



## 2017 FALL-WINTER NEWSLETTER

### President's Column

*By Steve Leighton*

Most of the time I write about the Niños in our program. After all, that is why we are here doing what we do. However, there are many people involved that make this organization work so well, changing the lives of many. I would like to mention a few of them.

Did you know that we have English teachers every year in Zihua? Well, this year we will again have a core group of folks that dedicate their time to helping a group of kids learn English. This is really a fun group, because the volunteers make it that way. Shelagh and Ross Yarnell started this many years ago. They have been joined by a group that have gotten involved with teaching and keeping the kids in "treats". Stan and Emily Karhoff, Margaret and Vinny Diglio, Tim Ellis, Alan Axelrod and Mary McGlenn are teachers and Marlene "MJ" Jones has taken on the "treat" part of the program.

These classes will start on January 22, 2018 and run thru February 23, 2018. They are held three days a week for about two hours each time at the old church in Zihua. Think about the time these folks are dedicating to these wonderful kids. If you want to have some fun and join in, just contact one of the above folks and I'm sure they will fill you in. We hope Shelagh and Ross will return this year once again to join the "new folks" in making this a special time for the kids.

I cannot thank them all enough for what they are doing for these kids. Check it out and see for yourselves.

Thanks for all you do for the Niños!

See you next year in Mexico.

Steve

### Friends of Niños Elects Two New Board Members

We welcome Ruth Johnson and Margaret Diglio to the Board of Directors.

Ruth, who resides in Ixtapa and Mukilteo, WA with her husband Cliff was introduced to the organization by Dick and Mary Martin. In 2004 they bought a condo in Ixtapa and started spending winters there and summers in Washington. They have been sponsors for over eleven years.

Margaret resides in Madison, CT with her husband Vinny and they have been sponsors for six years. Two years ago they became teachers in the Niños English program and this February Margaret is taking the reins for the sponsor taught English classes from Tim Ellis. Volunteering is a way of life for them and when not in Mexico they are involved in a food pantry as well as Meals On Wheels.



## 2018 SPONSOR/STUDENT REUNION BREAKFASTS

This is the time to see your becado, hear about current Niños Adelante activities and experience the energy of a room full of kids and parents who appreciate the support they receive from Niños Adelante. Translators will be available to help you and your becado get the most out of this experience.

Please use these Breakfasts to meet and visit with your student and his or her family in place of having José arrange a private meeting. As you can well imagine, the months of January and February are very chaotic for José.

Breakfasts will be held at the Hotel Fontan in Ixtapa at 9:30 A.M. on **Sunday, January 14, 2018** and 9:30 A.M. on **Sunday, February 11, 2018**.

Register now! José must notify your becado to attend the breakfasts. This notification takes place during beca payout day on the first Saturday/Sunday of the month in which the breakfast will be held.

### **Registration Deadlines**

January 14 breakfast – December 31;

February 11 breakfast - January 31

As in the past, padrinos are responsible for their becados and their family's breakfasts. Cost of breakfast is expected to be about \$12 per person.

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## REGISTRATION FORM

Please PRINT and complete the following form and send to:  
Friends of Niños Adelante, PO Box 1624, Sonoma, CA 95476

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_places for me at the January 14 Breakfast.

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_places for me at the February 11 Breakfast.

I will be staying at \_\_\_\_\_in Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo from  
\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_and departing on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_(this helps José communicate with you, if necessary).

My name is: \_\_\_\_\_.

If you would like to host the student and his family of a friend who cannot be at the breakfast, please give us the Sponsor's name: \_\_\_\_\_.

Note: Please include only yourself and your family and friends in the count of guests below. José will contact the students and their families to determine the number of students and family members attending.



## 2018 ANNUAL BENEFIT DINNER REGISTRATION FORM

The annual benefit dinner will be held this coming February in Ixtapa on Thursday, February 15, 2018, Refreshments at 5:30 p.m. We are planning a repeat at the beautiful Spa at Pacifica Club Ixtapa, Las Palmas site.

The 2017 event raised just over \$5,520 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! Please PRINT and 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.friendsofninosadelante.org](http://www.friendsofninosadelante.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

# 2017 Scholarship Update

*By Claudia Shea*

This year the scholarship committee is happy to report that we awarded two Irene Sheahen Scholarships. We were presented with applications from two deserving candidates who had identical qualifications and the exact same grade point average. We reached out to their sponsors who generously agreed to pledge additional funds to their student's college donation every year so the Friends of Ninos Adelante could make a dual award this year.

**Viridiana Sotelo Perez** is attending Benemerita Universidad de Puebla (BUAP) this fall. The university is ranked #8 in Mexico. Her sponsors are Larry and Bobbi Forster. She is studying to be an English teacher. **Beatriz Lizbeth Garcia Cruz** is attending Universidad Moreliana Nicolas de Hidalgo in Morelia. This school is also highly ranked at 15<sup>th</sup> in the country. She is pursuing a degree in law. Beatriz's sponsors are Jean and Jim Brennan.

Finally, the Nick August Scholarship was awarded to **Ilse Janitzi Sastre Porfirio**. This scholarship is awarded to the graduating student with the highest grade point average who will be attending UT Petalan. Her sponsors are Mark and Linda Hinkie.



## Scholarship Thank You Letter – Viridiana Sotelo Pérez

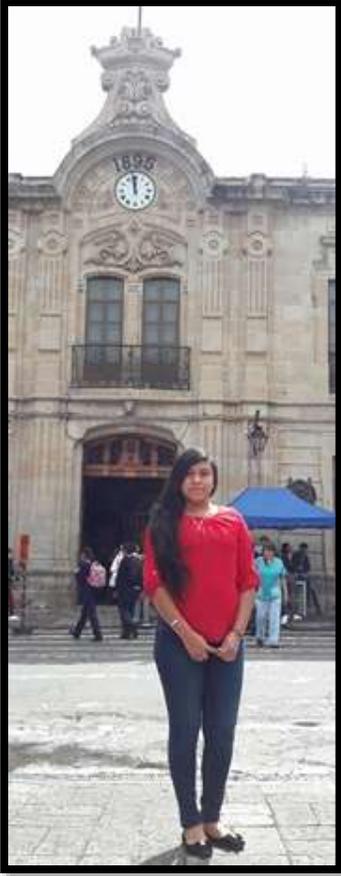
introduce myself, my name is Viridiana Sotelo Pérez. I'm 18 years old. Now, I am studying in Puebla city, the university name is Benemerita Universidad de Puebla (BUAP), the career is English teacher language because through this language I managed to communicate with my family Forster. In addition to the demand for limited opportunities in the social-work area, which represents the economic imbalance the household necessary to achieve more and better-paid opportunities, I will be

able to support other children in the way they have supported me, transcend, and objectives in which they reflect and carry out better opportunities.

I'm very grateful for this opportunity, your help, and interest in supporting my studies. I have met people in the foundation and I know that you are like angels for me, thanks to God and people like you I am able to success like a person, daughter, and student.

Thank you so much, God bless you.





## Scholarship Thank You Letter - Beatriz Lizbeth García Cruz

Hi! First off, I want to thank the foundation NINOS ADELANTE for granting me this scholarship. I want to thank them seriously I'm very thankful with you all.

I also want to thank Jean Brennan for trusting me and I won't fail you all, I promise I will get good grades during the career like how I've been doing since I started in the foundation.

With this help things are easier for me to cover some of my expenses such as rent here in Morelia or some other things that the university requires me to buy.

Thank you very much, I really needed this support which also helps my parents a lot since it gets hard for them to keep on paying for my younger brother's school who is now in second grade of CONALEP and also have to pay for his doctor appointments which are located in Mexico City.

Thanks to this scholarship, there will exist no possibility that someday I abandon my studies. This helps me and my family a lot. I have no words to thank you for everything and being with me throughout my career.

I hope to accomplish my career in law degree in the faculty of law at the University of San Nicolas de Hidalgo. Again I thank everyone who belongs to the Fundacion de Niños Adelante and Jean Brennan. From my heart thank you so much.

## Earthquake Update – Good News

Here is some news about the earthquake from Nelson Abarca, student of Bill and Mabeth Sanderson who is studying in Puebla. The Viridiana he refers to is Viridiana Sotelo, his cousin who is also studying in Puebla. Her sponsors are Larry and Bobbi Forster.

*Hello, dear Mr. & Mrs. Sanderson*

*I'm fine, I feel so happy to hear about you, Viridiana is okay too. We were scared in the moment the earthquakes, but thanks to god nothing wrong happen to us. The house where we are living is okay, well some fractures on the wall but nothing serious.*

*This earthquake was horrible, many people have died from the earthquake disaster. A lot of people need help, we tried to help them with provisions, water, some construction tools and some friends helping with brigades, the last week was so busy and horrible but at the same time was beautiful because all Mexican and foreign people were like one, I mean all of we tried to help, that was so beautiful.*

*Social media was replied for #FuerzaMexico and #MexicoUnido, and people from other cities and states came to Puebla to help, this is what I mean with all of we was like one.*

*Thank you for your blessings, this means so much to Viridiana and Me, she says thanks too.*

*God bless you,  
Nelson Abarca*

## Student Update - Alondra Rubí Aguilar Mondragón

Hello I'm Alondra Rubí Aguilar Mondragón I'm 21 years old I'm from Zihuatanejo de Azueta. I study at the Autonomous University of Guerrero, Regional Development Sciences Unit "Alexander Mora Venancio", Campus el Pericón municipality of Tecoanapa, and I am studying the sixth semester with an average of 9.1 of which I am proud because I am a person of low resources and I feel fortunate and at the same time extolled by the great support provided by the association Niños Adelante. I am grateful to the people who contribute economically, since today there are many young people who want to study and lack of financial resources tend to drop out of school. I am currently living in Iguala de la Independencia, I will be here for six months in the Autonomous University of Guerrero Faculty of Agricultural and Environmental Sciences, this due to student mobility, which obligatorily marks the curriculum of my degree.



I have had this Niños Adelante scholarship since primary school now and it is very helpful for me to pay for the tuition and some books that are required. Personally, my inspiration to go forward are my family and the people who decided to sponsor me through this program, since it is a very pleasant experience to know that there are people who besides my family impel me and believe in me. Economic support for me is a very significant thing as a reward for my efforts, and helps me to continue, thus with this to fulfill my goals raised with respect to my academic training. I expect to complete my studies at the Bachelor level with a stable average and without failing subjects and if the

conditions allow me to continue with a master's degree, I will do so. Because the better prepared I will be in life and thus in the future, I will be able to support my family. In conclusion, I am infinitely grateful to my godparents and Niños Adelante.

## Student Update – Lisbers Ochoa Zavala

First of all, I want to thank you for the support you are giving me. Thank you for the opportunity.

This year has been very special and important, I received answers from the University of Morelia and I have already been ACCEPTED !!

And also because I already found where to live, and it's two blocks from my school, that's very close, so I will not spend on tickets, apart is a house for young ladies and it's very safe. I'm excited to start classes, and they start on August 21, almost. Also on this vacation I am enjoying my family and more than anything to my mom. I'm helping him in the store because there are a lot of people for the holidays and that's good. Well I'll be letting you know how it goes with me during the course of classes.

Thanks for everything  
I love you, Lisbers



## Student Update – Christian Elían Carrera Herrera



I am Christian Elían Carrera Herrera I am 13 years old and I live in Zihuatanejo Gro. Mexico, I'm studying secondary school at José Martí School. My ratings are good my overall average was 9.8.

I would like to do all my studies, finish high school, high school and do my career (I do not know which). Most of my time is spent busy with school issues, and when I can sometimes go out with my mom to do yoga. I like drawing and I would like to practice it.

I want to thank you for the support of the scholarship that you are going to give me next year and that will serve me a lot.

Me and my mom are going through changes, my parents are getting divorced and my older brother is studying out of town.

I look forward to contacting you soon.

## Student Update – Elsa Carolina Ruiz Barboza

My name is Elsa Carolina Ruiz Barboza and I am an Engineer in Business Management, proudly graduated from the Costa Grande Technological Institute.

I am 24 years old and I was awarded a scholarship by the foundation Niños Adelante when I was 18 years old in 2011, my godparents Larry Chunovich QEPD and Keitha Chunovich were very kind people to me, supporting me economically and also emotionally so that I would end my dream of Graduating from a university and being a professional.

I am very grateful to Niños Adelante for considering me a good candidate to obtain a scholarship and thus to be able to pay some expenses of my education. In this foundation, I found a second family which I am very happy to continue to frequent in social networks.

My graduation was in March of this year and my godmother Keitha, her daughter and 5 of her granddaughters were present. It was a very beautiful and satisfying experience, because I was able to show with pride that I completed the dream I longed for.

My experience in the foundation was very beautiful and I am very grateful because thanks to that I met extraordinary people, people willing to give love and unconditional support. I really admire the work of Jose, since it is very heavy to have so many children in the foundation, to be able to gather them to give information about the scholarships and especially to make events such as the breakfasts, is a work worth admiring and I think without him as the coordinator the foundation would not stand.

I give infinite thanks for having belonged to this foundation and for being able to write this letter.

Gracias!



## Student Update – Alexis Javier



I thank you godparents Thyiela and Mike Maschek for supporting me economically over the course of these three years.

I conclude the last year of high school at Conalep on July 12, 2017 at a ceremony in a hotel in Ixtapa. There were only a few passes so not all my family could accompany me on that day. From there we went to our house to celebrate together.

On July 17th my sister finished primary education so we had another celebration.

I have been in the foundation Niños Adelante for three years.

I finished the third and final year of high school and am now going to continue studying the Technological University of Zihuatanejo.

The career that I will continue in this next school year will be the Engineering in Computer Systems at the Technological University in Zihuatanejo, I chose this race because I live to learn about technology

and how these systems are managed such as the management of local networks, databases, software design, etc.

Godfather Mike and Godmother Thyiela, I will be waiting for you next January.

Gracias, Alexis Javier

## Student Update – Julieta Ramos Lino

Hi, godfathers, how are you? I hope you are well.

As you already know I have graduated from CETIS high school, everything was very good. I celebrated with my family for a while and from there I went to celebrate with my best friend at her home. Everything was very well I had a good day, my holidays are Well, I have not gone anywhere. I started to work in a Farmapronto, it is an establishment where they sell medicines, I start to work to pay the university on the weekends, once again I want to thank you for the gift that they gave me that will be of great help to be able to pay the inscription of the university. I want to comment that they already gave me the results of the examination of admission. It is already confirmed that I will study the weekends at UT Petatlan and I feel good, because I feel that with this opportunity I can overcome myself with following a good job, and to be able to help my mother with the expenses of the house.



You gave a lot to get me to where I am now, I appreciate them very much and I thank you for much that they continue to support me in my decisions.

Actually I hope you are well, that you are having a good time with your family, and I hope to see you soon here in Ixtapa Zihuatanejo, take great care, my mother sends greetings and sends a big hug.

With love, Julieta Ramos Lino



## Student Update – Rene Emilia

Rene Emilia was accepted with a full scholarship to study medicine at the Naval University in Mexico City. Her sponsors are Paul and Maureen Sheehen.

Hello, how are you? As you know, I will start a new phase of my life. I'm going to go to college! I am very excited, have great expectations and hope everything goes well. I am proud to have been accepted to study Medicine at the Naval University in Mexico City but I have a stronger emotion than proud. I am very grateful to my sponsors for their support in all aspects.

On the other hand, I want to tell you what I did during my little vacation. Most of the time I spent at home, first with my dad, he needed me. Second was with my entire family. I try to spend all the time I had with them because I know that when I go to study in Mexico City I will not see

them, at least not in a long time. We saw movies, we laughed, and we did different things. We enjoyed our time together.

I want to tell you also about my last year at high school. It was nice, not easy but not so difficult. As you know I moved to Morelia to study at a school there for my last year to get more knowledge to get into college. That decision opened my mind-and gave me value as well as increased my self-confidence.

THANK YOU SO MUCH! Well, you have an important place in my life. I will never forget it. God bless you always. You always in my heart.

With all the love as possible as I can send you. Rene Emilia

## Student Update – Thelma Yamileth Rios

First of all I hope you are very well. My family and I are in good health and happy for my coming graduation.

As you will know this is my last semester of school and everything is more stressful because the pressure of the preparations is greater and the academic load is heavy. My graduation will be on July 19th, at 6:30 pm 2017 in the Kristal room; and as I mentioned before, I would have loved to share this moment with you, but I understand that under the circumstances you cannot so I look forward to this November to celebrate.

This month I am finishing my last internship at the General Regional Hospital "Dr. Bernardo Sepúlveda Gutiérrez" de Zihuatanejo. I will then complete my paperwork to obtain a place to carry out my social service, which I hope I can do in the same hospital where I have done my internship.

My future plan after social service is to continue studying a specialty in Intensive Nursing or Gynecology and Obstetrics in Morelia, Michoacán. I know they are very different branches of the nursing but they call my attention very much and I hope soon to decide for one of the two.



To conclude this letter, I want to emphasize that, like my family, you were a great support for me during my career, with your encouragement, good wishes and your unconditional support. Thank you so much for all you have done for me, I know that someday I will be able to pay you all this. I also do not want to go unnoticed to thank you for continuing to support me during my social service, you really are angels for me.

My family and I send lots of hugs.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH!