

Friends of Niños Adelante

New Board of Directors Elected

Friends of Niños
Adelante

February 2004 Board of Directors Meeting, Club Pacifica, Ixtapa

This past February at the Board of Directors meeting, a new slate of officers was elected for the 2004-2005 term. Many thanks go out to the outgoing Board of Directors for many years of service; Carol Tierney, Vice President, Adrienne Baldwin, Secretary, and Delia Bujold, Treasurer. Tyrone Bujold has agreed to continue on as our terrific President and Adrienne Baldwin as our creative Events Chairperson.

Board of Directors

President, Tyrone Bujold

tbujold@mn.rr.com

Vice President

Steve Leighton

leighonconsulting@att.net

Treasurer, Ann Gebo

gebs2001@yahoo.com

Recording Secretary, Janie Robins

jrobins@moviemerchants.com

Membership Secretary, Barb Neal

rneal@mn.rr.com

Committee Chair-people

Newsletter,

Trish Greenberg

tgreenberg@moviemerchants.com

Events, Adrienne Baldwin

adriennebawin@hotmail.com



IT—Computer”

Gary Nelson

bestzin@att.net

Spring/Summer 2004

Dates to remember:

- *July 20—return sponsor forms and payments to Ann Gebo*
- *September 27—Annual Niños Golf Fund Raiser Outing and Dinner*
- *January 16—Niños Breakfast, Hotel Fontan*
- *February 13—Niños Breakfast, Hotel Fontan*
- *February 17—Annual Benefit Dinner, Villa de la Roca*

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Notes from the President by Tyrone Bujold

Dear Loyal Members:

Once again this year you have demonstrated your commitment to Friends of Niños Adelante. The now-retired Board members, and the new officers, join me in heartfelt thanks. In February of this year, at the Reunion Breakfast, we heard from graduates of the Program who told us about how Niños has changed their lives.

Through Jose Bustos’ fine efforts we got to meet with our kids and their families at two separate Reunions (January and February). Thanks to the fine bilingual people who contributed their services as interpreters. We look forward to repeat events in the next year. From time to time, many of us hear of heart rending stories of hardship in the Zihuatanejo area. Our or-

ganization is neither equipped nor established to provide help. Yet I know that many of you do help, in ways unrelated to your annual Niños contributions. Please read inside for more information.

Niños Computer News by Bob Albright

The administrative office in Zihuatanejo is now equipped with three relatively fast Pentium 4 desk top machines running XP operating systems. One machine is used primarily for administrative purposes employing MS Access and QuickBooks as the database and financial management tools. The other two machines are used primarily for instructional purposes. Matilda Vera, Niños Adelante's part-time data entry/office manager in Zihuatanejo along with Gary Nelson, Friends of Niños Director of IT in Sonoma, are doing a first class job of managing and disseminating information.

One Saturday a month during the school year the kids come to the office to receive their Beca payments. At that time they also receive any incoming emails from their padrinos and are able to send emails to their padrinos. The email address of the office is:

ninosadelante@prodigy.net.mx

Please be patient as the local server is frequently overloaded causing "returned mail" from time to time. Also, please send Gary Nelson any email address changes to:

bestzin@att.net

in order that we may keep the kids informed.

This past May, Jose experimented with computer instruction classes for interested kids. He was able to organize two classes of 15 kids each and things went well until the teacher, Matilda, became ill and had to abort the instructions. The program will be restarted in September when the kids are back in school. Thus far attracting kids during their summer vacation has not been successful. In September we may also get some instructional help from Rocio Mesas, a high school computer teacher and graduate of the Niños program.

English Classes for Students

Many thanks go out to our Friends of Niños Adelante volunteer English teachers for all of their hard work. This winter's teachers included; Elsa Nelson, Anlee Schaye, Shelagh Yarnell, Leif Lindblom, MaBeth Sanderson and Tyrone Bujold. Approximately 30 students attended these daily English classes over a four week period in February. We hope to involve more students in the future.

These students are able to communicate better with their sponsor families using the skills learned in these classes thanks to the hard work of the teachers.

Students attending the Niños Adelante English classes are treated to Valentines Day and end of English class parties by teachers and other

volunteers. Sponsors that are interested in pursuing more intense English classes may contact the Maryland Institute in Zihuatanejo. *If you are interested in volunteering to help out when you are in the area, please contact Tyrone Bujold at:*

tbujold@mn.rr.com

Dental Program for Niños by John and Liz Cook

Our 5th annual February dental program was once again a success thanks to Dr. John Cook. This year Dr. Cook's partner, Dr. Henry Milanowski, from Grand Rapids, Michigan, joined the efforts for two weekends. With Liz Cook's assistance and some pitching in by our two host dentists, Dr. Oliverio Soberanis and his wife, Dr. Azusena Acosta Mena, the team examined and treated 30 of our Niños. Two new serious orthodontic

cases were taken on by Dr. Acosta at half her usual fee and agreements were reached with the families of the niño and niña to contribute a small fee each month. The smiles and 'thank you's from the niños and fellow sponsors will bring the team



back in 2005. Niños Adelante expresses thanks to the Cooks, Dr. Milanowski, Dr. Soberanis and Dr. Acosta for their willingness to support and participate in this program.

Guidelines for New Sponsors

Thank you for joining us in helping to educate the brightest and the poorest students in the Zihuatanejo area! It is a truly rewarding journey.

\$200 per student pays for all of the educational needs for one year. These funds are dispersed to the students on the first Saturday of every month, September through May.

If you wish to provide Christmas and birthday gifts, we encourage amounts in the neighborhood of \$25 each.

Breakfasts are held each January and February for the sponsors, students and students' families. Sponsors pay for the student and their families breakfast (about 100 pesos a person)

Gifts to take to breakfast with Niños and families include educational items, sports items, and personal items.

Do not send money or items through the mail. Cards and letters may be sent to:

Niños Adelante
APDO 169, Zihuatanejo, Gro
Mexico 40880

The General Fund is used to pay for emergency needs of the students; i.e. medical, dental, educational items.

To send money to your student, checks may be made out to Friends of Niños Adelante and mailed to:

Ann Gebo, Treasurer
4643 Baker Road
Minnetonka, MN 55343



Notes from the President, continued

This story of hardship has been brought to our attention via Liz Williams, U.S. Consular Agency and longtime active member of Friends of Niños Adelante.

Two American children whose mother was murdered by their father and he is subsequently in prison are currently being raised by their Grandparents in Pantla, just north of Ixtapa. The family is desperately poor, and they exist raising and selling macho plátanos. The children are now 10 and 13. The girl is in third grade, but the boy has not gone to school since arriving, at least five years ago. The boy helps his grandfather

Liz Williams, U.S. Consular Agency

Hotel Fontan, Interior

Ixtapa, Gro., 40880, Mexico

Telephone: 755-553-2100

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lizwilliams@diplomats.com

work the crops and they cannot afford for him to go to school. The boy has been tested by a Mexican psychiatrist who

said that he is very smart and that both children are very nice and seem happy and healthy. The grandparents are willing for the children to be returned to the U.S. and the children would like to go back, but not without their grandparents. They do have an Aunt living somewhere in the U.S. but she is not able to be located, that they would be willing to live with. Please contact Liz Williams for more information on this tragic situation.

Treasurer's Report by Ann Gebo

Operating Statement, Year Ended 12/31/03

Revenues		Expenses	
Contributions	\$34,921	Grant to Niños Adelante	\$49,400
Golf Tournament	8,399	Fees	410
Memorials	2,000	Postage	317
February Dinner	3,860	Printing	327
Interest Income	140	Golf Tournament	
T-Shirt Sales	1,007	Food	4,350
		Green Fees	600
		Other Supplies	491
		February Dinner	1,040
		Office Supplies	430
Total Revenues	\$60,327	Total Expenses	\$57,365
		Income Less Expenses	\$ 2,962



Friends of Niños Adelante

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tgreenberg@moviemerchants.com

«AddressBlock»

«EmailAddress»

*Niños Adelante—Children
Forward*



Annual Niños Adelante Fund Raisers

The **5th Annual Niños Charity Golf Tournament** raised almost \$12,000! Thanks to the hard work of Adrienne and Jack Baldwin who hosted 30 golfers plus 80 for dinner at Lafayette Club, Minnetonka Beach, MN. Many items were donated and auctioned off during the silent auction helping to raise funds. One highlighted item for auction was a hand made quilt that was donated. This item alone raised \$600!

Don't miss being a part of this wonderful event! This year it will be held **September 27 at Lafayette Club**. Information is enclosed.

The **Annual Benefit Dinner in Zihuatanejo** is always a highlight for all attendees at this beautiful setting at Villa de la Roca. This is an event not to be missed! Information enclosed.

Niños Reunion Breakfasts are always a big success with sponsors, students and families. The 2004 February breakfast was especially festive with a Mariachi band plus a school band! In addition we had two speakers who had graduated from the Niños program.



It was a truly heart-warming experience! Thanks to Jose Bustos and Adrienne Baldwin for putting it all together and for taking such good care of all the Niños!