

	<p><i>A refuge where children reach their full potential</i></p>	 Website: <a href="http://www.refugiosanpablo.org">www.refugiosanpablo.org</a>
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## 2016 Newsletter



### A BIT ABOUT REFUGIO SAN PABLO (RSP)

Fundación Lansdown, (operating as RSP) is a Mazatlán, Mexico based non-profit Asociación Civil.

RSP seeks to assist disadvantaged adolescent boys so that they can eventually achieve economic independence, and become happy, well-adjusted, successful community members, who are socially responsible and altruistic.

At RSP the focus is on obtaining a good middle school and high school education, followed by a university degree, or trade of some kind. This enables the boys to break the cycle that perpetuates poverty and to become self-sufficient.

**RSP Vision:** A refuge where children reach their full potential.

**RSP Mission:** To provide opportunities for underprivileged boys so that they can become self-sufficient and successful, through loving care, spirituality and quality education.

#### RSP Values:

HEART (Honesty, Empathy, Achievement, Respect, Thought)	
Honesty	Be true to yourself and others
Empathy	Care for your fellow human being
Achievement	Do everything to the best of your abilities to achieve your goals
Respect	Respect yourself, those around you and property
Thought	Think before acting, plan

A building for the new home was purchased in June 2015. It is located in Colonia Centro, Mazatlán.

The home was immediately renovated including the installation of a new electrical system, hot water showers, a kitchen and other equipment. Alfonso Lopez Puerta very generously replaced glass in all the windows and donated and installed new windows and doors. The building was also painted.



### AND THEN THERE WERE FOURTEEN

RSP began accepting adolescents in April 2016, quickly building up to 14 young men. Six of them are in middle school, seven in high school and one is in university.

RSP has seven professional staff members: a director, a social worker, 4 psychologists (who double as teachers) and a cook.

Boys attend public schools or universities and RSP supplements education through tutoring programs at the home.



Extra curricula activities for the boys include physical education, gym, counseling, sports and hobbies.

RSP is grateful for the continued support of the many volunteers who cook, teach English to the boys and take them on outings. They also provide much needed food, supplies, medical support and equipment.

**WATER’S EDGE FUNDRAISER**

Shortly after starting the home, Tracey Grantham and Alastair Porteous, who own The Water’s Edge restaurant, most generously provided their facilities and expertise for a fundraising event for RSP. The event was efficiently organized by a committee comprising Tracey, Alastair, Debbie Rodriguez and O’Neil McGean. It was well attended by more than 80 people. Johnnie Horsley, supported by Linda Crossley, generously gave his time and performed a very entertaining magic show.

The event was a resounding success, raising about \$65,000 MXN for RSP.



Check from Water’s Edge fundraiser

**AUGUST UPGRADES**

August was the month of upgrades for RSP. With the hot and humid summer in full swing, the boys were finding it difficult to sleep at night so air conditioning units were added in the dormitories. With the high cost of electricity (RSP pays commercial rates), panels for solar power were installed at the same time.



RSP solar panels

Thanks to generous donations received from Fred Howard and Brian Lee we were able to buy four much-needed computers.

The boys are at five different schools and participate in many activities outside of the home, requiring a means for transportation. A pick-up was purchased and retrofitted to transport the boys to and from school and other activities.

**EDUCATION**

Providing the boys with a good education is foundational to enable them to learn a skill or obtain further education. The boys attend public schools. The education system is not always adequate so RSP provides teachers to supplement school classes, using online programs. In addition, the boys really enjoy English lessons, graciously taught by Karen Martin, a volunteer. The RSP staff also takes the boys on visits to museums and other places of historic significance in Mazatlán where they learn more about the city and state of Sinaloa.



Karen teaching some of the boys English

**EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

While education is key, it is also important that boys remain involved in extracurricular activities. RSP ensures that they are involved in different events that suit their



Surfing lessons generously provided by Tom and Heidi Lonsdale and their

preferences including baseball, soccer and basketball. RSP supporters, John Arya, Brian McGuire and Noah Lentz often

join the boys for basketball at the home.

They also go to ANSPAC most weekends where they learn and participate in activities with boys from other orphanages.



The boys helped out at the Mazatlán marathon through ANSPAC

Exercise is essential for growing boys and regular

workouts in the upper hall and gymnasium at the home, and on the beach, serve this purpose. A donation from Julie and Mark Foster covered the purchase of some new gym equipment

## OUTINGS

The boys regularly go on outings. These include going to beaches and other lovely locations where they play games and have picnics. They also visit Teacapan (where several of the boys' families live) on weekends from time to time, staying overnight.



A typical outing for the boys at a nearby river

RSP is also very fortunate to have volunteers who take some of the boys on excursions. Some involve visits to people's homes to participate in swimming pool games and barbecues. Others involve visits to Stone Island, the movies, shopping malls, waterparks and arcades.



A swimming pool game and BBQ outing

## FAMILIES

RSP believes that families are an essential part of the success of their children. They are encouraged to stay actively involved with their boys including visiting them regularly. Most of the boys also visit their families every two weeks or so.

Every two to three months RSP hosts a Family Day on a Sunday. Various family members attend and participate in workshops to help them learn better parenting skills. They also participate in activities that are designed to improve relationships between the boys and their families. The day ends with a lunch for all of the family members.



Family Day activity

Family Day lunch

## BIRTHDAYS

The boys' birthday celebrations are important events and much anticipated by each of them. The boys are even more excited these days because of the wonderful cakes that are made so meticulously for each of them by Richard Potts and Lawrence Douglas.



Birthday cakes made by Rick & Lawrence

## HALLOWEEN

Halloween night was a fun filled event for the boys with several caring folks allowing the boys to trick-or-treat at



Fun filled Halloween night

their homes. After dressing up in costumes and walking around Plazuela Machado, the boys visited the homes of Darlene and

Brian McGuire, Ron and Jan Marquardt, John Arya and Laura Hiller, Pat and Merle Nielsen, Dave and Karen Martin and Rob and Michele Signoretti.

## THANKSGIVING

The RSP cook is off on Sundays and we have been extremely fortunate to have Tracy Laughlin volunteer his time and considerable talent in the kitchen each week. The boys really appreciate the variety and creativity of his scrumptious meals. This is no small undertaking and fortunately Tracy has a team of volunteers who often assist him – Michele Signoretti, Barry Johnston and Sam Koester give many hours at the Refugio. For Thanksgiving Tracy solicited donations and volunteers to provide a traditional American Thanksgiving dinner. It was a very special evening and a great way for the boys to learn about this holiday.



## CHRISTMAS

Christmas was a very special time for the boys with several “posadas” (parties) and gifts. Gaby Reyes and Rosie Rodriguez, Hogar San Pablo and RSP hosted “posadas” for the boys. Paul Sullivan gave each of the boys thoughtfully prepared, wonderful packages. Many members of the Mazatlán community purchased tennis shoes for the boys via the “Angel Tree” that Debbie displayed for us at Tippy Toes.



## DONORS

A large amount of support is provided by several very generous donors. Donations include cash for specified or

general items, kitchen equipment, computers, games tables, bicycles, food, supplies, and clothes.

In addition many provide their time to support the boys with undertakings such as cooking, teaching, playing sport and games, and organizing fund raisers.

RSP is most grateful to those who provide regular support including:

- Tres Islas for providing USD\$100/ week for food in 2017.
- Alfonso Lopez Puerta who replaced all the window glass and provided some new windows and doors.
- Rodolfo Madero whose company provides accounting support.
- Alastair Porter, Tracey Grantham, Debbie Rodriguez, Darlene MacGuire & Helen Carroll who provide fundraising support.
- Tracy Laughlin who spends countless hours cooking for the boys on Sundays and other special events. He is assisted by Michele Signoretti, Barry Johnston & Sam Koester.
- Greg & Renee Domeier who provide chicken, meat, eggs and fruit. They are also initiating the O'Neil McGeane scholarship award and provide fundraising support.
- Richard Potts & Lawrence Douglas who provide birthday cakes, and a steady stream of food and supplies.
- Gaby Reyes & Rosie Rodriguez who cut the boys hair regularly and provided Christmas gifts and pizza party.
- Karen Martin who teaches English.
- John Arya & Laurie Hiller, who take the boys on outings, provide translation and other volunteer help, as well as advice and support for the sustainability of the home.

## THE TEAM

RSP is proud of the staff who provide care for our teens. The Team is comprised of:

- Beremundo Soto: a very capable and dedicated director.
- Vianca Barraza, a most creative and committed psychologist/ teacher.
- Balfred de la Cruz: a psychologist/ teacher and night carer who specializes in exercise and outdoor activities.
- Silvia Leon: a kind and dedicated psychologist/ teacher.
- Jonathan de la Cruz, a caring and supportive psychologist/ teacher and night carer.
- Paola Frago, an energetic, fun and passionate social worker.
- Celene Regalado: a hardworking, tireless and ever-cheerful cook.