



2014 FALL FRIENDS OF NIÑOS ADELANTE NEWSLETTER

President's Column

By Steve Leighton

All is well with Niños Adelante in Zihuatanejo. Jose is busy with administering all the changes for the new school year. We had graduating classes in 2014 of 16 high school students and 14 colleges students and continue to have approximately 225 kids in the program for the coming school year.

Thanks to you, we continue to educate some of the brightest kids in the Zihua area.

I recently came across an old newsletter article written by Ty Bujold, one of our past presidents. Ty wrote this column for the newsletter back in the summer of 2000. Just for fun, I have decided to re-print Ty's column. Here it is exactly as he wrote it 14 years ago:

A Word from the President...Ty Bujold

I am often asked (two times in the last year, at least) what it is like to be the CEO of a several thousand dollar per year non-profit corporation whose expenses are roughly equal to its income. People will say, "Ty, how do you handle the stress? And what are your dreams of the future?" Of course, the easy answer is that I do precious little as CEO, relying upon a highly paid secretary (Adrienne Baldwin), treasurer (Delia Bujold), and vice-president (Carol Tierney). I'm pretty much a ribbon-cutter when the company opens a new operation. But that's the easy answer. The hard answer involves a modicum of dissembling, some vagueness, and occasionally outright fabrication. I say things like, "Maximizing return for our investors is my first thought every day. Reducing staff wherever possible isn't cruelty, it's tough love. In the competitive market where we find ourselves, it's not easy to up those expenses, deal with high executive compensation, and keep the ship on an even keel."

But lately, the press has been hard at work on my case. One rag recently wrote: "Bujold has justified his do-nothing approach to management by pointing to his annual salary, saying that a lot of similarly ineffective presidents are paid a lot more. But his critics quickly respond that the right thing for Bujold to do would be to move from his current executive compensation package, claimed to be zero-based, to a negative numbers situation where he would be assessed annually a fee to compensate stockholders for the corporation's failure to make a profit through its first year of existence."

A mean-spirited press will not deter me. I intend to run again for office this year and if elected by our Board, I will continue undaunted in my efforts to keep this company a profitless venture,

focusing on the fact that despite my indolence we have once again kept over 100 Mexican kids in school, have a loyal following of donors whose enthusiasm for what I do not do is unbridled, and have a Board of Officers, not one of whom has been indicted.

I thought this well written column was worth repeating. It is “tongue in cheek” at best, but reminds me of the time and effort that was put into our organization by some very talented people, many years ago. Ty’s comment about our first year of operation refers to the fact that we had just become a 501 (c) (3) organization...thanks to his efforts in making it happen.

Thanks to Ty and all of our past/present officers and sponsors for all the effort that went into making Friends of Niños Adelante the great organization it is today!

We are proud to announce two new Scholarship offerings

Mike and Kathy Gallagher Scholarship Fund Provided by recent sponsors from Vancouver B.C.

Purpose:

Provide a significant grant to an outstanding Niños Adelante graduating high school senior each year who has been accepted to attend a major university in Mexico.

Scope:

All students meeting our eligibility criteria who are planning to go away to a major university or college in Mexico to earn a Bachelor’s degree are encouraged to submit an application. High School Seniors are eligible to apply and all applications must be received by July 1st. The winning applicant will be selected from the applicants by the Niños Adelante Scholarship Committee.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Strong moral character
2. High School senior graduates of Niños Adelante Program (3 years minimum in the program and graduate of public high school)
3. Committed to earning a four-year college degree at a significant university outside of Guerrero (excepting Chilpancingo)
4. Willing to share their personal story.
5. G.P.A. of 9.3 at end of Junior year (to be maintained during Senior year)

Grant:

A grant of \$1500 USD per year for four years will be administered beginning with acceptance to university and continue annually for a total of four years upon successful completion of each year with a minimum G.P.A. of 8.0. Payment of the grant during each year will be as follows: One half at the beginning of each school year and one half in January of each year

Sanderson Scholarship Fund

Provided by longtime sponsors Bill and Mabeth Sanderson

Purpose:

Provide a significant grant to the outstanding Niños Adelante graduating high school senior each year who is pursuing studies in an engineering field and has been accepted to attend a major university in Mexico.

Scope:

All students meeting our eligibility criteria who are planning to go away to a major Federal or State university or college in Mexico to earn a Bachelor's degree in engineering are encouraged to submit an application. High School Seniors are eligible to apply and all applications must be received by July 1st. The winning applicant will be selected from the applicants by the Niños Adelante Scholarship Committee.

Eligibility Criteria:

1. Strong moral character
2. High School senior graduates of Niños Adelante Program (3 years minimum in the program and graduate of public high school)
3. Committed to earning a four-year college degree in an engineering field at a significant university outside of Guerrero (excepting Chilpancingo)
4. Willing to share their personal story.
5. G.P.A. of 9.3 at end of Junior year (to be maintained during Senior year)

Grant:

A grant of \$2,000 USD per year for five years will be administered beginning with acceptance to university and continue annually for a total of five years upon successful completion of each year with a minimum G.P.A. of 8.0. Payment of the grant during each year will be as follows: One half at the beginning of each school year and one half in January of each year.

2014 Scholarship Awards

This year the Mike and Kathy Gallagher scholarship has been awarded to Elidet Rodriguez

Thanks to a generous gift from the Gallaghers, Friends of Niños Adelante is able this year to offer a scholarship grant of \$1500 per year for four years of successful university study to an outstanding young woman, Elidet Rodriguez Fuerte. The following is Elidet's translated letter included in her application to the committee



My name is Elidet Rodriguez Fuerte, I am 21 years old. I was born in the mountains of Petatlan, and have eight brothers and sisters:

My brother Nicasio (24 years) is a college student at the Technology University Costa Grande in Zihuatanejo as an accountant. He also works as an accountant.

My brother David (23) can not hear or speak and he is working in Ixtapa Zihuatanejo.

My sister Norma (19) just finished high school and entered Technology University to study accounting as well.

My brother Jose Daniel (16 years) is studying ninth grade

Audel (14 years) is studying ninth grade in school Eva Samano,

Yanet (12) is studying eighth grade

Diana (7 years) is studying second grade.

My father was a farmer. Where we lived in the mountains it was difficult to study because there were no teachers. Some teachers were sent to teach but then returned to the village after a few months. It was difficult to finish the years classes. My parents decided to look for more opportunities for us to continue studying. First we settled in Petatlan and then later in Zihuatanejo where we enrolled in primary school in third and fourth grade with my sister Norma. My father found work in a tortilla mill. My mom searched for a way to put a roof over our heads. Through Fibazi (they control the land use in Zihuatanejo) she was able to obtain a piece of land where my father could build a wooden house for us. We went to live there and that was when we entered the primary Octavio Paz near my house. We completed 5th and 6th grade but when we finished elementary my dad did not want us to study anymore because my family is low income. It was then that teacher Maria commented to Maryellen Jackson who spoke with my dad to tell him we had earned good grades, she would support us to continue our education. My father accepted and I continued studying in secondary school at Carolina Coronado Ramirez and finished secondary school. Then I went to study at the Sor Juana Ines de la Cruz school. My classes were in the afternoon so in the morning I studied a nursing course and a first aid course.

I just finished high school and want to continue studying college to get a degree in nursing and then do a masters in nursing and then to teach nursing. I am very proud to be a Niños Adelante Student. and very grateful for the support I have had. I am looking forward to University in Acapulco to further my education. My average is 9.4 on a scale of 10. Thank you very much.

Elidet Rodriguez Fuerte

Meet Some of our other Movers and Shakers

We would like to introduce you to some additional board members and thank them for their time and effort supporting the students. It takes many dedicated volunteers to provide a vibrant program for 225 niños. WE ALWAYS WELCOME NEWCOMERS!

Beth Draving- Board Member

Several years ago Len and I were introduced to the Niños program by Leif and Lois Lindblom. We were skeptical at first but eventually got involved. When we became acquainted with our first student we knew we had made the right decision. We believe, both being educators, that education is always a good stepping stone to success. We decided to take part in the program: what a good investment it turned out to be. We have had the privilege to be part of several Mexican students' educational process. The dividends produced to them and us are numerous. Over the years we have become an extension of their family and they have become an extension of our family – which includes weddings, graduations, birthdays, births and other family events. One benefit that has not been mentioned and is no way the least, even though it's the last, is the warm and caring sponsors we have met.

James Moe- Board Member

Jim, a retired Minneapolis attorney, has been participating in Friends of Niños, one way or another, for the past 12 years, give or take. As padrinos, Jim and his wife, Jan had contributed to the education of a couple of different students from afar before deciding, about 10 years ago, to take the plunge and visit Ixtapa/Zihuatenejo. They were both quickly enamored with, not only Ixtapa/Zihua, as a getaway from Minnesota's stubborn winters, but also with the whole Niños program and, most importantly, the people and culture of Mexico. For the immediately preceding seven years they have supported, and continue to support, a now young woman who is pursuing her post graduate education. It has been a wonderful experience for us as we have met and gotten to know our student and her family and look forward to our annual visits with them.

Similarly, we have gotten to know a number of participants in Friends of Niños from around North America and enjoy our annual visits with them, too. When in Minnesota, we try to spend about six months per year at our cabin in northern Minnesota where, among other things, we spend time with our three children and their eight children. "I was both honored and delighted to be asked to serve on the Friends of Niños board and replied in the affirmative in about a nano second. Having watched Jani operate as a prior president of the organization, I am impressed with what it has accomplished over its history and am excited to be a part of what its near-by future holds."

Tim Ellis---Board Member

I live in Bloomington, Indiana, except for 10 weeks every year in Ixtapa. Dorothy and I have been married for 36 years and have 3 children. Tim W., Joan, and Beth. I have been in the real estate business since 1964 and am still active doing commercial brokerage and real estate auctions. It is nice to be able to spend the time every year in Mexico and I enjoy helping Shelagh with the English classes. Of course escaping the mid west cold and snow is great also.

Bob Schaye-Board Member and Anlee Schaye-Retired, Dedicated Teacher

Anlee and I are both natives of the Boston Massachusetts area and have lived in Newton for the past 48 years. We have three children, two grandsons and will celebrate our 50th wedding anniversary in November. I retired almost six years ago from full-time commercial real estate brokerage, but still do a limited amount of work assisting developers in buying land and developing for preferred retail clients. I enjoy taking courses, the gym and playing golf. Anlee and I especially enjoy traveling both in the United States and internationally. I served for many years as a board member on the alcohol and substance abuse task force for the Newton Public Schools. I have also served on the Ninos Board since 2008.

We started visiting Zihuatanejo in 1988 and discovered Niños Adelante a few years later through people we met at Pacifica. Amayrani is our fifth student and the first to attend college. She is a Junior at Tecnologico and doing very well in her studies.

Anlee, a retired ESL teacher, has taught English to students from all over the world here in the United States as well as Israel and Japan. In Mexico she volunteered for many years to teach English to the Niños students during our annual vacation. From 2010 to 2013 she has done English Teacher Training in Ukraine.

Editors Note:

Bob and Anlee are very dedicated sponsors taking an active part in their student's lives. A number of years ago one of their students along with his mother, brother, and sister were thrown out of their home by an irresponsible father. Bob and Anlee met with their minister to help the student in school as he was floundering. They also assisted the family financially. We are very fortunate to have them as active sponsors.

Claudia Shea –Board member –A family tradition

My name is Claudia Shea and I joined the board of Friends of Niños Adelante in 2014. I live in Wauwatosa, WI with my husband, Chris. I have three grown children, Alison, Laura and Thomas, who live in Manhattan, Milwaukee and Los Angeles. I work locally as a substitute teacher for the Wauwatosa Public Schools and pursue my love of art as a docent at the Milwaukee Art Museum.

My family and I have visited Ixtapa regularly since 1985. My parents, Irene and Francis Sheahan, both long time supporters of Niños Adelante, introduced me to the area. My children have grown up visiting their grandparents in Ixtapa almost every winter. Upon my Mom's death in 2009, my Dad thought a fitting tribute to her memory would be to establish a scholarship that today bears her name. My husband and I became sponsors in 2011. We enjoy the interaction with our student, Erandy Michel and look forward to our annual visits with her in Ixtapa.

I look forward to working with the other members on the board and making a positive contribution to this worthwhile organization.

Thomas Wenrich- Board member

1967 Graduated from the University of Michigan with a BA in Business Administration
1967-1970 Completed management training program at Mellon National Bank in Pittsburgh, Pa. and worked in marketing department as research assistant.

1970-1974 Employed by Boise Cascade Corp., Portland Ore. First as marketing analyst and then as export manager for the fine paper division. Traveled the Far East setting up agents to handle paper exports for the company.

1978-1987 Formed Paper Products Marketing in Portland Ore. Served as president and owner until selling the company to an Australian firm in 1985. PPM is a paper wholesaler selling domestically and to various export markets. After selling the company, stayed on as president under new owners until 1987.

1987-1989 President of Noland Paper Co., Buena Park, CA.

Noland is a paper distributor serving the southern California market. Had 300 employees, 6 branch offices and approximately \$110,000,000 in sales.

1989-1996 Formed Pacific Paper Trading Co. in Oregon City, Ore. Was majority stockholder and president.

Sold this company to employees in 1996.

Both Pacific Paper Trading and Paper Products Marketing won the OREGON GOVERNOR'S AWARD FOR INTERNATIONAL MARKETING in 1995 and 1982 respectively.

1995-2001 Served on the Board of Directors, Volunteers of America, Oregon. Served as Board Chair for the last two years of this term.

2001 – present Invested in Verdiem, Inc., an energy conservation start-up company in Seattle. Served as COO for a year and sat on the Board of Directors for 3 years.

In 2003, joined national Board of Directors of Volunteers of America.

ALSO joined the Board of Trustees of the YMCA of the Willamette Valley.

In 2007, bought a condo in Zihuatanejo and live there about 5 months a year with my wife Carolyn.

Managing personal investments, traveling, playing handball, and fishing as much as possible.

About our Students

College Students of Niños Adelante - Reaching for the Stars

The students that I and my friends sponsor came from a chicken coop structure hanging precariously off a hillside while the rains ate away at the earth beneath it. That was over 9 years ago...when we started working with this little school in Vincent Guerrero, Parte Alto above the main streets of Zihua where the Mercado is located. Fabulous million dollar view of the bay, but little else other than a whole lot of dirt and rocks with shanties for living spaces. It's different now...as Zihua has changed ...for the better, I'm not sure. But what I am sure of is the success of the students our volunteers fought to support in Niños Adelante. ...Here are two that are in Zihuatanejo Nursing School of Sora Juana. Fidel Ramirez and Guadaulupe Vargas are in their second year...received their caps or stripes in Fidel's case. This is the first level on their journey to become registered nurses...there remains a couple more years of schooling. They are sponsored by Vicki Dreger and Margaret Reid. We were a small group of North American

Volunteers who saw the need and possibilities of these students. Some of the students we helped, did not make it to college. Still there is reward in seeing what they did accomplish. Now there is even greater reward in seeing that reaching for the stars is possible for some of our students like Fidel and Guadalupe. Congratulations and warm acknowledgement to:
ALL sponsors who continue to support Niños Adelante.

Maryellen Jackson

An Update on Erick Daniel - June 2014



The fall 2011 Niños Newsletter told the story of dedicated sponsors, Ewing and Marjorie Jones and their student, Eric Daniel Salinas Arellano. This is an update on this exceptional young man. As background, Eric is the oldest of four siblings. He, his mother, Maria and his three sisters, Lucero Inahi, Britseida and Diana Isabel live in a home he helped construct in the colonia 24 de Abril in Zihuatanejo. Eric attended secundaria (Jr high) at ETA 52 and preparatoria (high school) at Prepa 13 where he received nothing less than an occasional 9.9. Ewing and Marjorie encouraged him to seek a college education and helped him financially, making it possible for Eric to attend the major university in Morela where he again excelled at his studies in pharmacology and biology, graduating as the valedictorian of his class. Eric is currently studying at Politecnico D.F. where he will complete his two year Masters program in December. It won't stop there. Eric has a clear set of goals best said in his own words "my goal is to be one of the top researchers worldwide. After completing my Masters I want to work three months in a pharmaceutical company in Toluca. After that a Doctorate. If my thesis advisor offers me a good PHD project at Cinvestav DF. I'll stay to realize a PHD".

Niños Adelante 2014 End of School Year Fiesta



This year's Fiesta followed the pattern of past Fiestas. There was serious meeting time, serious cena time and of course, beach time. One hundred twenty-two students, mostly Jr. and Senior high kids along with several college students attended the affair. The serious meeting part included discussions about improving communications with sponsors and about improving grades. Jose introduced a new form the kids will be required to produce at beca time. Jose also took time to make special note of and discuss the qualifications for the college scholarships now being offered by our generous sponsors. In addition to the Irene Sheahen memorial scholarship we now have two new ones, the Mike and Kathy Gallagher and the Sanderson scholarships

Current Information

If you have any questions or concerns, you may contact us through the Friends of Niños Adelante website at www.friendsofninosadelante.org We welcome your comments and suggestions.

For those of you that have communicated via e-mail with your student, thank you. Please be patient with the translation, which is sometimes difficult. If you want to communicate with your student or ask questions about your student, you can contact the Zihuatanejo office directly at ninosadelante@prodigy.net.mx Make sure you provide your name and the name of your student.

There is a Sam's Club in Zihuatanejo on the main Ixtapa-Zihuatanejo highway located 100 yards past Bodega on the opposite side of the road. You MUST have your current Sam's Club card to make purchases. Last year they featured a special oversized bottle of Bailey's Irish Cream with a coffee travel cup for a very special price.