

2009 WINTER FRIENDS OF NINOS NEWSLETTER

2009 FRIENDS OF NINOS ADELANTE FUNDRAISER

They did it again! Thanks to the untiring efforts of Steve and Donna Leighton, Stefanie and Chris Rose, and their very dedicated committee, we have the money to run our organization so that 100% of your support dollars go directly to YOUR student. Many organizations use part of the donor dollars for “over head” expenses. We do not have to do this due to the efforts of these fine people.

Steve informs us that with the (almost complete) final numbers they raised at least \$17,295. This is pretty awesome with today’s economy. We are grateful to all who worked so hard. MANY THANKS to them and all who donated and attended. You’re very special and much appreciated.

FRIENDS OF NINOS ADELANTE BUSINESS DONOR LIST 2009

The following establishments have made a generous donation to the Friends of Ninos Adelante Fundraiser. We ask that you please support these businesses. Please Identify yourself as a member of our fine organization. Many thanks!

IXTAPA / ZUHUATANEJO

Z Pizza Ixtapa,	La Malinche
Bogart’s Ixtapa	Frank’s Restaurant Bar Ixtapa
Daniel’s Restaurant Zihuatanejo	ZihuaBlue Restaurant Zihuatanejo
Rueben’s Ixtapa	Kau Kan Zihuatanejo
Villa de la Selva Restaurant Ixtapa	Deborah’s Restaurant Ixtapa
Soceiado Restaurant Ixtapa	Krystal Hotel Ixtapa
Dorado Pacifico Hotel Ixtapa	Barcelo Hotel Ixtapa
Pacifica Hotel Ixtapa	Fontan Hotel Ixtapa
Melia Hotel Ixtapa	Las Brisas Hotel Ixtapa
Chimal Jewelry Ixtapa	Hotel Irma Zihuatanejo
Esturion II	Renaissance Day Spa Ixtapa

TWIN CITIES AREA

Lexus of Wayzata	Village Chev
Dr. Jeff Hall	Art Holdings in Golden Valley
City Looks Salon	Lafayette Club
Salon Sparatoria	New Reflections
Hair District JT	Jungle Red Salon
Sheraton Minneapolis West	Tonka Bay Marina
Maynard’s	Cub Foods
Yumi’s Sushi	Blue Point Restaurant
Narrows Saloon/Navarre	Chipotle Burrito
UBS Financial (Major)	Houlihans

Axel's Restaurant Chanhassen
Culver's/Navarre
Structures Unlimited Inc.
Hero Office Systems
Sorella Wine & Spirits
Deer Run
Re/Max Reality ,Spring Park
Two Nail Gallery
Two Sunset's

Lord Fletcher's
Hazellewood Grill
Lakeside Wines and Spirits Long Lake
Any Time Fitness
Excelsior Vintage Wine
Victoria House
Fresh Seasons Market Victoria
WCCO TV

VERY GENEROUS INDIVIDUALS

Adrienne and Jack Baldwin
John and Cheryl Fiebelkorn
Ross and Tina Langhans
Jan and Jim Moe
Jane O'Callahan
Chris and Stefanie Rose
Bob and Marilyn Albright
John Phipps

Bob Brown
Ann Gebo
Steve and Donna Leighton
Barb and Bob Neal
Kim and John O'Neil
Joe and Karen Seta
Mark Sampson
Dave Feerhusen

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hola to all of you,

Summer finally came to the north country. After a chilly, chilly spring—48 degrees and strong north winds with a bit of sleety rain thrown in for good measure. It was time for 80 degree heat and 70% humidity.

Like many of you who have lake cabins, we were entertaining the grand children and their tag along parents. Tubing, waterskiing and shouts of “drop the hammer grandpa!” were an important ritual. For all of us, just spending quality time with our families is a high priority.

It was worth the walk down Rocky Point Road to view and enjoy the different clothes lines with their assorted towels (of many hues and designs) suits, and water gear hung up to dry.

Had a chance to reacquaint with the lake dogs again as they traipsed through the front yards sniffing for last years leftovers in fire pits and campfires. When we had our summers inaugural campfire for a weenie roast, s'mors and gourmet repast, out popped an overdue hibernating frog, frog legs anyone?

At the lake—one foot dangling over the edge of the hammock-with just enough push to keep one moving. Our finger turning the page of a long savored book.

The fourth of July included, as usual, getting the seat under the last big elm tree in our small town and settling in with our favorite homemade “Monster Cookies”-made fresh the day before. Had our candy bags at the ready to scoop up the “loot” tossed from passing floats and fingers ready to plug our ears when the fire engines and their sirens went by. And of course, all the queens on the convertibles, the old tractors, the color guard (hats off and stand at attention!) and.....on a clear day; the jets do a fly over from the Duluth Air Base. That is the icing on the cake. To cap off the day we view the grand fireworks display from Grand View Lodge. It all made for a quintessential American Fourth of July. Hope yours was as special as ours.

Summer ended with our annual root beer float gathering for friends and neighbors on Rock Point. Reviewing, checking on the state of everyone’s health, who’s graduating, getting married, having babies, and then time for hazy, smokey Indian Summer days.

As much as I love summer, I’m always ready for fall. What are my Ninos buddies up to? How are the children doing who will be able to go back to school because of their pardino’s? You all make it possible. Which gives me pause to thank you for your time, effort, and money to enable our children a chance at success. A special thanks to all who made our recent fund raiser such an overwhelming success. You are the heart of Ninos.

Do hope you’ve had a great summer and would like to meet you this winter at the breakfast for our ninos.

Jan Moe -President

GET YOUR PASSPORT

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI) now requires all passengers to present either a PASSPORT, PASSPORT CARD OR ENHANCED DRIVERS LICENSE when leaving or entering the U.S. and visiting Mexico. Please allow plenty of time to have your passport, passport card, or enhanced drivers license processed.

DISCONTINUING STUDENT SPONSORSHIP

If you are unable to continue to support your student please try to find a replacement or you may notify Bob Albright at bobalb@comcast.net

SHARING INTERESTING EXPERIENCES

We are looking for stories of interest from those who would like to share an experience with other sponsors. Please contact Leif and Lois Lindblom at Leif@lindblomfamily.com or at P.O. Box 677 Oscoda Mi 48750

VISITOR REGISTRATION

A reminder from the US Consular Agent, Elizabeth Williams: Remember to register with her when you are in IXTAPA/ZIHUATANEJO on vacation. She tells us it isn't required but is a prudent idea. The US Consular Agency is located at the Hotel Fontan. The telephone number is 755-553-2100

She also emphasizes how important it is to be careful crossing streets. Pedestrians DO NOT have the right of way in Mexico.

EXPERANZA-HOPE

By Shelagh Yarnell

When I read in the paper "Despertar de la Costa" I feel despair. Tragic events, frightening events, are being reported daily in this country we have grown to love.

When I gaze out the front window of my casita "La Paloma", I feel hope. My eyes scan the beautiful Zihuatanejo Bay, waves rolling in and crashing on the shore. They take in the long sweep of powder sand, the blue cloudless sky. In the bay rests a cruiser, its people reclining on deck, faces raised to the sun.

It is an idyllic place, this fishermen's village of Zihuatanejo.

In the afternoon, as I lounge under my thatched palapa, I listen to the strumming of guitars and to the lovely voices accompanying their sounds. A group of "jovenes", young adults, are clapping their hands and swaying to the music as their voices ring out. They are seated in a circle on the sand, partially shaded by a colorful beach umbrella. They are joyful. To me, they symbolize hope.

Later in the day, my husband and I climb up into the hills of the Sierra Madre to spend a few hours with our Mexican "family". Again, it is a joyful time. The children greet us excitedly with kisses and hugs. We sing together. We share in a festive birthday celebration. We eat delicious, spicy tortas, and "tres leches" cake. We are comfortable in the embrace of our large "Ninos Adelante" family and their neighbors in colonia Dario Galeana.

When it is time to leave, we are accompanied by the children, all clamoring to hold our hands, and offering to carry our bags. Their little hands reach out to steady us over the rough spots as we descend. We delight in the company of these children.

And so I hope. I hope the problem that plagues Mexico will one day disappear. We cannot live in fear, but must live with precaution. We plan to return next year to the village of Zihuatanejo that we have known and loved for so many years. We look forward to renewing our friendships with the padrinos (sponsors) of many of our ninos.

We get excited about seeing the growth of the students involved in Ninos Adelante. We are building a better world-one family at a time.

TYPICAL? WHAT'S THAT

By Shelagh Yarnell

The butter-colored cat strolled proudly past us, head held high, furry rodent still writhing between her teeth.

“Look, Shelagh,” pointed a grinning Louis. He knew ‘the girls in the class-----and the maestra-----might find it a squeamish sight. And indeed we did!

Unpredictable? Cat and mouse.

Entertaining? The class clown, Laura, amuses us with her antics. Sometimes her humor is intentional, sometimes quite by accident. Azucena’s one-liners, always delivered with a straight face and a twinkle in her eye, bring laughter.

My errors in Spanish amuse the kids. During a discussion about food, I informed them that my son had an allergy to buses. I had confused the words “camiones” [buses] and “camerones [shrimp]. We had some fun with that! Can you ride downtown on a shrimp? Can you eat a bus? At the end of each class thereafter, my students all had to go out to catch their shrimp to go home from school.

They made mistakes in English as well, confusing “skirt” with “shirt” and “date” with “mate”. The latter led to a rather delicate discussion.

Are the classes challenging? Every day! In my morning class, the ages range from 12 to 24. The older students are ex-Ninos students who keep returning to class. The kids come with diverse interests, experiences, and abilities in English. How to teach the beginners basic vocabulary and yet give the advanced group the opportunity for conversation which they need? My husband is pressed into service to work with one group or the other. I never feel they are getting enough of what they need.

The afternoon class, which begins at 4 o’clock and ends at 6, brings a group of slower paced, sleepier kids. Most of them have been up since 5:30 or 6 a.m., as classes in their regular school begin at 7 a.m. and most have some distance to go. It is hot at 4 o’clock, and we are all somewhat draggy. But they come. How to hold their interest as they stifle yawns? How to motivate them? And again, how to deal with the various levels of ability within the group? These are the constant challenges of teaching English in Zihuatanejo.

Two of the students’ mothers come to class every day. They sit at the back and chatter and giggle. By observing every day, they have learned the various tunes we sing and they clap their hands and stamp their feet along with the students as the songs demand. They

touch their heads and bend to their toes as we sing “Heads and Shoulders, Knees and Toes”. One mother, Catalina, is so proud that she can sing “Michael, Row the Boat Ashore” completely in English. She delights us with a solo.

The mothers are grateful that their children are being offered the opportunity to study English. Catalina brings us tamales and salsa to eat, along with atole to drink. She brings a large bottle of refresco for the class to share on a particularly hot day. It is her sweet way of saying thank you to the volunteer teacher.

Another mother, Epi, is waiting for me after class ends at 6 O'clock. She wants to give me a manicure and a pedicure before my morning class next day. It is what she has to offer.

Short, stubby Carmen almost bowls me over with a powerful hug on the day of love and friendship. Her son, Pedro, is a nuisance in my morning class, but I am fond of him nonetheless.

The friendship and graciousness of these women – these mothers – touches me.

The resident dog has a gift for me as well. Every year she produces a litter of pups during the month of February when our classes are in session. This year there are seven squirming, closed-eyed little creatures in a box outside my classroom. Sometimes they are placed on the floor of my room where they, too, leave small gifts -----rivulets of puppy urine and tiny pellets of poop!

A typical teaching day in Zinuatanejo? There is no such thing. Each day offers surprise, unpredictability, challenge, and laughter. Each day offers reward in the form of love and friendship.

GABRIELA – A BRIEF UPDATE

You may remember the story about Gabriela, submitted by Shelagh in our last newsletter. We would like to update you on her . Gabi left her abusive husband for several months and they have now worked out some better arrangements. She is now allowed the freedom to have friends her own age. She is also studying to become an esthetician, taking a two year course in Toluca. Within three years she will have a skill and be able to support herself and help her grandmother Ramona. It looks like the love and continued support of her sponsors, Shelagh and Ross, have given her the confidence to continue to reach for a better life for herself and her family. They are grateful to “Ninos Adelante” for bringing Gabriela and her family closely into their lives. “GO, GIRL GO!”

SPONSOR/STUDENT REUNION BREAKFAST REGISTRATION FORM
(PLEASE TURN IN AS SOON AS POSSIBLE)

Many padrinos have said that the becado breakfast is the highlight of their visit to Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo. This is the time to see your becado, hear about current Ninos Adelante activities and experience the energy of a room full of kids and parents who appreciate the support they receive from Ninos Adelante. Translators will be available to help you and your student get the most out of this experience. We hope that you will be able to join us at one of the two breakfast gatherings. Please use these breakfasts to meet your student and their family.

Breakfasts will be held at the Hotel Fontan in Ixtapa at 9:30 a.m. on SUNDAY , JANUARY 17,2010 and at 9:30 a.m. on SUNDAY FEBRUARY 14,2010.

Register now ! Jose must notify your student to attend the breakfast. This notification takes place during the beca payout day on the first Saturday/Sunday of the month in which the breakfast will be held. We need to know your intentions, to attend the January event, by December 15,2009 We need to know your intentions , relative to the February event by January 15,2010.

As in the past, padrinos are responsible for the breakfasts of their becados and their families. Cost of the breakfast is expected to be about \$11 per person(not including gratuity) to be paid at the breakfast.

NOTE: PLEASE INCLUDE ONLY YOURSELF AND YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS in the count of guests below. Jose will contact the students and their families to determine their number attending.

Please reserve _____Places for me at the January 17 Breakfast

Please reserve _____Places for me at the February 14 breakfast

I/we will be staying at _____in Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo from _____
Departing on _____ (this information helps Jose communicate with you if necessary)

My name is _____

I would also like to host the student of the following sponsors:

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ABOVE FORM AND RETURN IT BY EMAIL TO :
mabeth@vom.com
or regular mail to Mabeth Sanderson, 2190 Thornsberry Rd. Sonoma Ca 95476

2010 ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER REGISTRATION FORM

The annual benefit dinner will be held again at the beautiful Villa de la Roca, overlooking Zihnuatanejo bay on THURSDAY , FEBRUARY 18, 2010 AT 6 P.M.

The February 2009 event raised about \$3000 for our Special Needs and College Scholarship funds. It is 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. The owners and operators of the Villa de la Roca, through their extremely generous pricing policy, help to make this event successful. We are grateful for their continuous support.

Please register early! The guest count is limited to 60 and this event fills up quickly.

JUST PRINT THIS FORM, FILL IT OUT AND SEND IT ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO FRIENDS OF NINOS ADELANTE TO THE ADDRESS BELOW.

Reserve_____Places at \$85 each .

Amount enclosed for dinner \$ _____

Names of attendees_____

I am unable to attend the Benefit Dinner but enclose my tax-deduction donation of \$ _____

Please mail completed form and check to :

Mabeth Sanderson, 2190 Thornsberry Rd.
Sonoma Ca 95476