

Friends of Niños Adelante

Friends of Niños Adelante President, Tyrone Bujold, Steps Down A Note from the President

By Tyrone Bujold

Our Board Meeting in Zihuatanejo in February 2005 will bring to an end my service of several years as your President.

Because of all your enthusiastic support, this has been a satisfying experience. I am happy that we have Steve Leighton coming on board for election as your new President. Steve will maintain the Leighton family tradition of support for Friends of Niños Adelante that extends back to the pioneering service of his dad, Robert Leighton. With the addition of Ann Gebo as our energetic new Treasurer, Gary Nelson as our omniscient computer guru, Trish Greenburg as our Lois Lane of the Newsletter, Barb Neal as Secretary, Janie Robins as Recording Secretary and retention of Adrienne Baldwin in her tireless capacity as head of our fundraising efforts, we now have a Board of Directors whose homes are in states from the east coast to the west coast. The internet has made our communications easy and fun and has allowed us to expand our Board to include new faces and bright new minds.

I hope it is not presumptive for me to say that Niños has turned out to be an exciting organization. The students alone could account for that energy, but there are also contributors to our activities whose efforts are not acknowledged enough. They know who they are, and I thank them.

I am pleased to tell you about Sandy Olson, formerly of the San Francisco Bay area, and new resident in Zihuatanejo. Sandy, who is bilingual, has agreed to help José Bustos' tireless efforts and has already made significant contributions. We hope you will get to meet Sandy at one of our Reunion Breakfasts in Ixtapa this January or February.

I plan to stay on the Board for one more year as "Past President" to help wherever possible with maintaining an institutional memory.

Thus, this is not really a farewell; only a sincere thanks to all of our loyal sponsors!

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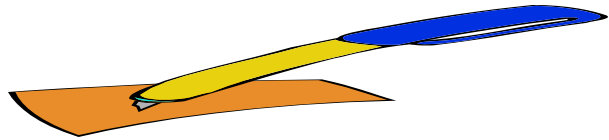
Message from Steve Leighton Do We Need To Make A Difference?

Few things in life can be as rewarding as making a difference in the lives of others, whether being a role model, donating money, donating time or simply being a mentor to someone. Our efforts to help educate the children of Zihua are making a difference in their lives. We can't educate every one of them, but the ones we do help, come out as different people.

I am reminded of the story about a little boy who was one day walking along an ocean beach after an unusually high tide with thousands of starfish washed up on the beach. With the hot sun coming up, many, if not all of them, were surely doomed. Quickly, the little boy began picking up the starfish and throwing them back into the sea. Soon a man came by and asked the boy what he was doing. The little boy said he was saving the starfish. The man noted that there were thousands of them on the beach and he surely couldn't save all of them, so what difference would it make. The little boy responded as he threw one in. "I know that I can't save them all, but I can save this one".

I like to think of our program as educating one child at a time. We have educated hundreds of children in this community. Think about the difference we will make in this community after we have done this for another 20 years! I believe that we ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE in the lives of these kids and one day this community will be one of the best in Mexico through all of your efforts. Thank you from all of the children that you have made a difference in their lives!

A special THANK YOU to Tyrone Bujold! Tyrone has made a huge difference in the lives of many of us... not just the kids of Zihua. We are grateful for his leadership in creating and managing this special organization. Ty, I will do my best to follow in your footsteps. These are big shoes to fill, but if I am half as successful as you, I will do just fine.



News Flash!!!

New Web Site for Niños

Have you ever wanted to quickly find a list of Friends of Niños Adelante directors, the treasurer's e-mail or mailing address, a source for Niños events or a copy of the last Newsletter? Well, help is on the way. In fact, the answers are now as convenient as logging on to www.friendsofninosadelante.org on the web.

The Friends of Niños Adelante website has been designed to provide convenient, always-available and timely information for sponsors and interested parties. In addition to finding information about future and recent events, you will find basic information about administration of the program, activities in Zihuatanejo. We hope that the web site will be a useful way for you to keep current with your organization.

Before you take the leap and jump on to the new web site, we need to caution you that this site was developed without benefit of professional assistance. It is truly the product of "loving hands" which are not always effective or even competent!

Go ahead. Take the plunge and log on to www.friendsofninosadelante.org. Simply paste this copy and past this address into the address line of your browser and click **GO**.

We would really appreciate your comments and suggestions so that the site can become useful to our spon-

Sponsors: We Need Your Help!

Want to help reduce costs and increase our support of the kids? We need your current e-mail address to save several hundred dollars a year and many, many hours of volunteer time. Please send your current e-mail address to: Gary Nelson at: bestzin@sbcglobal.net.

Pen Pals Trial Program for Niños

A new Pen Pal trial program is underway! A high school Spanish class in Northwest Wisconsin has expressed a desire to establish a pen pal relationship via e-mail with several niños in our program in Zihuatanejo. Peggy and Jim Tolbert of Siren, Wisconsin, have been instrumental in nurturing this contact between a local high school teacher and Niños Adelante. The high school class has even begun some fund-raising projects with the goal of sponsoring a child in our Program!

Thanks Peggy and Jim Tolbert and the kids in the Spanish class.

Board of Directors

Tyrone Bujold, President

tbujold@mn.rr.com

Steve Leighton, Vice President

leightonconsulting@att.net

Ann Gebo, Treasurer

gebs2001@yahoo.com

Jane Robins, Recording Secretary

jrobins@moviemerchants.com

Barb Neal, Membership Secretary

rneal@usfamily.net

Trish Greenberg, Newsletter Chair

tgreenberg@moviemerchants.com

Adrienne Baldwin, Events Chair

adriennebaldwin@photmail.com

Gary Nelson, Computer Systems Chair

bestzin@sbcglobal.net

Special Advisor to the Board

Bob Albright

bobalb@comcast.net

Guidelines for New Sponsors

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

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

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

Breakfasts with students, their families and sponsors are held in January and February at Hotel Fontán in Ixtapa. Sponsors pay for their student and family (about \$10 US per person).

Sponsors sometimes bring gifts for niños and their families. Appropriate, modest priced gifts include educational, sports and personal items.

Do not send money or items through the mail. In addition to the difficulty and cost of moving shipments through Mexican customs, unfortunately one cannot rely on the mail system to consistently deliver packages. Cards and letters are encouraged and can be sent to:

Name of Student
Niños Adelante
APDO 169
Zihuatanejo, Gro
Mexico

Even better than snail mail cards are letters are e-mail messages to your student. They can be sent to your student's attention at: ninosadelante@prodigy.net.mx. E-mails are distributed with the monthly becas.

Friends of Niños Adelante utilizes unrestricted donations to pay for emergency needs of students such as medical, dental, vision or special education items. Unrestricted donations are also used to make scholarship payments to students whose sponsors have withdrawn from the program or have not made a contribution for the current year scholarship payment.

All contributions, whether restricted to student scholarships or unrestricted, should be made to:

Friends of Niños Adelante
c/o Ann Gebo, Treasurer
4643 Baker Road
Minnetonka, MN 55343

Niños Success Story

By Janie Robins

Julia Joyeria

Julia is a successful graduate of the Niños Adelante Program!

Most of us at one-time or another have visited Abel and Julia's shop in Zihuatanejo or stand at the Artisan's market there. If you are like me, you are unaware that Julia is a graduate of the Niños Adelante Program! She is living proof of the wonderful life-long effect that our program has on the young people of Zihuatanejo. Their shop has a very extensive selection of some of the best silver designs outside of Taxco, where their silver comes from. They will also custom design jewelry to your specifications.

Find their beautiful, large store on Calle Nicolás, Bravo #9 in Zihuatanejo. They are also located in the Artisan's Market on Avenida Cinco de Mayo in

Fund-Raising Reports

Adrienne Baldwin reports that the 6th Annual Golf Tournament and Dinner were a great success again, raising over \$10,000! The weather didn't cooperate, but the participants had a super time!

Thanks go to Adrienne and her co-chairman, Jack Baldwin, for all of their hard work. Thanks also to the Committee: Bob and Marilyn Albright, who arrive every year from California ready to do all of the computer work and organization of the auction items, to Delia Bujold who creates beautiful table decorations, to Bitt Huldeen who solicits local businesses for auction items and then, along with Marilyn Albright, displays them beautifully and to Ann Gebo who does all of the financials.

A special Thank You goes to José Bustos who visits the Hotels in Ixtapa and collects gift certificates from them. Also, thanks to the women who visit restaurants to solicit gift certificates.

And, of course, thanks to all of you who donated money and gifts for the live and silent auctions.

We couldn't have done it without you!

Friends of Niños Adelante

Trish Greenburg
48 Central Blvd.
Camp Hill, PA 17011

tgreenberg@moviemerchants.com

Niños Adelante—Children Forward



Silent Auction Contributor Spotlight—Café Zihuatanejo

Stop by and patronize this silent auction contributor, **Café Zihuatanejo**. The coffee is grown in a local cooperative, roasted locally and sold in the Zihua coffee shop and a shop in Wisconsin.

Thanks to Carol Tierney and Liz Cook for finding this gem!

Juana Sanchez Perez
Café Zihuatanejo
Calle Cuauhetemoc No. 170 Local "B"
Centro - Zihuatanejo
Tel. y Fax (755) 554-3890
Café.Zihuatanejo@hotmail.com

Friends of Niños Adelante

Annual Benefit Dinner

The dinner, at the beautiful Villa de la Roca overlooking the bay in Zihuatanejo, will be held on Thursday, February 17th at 6:00 p.m. The cost is \$65.00 per person. Please register early as it fills up fast!

Number of guests _____

Name (s) _____

Amount Enclosed _____

Please send this form and your check to:

*Adrienne Baldwin
5010 South Lakeshore Drive
Maple Plain, MN 55359*

abaldwin@pconline.com

Friends of Niños Adelante

SPONSOR/STUDENT REUNION BREAKFAST

PADRINO/ESTUDIANTE REUNIONES DESAYUNO

VALUED TIME WITH YOUR STUDENT

PRECIADO TIEMPO CON SU ESTUDIANTE

Many padrinos have said that the becado breakfast is the highlight of their trip to Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo. This is the time to see your becado and, perhaps, members of his or her family, 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 important experience. We hope that you will be able to join us at one of the two breakfast gatherings.

If you hurry, you can still make a reservation for the February 13 breakfast. Jose will add your becado and his or her family when he know their plans. Forms should be mailed no later than Thursday, January 27.

As in the past, padrinos are responsible for the breakfasts of their becados and their families. Cost of breakfast is expected to be in the neighborhood of 100 pesos per person.

When: Sunday, February 13, 2005 at 10:00 A.M.

Where: Hotel Fontán, Ixtapa

Please reserve _____ places for me at the February 13, 2005, Sponsor/Student Reunion Breakfast on _____ at the Hotel Fontán in Ixtapa. I/we will be staying at _____ in Ixtapa/Zihuatanejo from ___/___/05 and departing on ___/___/05. (circle one)

Sponsor

Mail completed form to:

Adrienne Baldwin
5010 So. Lakeshore Dr.
Maple Plain, MN 55359

abaldwin@pconline.com