENT

For most of us, communication with our students is quite difficult due to our lack of knowledge of the Spanish language. It is very easy to e-mail or send a message to your student by using ALTAVISTA.COM. Scan down to babel fish translations and set the translation from English to Spanish. Write your message, click translate, and there is your message in Spanish. The e-mail address for your student is ninosadelante@prodigy.net.mx. Make sure you provide your name and the name of your student. Please send both the English and Spanish versions of your message.

VISITOR REGISTRATION

A reminder from the US Consular Agent, Elizabeth Williams:
Remember to register with her when you are in Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo on vacation. It is not required but is a prudent idea. The US Consular Agency is located at the Hotel Fontan. The telephone number is 755-553-2100

NIÑOS ADELANTE ALUMNI - ERIKA LORENZO CABRERA

Perhaps you have seen her. She sells corn from the back of her bicycle, corn on the cob, or corn kernels in a paper cup, mixed with sour cream and a splash of hot salsa. On Sunday evenings, she can be seen at the basketball court in Zihuatanejo, vending her wares. Her name is Guadencia Lorenzo.

Her husband, Enoel, works on construction when work is available. Senor and Senora Lorenzo have five adult sons and daughters, four of whom have been sponsored through the Niños Adelante program.

Our student for several years was Erika, their youngest child. Erika is bright, beautiful, determined, motivated, and competitive. She enjoyed sports—basketball, volleyball, soccer—throughout her years of “secundaria”, and she enjoyed her studies as well.

When Erika successfully completed her schooling in Zihuatanejo, she enrolled in university in Acapulco, in pre-med studies. On weekends, she often rode the night bus to Zihuatanejo to help her mother sell her corn at cultural evenings. She

returned to Acapulco, again on the all night bus, arriving just in time to attend Monday morning classes.

In 2006, Erika returned to Zihuatanejo to do her internship at the Zihua General Hospital.

Last winter, in February, 2007, we were thrilled to go with Erika to the clinic in which she practices medicine. It is the Centro De Salud in Coacoyul, about ten minutes outside of Zihuatanejo. She is one of two doctors in the clinic, each assisted by a nurse. As she showed us through her clinic, Erika talked animatedly about her practice.

She intends to further her career in medicine. At age 24, she hopes to return to medical school this coming September, (2007), if she can manage the finances. After four more years of study, Erika will become an orthopedic specialist.

What of the other Lorenzo children who were supported through Niños Adelante? One of the boys, Andy, has achieved some fame as a boxer. He is a bit of a hometown hero and has boxed successfully in many parts of the world. He is by profession, a lawyer. Of the other two, one is a civil engineer and the other an architect.

Guadencia and Enoel , who themselves have little education, realize its relevance, and have encouraged their children every step of the way. They are justly proud of their lawyer, their architect, and their engineer. They are equally proud, as are we, of Erika-their youngest child, our student, Dr. Erika Lorenzo Cabrera!
Submitted by Shelagh Yarnell-Winnepeg-Canada

HUMAN INTEREST ARTICLES

We are very pleased to share Shelagh Yarnell's beautiful story about some of Niños Adelante's alumni. We would like to hear from others who have a story they would like to share with other sponsors.

Please contact Leif or Lois Lindblom at leif@lindblomfamily.com or at P.O. 677 Oscoda, Mi 48750

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

A Number of our members have expressed concern about medical care in the Ixtapa/Zihuatandjo area. The American Consular Agency suggests Dr. Rogelio Grayeb. He is the only doctor in the area registered with the International Association of Medical Assistance for Travelers. He speaks excellent English , will recommend a specialist if needed, makes house calls if necessary, and has been used by a number of Friends of Niños Adelante members. Details are:

Dr. Rogelio Grayeb, Nicholas Bravo @ 71 Col Centro. Zihuatanejo. Phones (755) 554-5041, 554-3334, 553-1711, and cell 044-755-102-8066

SPONSOR/STUDENT REUNION BREAKFAST REGISTRATION

Many padrinos have said that this breakfast is the highlight of their visit to Mexico. This is the time to see your becado (scholar), hear about Niños Adelante activities, and experience the energy of a room full of kids and parents who appreciate the support they are receiving. Translators will be available. We hope you will be able to join us at one of the breakfast gatherings.

Breakfasts will be held at the Hotel Fontan in Ixtapa at 9:30a.m. SUNDAY JANUARY 13, 2008 and at 9:30 a.m. SUNDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2008.

Register now! Jose must notify your student that they are invited to join you for breakfast. This notification takes place during beca payout day on the first Saturday/Sunday of the month. We need to know your intentions to attend the January event by December 15, 2007 or the February event by January 15, 2008.

BREAKFAST REGISTRATION FORM

(please include only yourself and your guests in your count below, as Jose will contact your student and family to determine the number of family attending.)

Please reserve ____ places for us at the January 13 Breakfast.

OR

Please reserve_____ places for us at the February 17 Breakfast.

I/We will be staying at _____ in Ixtapa/Zihua from __/__/08 and departing on __/__/08.

My Name is _____

Please complete and mail this form as soon as possible to
Mabeth Sanderson, 2190 Thornberry Rd. Sonoma, Ca. 95476

PS. Visit our website at www.friendsofninosadelante.org