



## 2016 FALL/ WINTER NEWSLETTER

### PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

*By Steve Leighton*

Another year has come and gone in Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo. Every year I come here, it seems I find more and more GREAT things from some really great and caring people. The sponsors I know are so generous with their time, talent and money. I am humbled and honored to lead an organization that is doing so much good in this community. I have written a story in this newsletter called the Anai Project. Please read every word of that story because it is a GREAT story about the good we are doing here. We are not saving the entire world, but we are saving some.

I would ask you to share your stories in the newsletter because I know every one of you has something special to share about your student and his or her family. The stories you share may just give another sponsor an idea of what they might do to help their student and the student's family.

Our organization remains strong in many ways. We are financially sound due to your generous support. We have 223 kids in the program that are all doing well. We have 40 students in a 9 month long English class. Jose continues to "juggle" everything, exceptionally well. We have several volunteers that help out in the office every month. We have several volunteers that teach English classes 3 days a week while they are here in Zihua. It is people like you that make an organization strong, so I ask for your continued support.

We are making a difference in this community and the lives of many!

God Bless,  
Steve

### DID YOU KNOW...

#### Friends of Niños Elects Two New Board Members

We welcome Tom Lindblom and Sue Dehart to the Board of Directors.

Tom, who resides in southern California with his wife Karen, is a relatively new sponsor but is no stranger to the organization thanks to his parents, Leif and Lois whose sponsorship and active support of Niños stretches back to 1997. Leif also served an extended period on the Board with the responsibility, shared with Lois, for our newsletter. It is no small wonder that Tom is now our newsletter chairperson.

Sue, a retired teacher with a strong interest in education and her husband Dick live in Harshaw, Wisconsin. Although they are relatively new to Niños sponsorship they are long time visitors to Zihuatanejo and have followed Niños through their friendship with Tim & Dorothy Ellis.



## 2017 ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER REGISTRATION FORM

The annual benefit dinner will be held this coming February in Ixtapa on Thursday, February 16, 2017, Refreshments at 5:30 p.m.

We are planning a repeat at the beautiful Spa at Pacifica Club Ixtapa, Las Palmas site.

The 2016 event raised just over \$5,800 for our Special Needs and College Scholarship Funds. What a wonderful way to enjoy a fabulous meal, complete with refreshments, at a very special place and help a great cause at the same time.

Please register early! Just complete this form and send it along with your check, payable to Friends of Niños Adelante to the address below.

If you wish to pay via a credit card please visit our website at [www.friendsofningosadelante.org](http://www.friendsofningosadelante.org) and use the registration form and PayPal provisions found there.

Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ seat(s) at \$100 each. Amount enclosed for dinner \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Names of attendee's \_\_\_\_\_

I am unable to attend the Benefit Dinner but enclosed is my tax-deductible donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

Thank you, Steve Leighton

Please mail form and check to:

Friends of Niños Adelante

PO Box 1624

Sonoma, CA 95476



## Scholarship Update By Claudia Shea

The Friends of Ninos Adelante board is happy to report a couple of exciting updates regarding our scholarship program.

First, the board has approved a new scholarship for students attending UT Petatlan. Kathryn August recently donated \$2000 in memory of her late husband, Nick August. She asked if it could be used to fund a scholarship. Many of our students choose to attend Petatlan when they do not get admitted to a national university or their families cannot afford to support them far from home. Also, it is more expensive to attend Petatlan than to stay in Zihuatanejo in at Technologico because the students have to either find lodging there or take long bus rides daily. We will be awarding a \$500 one-time scholarship to the graduating student with the highest GPA who will attend Petatlan.

The Irene Sheahen Scholarship has been awarded to Veronica Gallardo Jacqueline Ordonez. In her application letter to the scholarship committee, she wrote that she

always admired doctors and it has been her dream to become one. Her sponsors are Jay and Sandra Mesinger and she also thanks them and Ninos Adelante for the support she has received. She is attending the University of Guadalajara this fall and will study Surgery and Obstetrics.

### Update - Mariana Estefania Vargas Palacios

My name is Mariana Estefania Vargas Palacios, I am a student at Conalep, and now I am about to finish my senior year.

I have two years on this foundation, which is called Niños Adelante. In college I will study in the career of International Trade, I love this profession, all the matters that have to do with it.

I am very grateful for the support Niños Adelante and my God parents, Vickey and Stephen Gorski, have given me, because of that and that I have my family, I'm forcing myself to keep going, to motivate me every day to reach a high academic level . I'm glad that there are still people who help low-income youth to continue studying, as this gives us a boost, never tire of thanking my sponsors and the foundation for their support.



A success story/Thanks Niños Adelante Foundation  
Agustina Ruiz Peñaloza



I still remember when I entered to the Niños Adelante Foundation, I was 12 years and was beginning the first year in the High School. José gave me a special sponsor Bob and Julie Santoro, I was so happy.

I was born in Coahuayutla, a town in Guerrero state where I studied the elementary school, but there wasn't a College where I could follow studying.

I have a big family, 4 brothers and one sister. My parents worked in the field, my father is the best farmer that I have met. I had a beautiful childhood, but with many short comings. My parents always told us that we should have a better life and we had to study more.

I came to Zihuatanejo and I lived with my relatives, my uncle Socorro and my aunt Luisa, wonderful persons. I worked on the morning and studied on the afternoon. My parents left the town and came to Zihuatanejo.

I met Julie and Bob Santoro when I was studying my second year in the High School, that was a great day because they didn't know me and supported me. A little time after that moment, my sponsor Bob, became ill but they never stopped helping me and that I am never going to forget.

I finished my High School with the best academic notes, and decided to study law. I got to enter to National University of Mexico (UNAM), that was one of the best days in my life, my sister was studying there, and I dreamed of being there with her. My sponsors decided to continue helping me.

Today, I am a Lawyer, my graduation was a week ago, I am so happy and my family too. I am working in The High Court of Justice of Mexico City where I did my social service, for the past year. I hope to get a better opportunity there or in another place.

Today, I tell you thanks, thanks for my family, I have a commitment with me, with my family, with my country, I want to help another children who would like to follow studying: there is a lot to do.

Thanks Niños Adelante Foundation, specially for Bob and Julie Santoro,

With love,  
Agustina Ruiz Peñaloza



## Update - Omar Quiroz Sanchez

My name is Omar Quiroz Sanchez. I'm 19 and am a freshman at the Technological University of the Costa Grande de Guerrero studying food processes engineering. I belong to the foundation Niños Adelante for three years. For me to be in the foundation means a lot, it's a great opportunity which I value a lot. Niños Adelante means to me an opportunity to excel, it is a great support that I receive from my godparents to finish my studies and I am entirely grateful to them and to the foundation.

That's why every day I'm in college I take advantage to the fullest and I give all my effort to achieve excellent grades.

In the foundation I received supports for my studies. When I was in high school, thanks to the foundation, had the opportunity to attend English classes which was a very important tool to focus it on my studies and thus have better opportunities. Currently in college I have the best performance in the English language and I keep practicing with classes taught me in college, this was possible because I was able to attend the foundation courses offered.

Another support I received was a laptop that my godparents gave me when I began my studies at the university. This has been very useful for me to do all my homework.

Belonging to this foundation is a big thrill for me, from the first day I entered the foundation, I knew I was getting a very great chance at life that would make my dream of having a university degree possible, this is why as mentioned above, I always give the maximum effort to get the best grades and thank God that I always feel great satisfaction and I like to dedicate these achievements to the foundation, to my sponsors and to my parents.

Niños Adelante is everything to me, it is one of my pillars to continue studying and one day to say thank you Niños Adelante, I have done it.

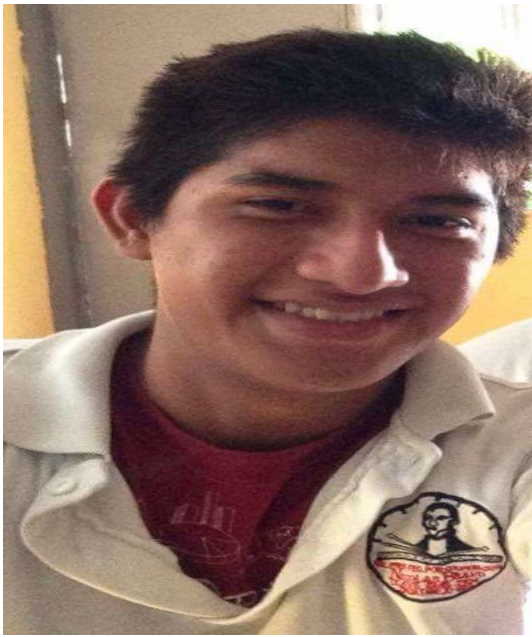
## Update - Victor Sarabia

Hello my name is Victor Manuel Martinez Sarabia. I am 21 years old, am studying surgery at the Faculty of Medicine UAGro in the city of Acapulco, Gro. Over the nine years I've been in the foundation I have met many great people that today are very important in my life.

My goals in life are to be a great doctor and above all remain a good person, as well as my family, my friends and in the very near future with my patients. I want to study a specialty finishing my career, but for now I'm focused on doing well and good average. I have seen many subjects that catch my attention and so beautiful that really now hesitate to specialize in one, neurosurgery is one that I in mind, but there are also many who call my attention, and I imagine throughout the race will see many more. This is a very difficult, very demanding race, but it is also so beautiful.

Fondly Victor Sarabia





## Update - Axe Valeriano Suastrgui Senior at Prepa 5 High School

My experience with Niños Adelante and high school is one of the best things that ever happened to me. In high school I met some of the most incredible people one of the trips of my life with more fun, more wonderful to tell, what makes us human living beings in social interaction with others.

I am graduating this year so the transition between high school and college is fearful since I do not know yet if I'll be accepted. I only have to think the best and trust my knowledge, trust what they will believe, as do my godparents believe in me. I thank you very much for the support my godparents give to me and although I do not know them in person they send me their blessings. I am grateful for their trust of someone who they do not know in person. They risk by supporting someone who wants someday to know, really know them in person. Someday we will

meet in more than only in photos.

This foundation is amazing too because it gives us the opportunity to meet amazing people, it gives us the best way to interact with people from other parts of the world.

I only know that I hope to fulfill my goals to be a great surgeon, to give back to my parents all the support they give me and to thank you Mark and Darcie for trusting and supporting me. There are no impossible dreams. The world knows that the road is very long but I will overcome my obstacles, get ahead, get better every day.

Axe Valeriano Suastegui