

	<p><i>A refuge where children reach their full potential</i></p>	 Website: www.refugiomazatlan.org
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JUNE 2017 Newsletter



REFUGIO MAZÁTLAN UPDATE

Refugio Mazatlán 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.

The second quarter of 2017 was another successful one for Refugio Mazatlán. Thank you to the staff, donors and volunteers who are changing the lives of these young men.



Refugio Mazatlán staff appreciation dinner

In April, our tireless volunteer Tracy orchestrated a delicious appreciation dinner for our staff and their partners. Tracy prepared the meal and it was served at Refugio by some of our boys. Richard and Lawrence provided a scrumptious meal for the boys as well. A great time was had by all.

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG SKILLS

We are excited to report that eight of the young men from Refugio Mazatlán will be attending a private high school (“colegio”) starting in August 2017. The grades of these boys have been consistently improving and they



are very deserving of this great opportunity.

Thank you, Gaspar, for your invaluable help and support in this endeavor. Pedagógico

Hispanoamericano, (IHP) have agreed to provide significant reductions in tuition and book costs, and our

eight boys have all been accepted into “preparatorio”. We are certain that the quality of education will be greatly improved. Many extracurricular activities will also be available to them. The boys are looking forward to the challenge ahead and will eventually be much better prepared for tertiary education. None of this would have been possible without enormous donor generosity. Thank you to the Tres Islas Orphanage Fund, Gaspar and Ana, Stewart and Renee, Ted and Lynnette, Bob B, Anonymous and Sally. If you would like to assist with the remaining school scholarships, please contact us.

The recipients of the O’Neil McGean Scholarship Fund have been identified. The funds raised at the St Patrick’s Day Event will allow the one student we have in university at the moment to complete his three remaining years. Additionally, the fund will cover the costs of the final year of high school for two further boys. Our thanks to all involved.



Pablo’s May citizen of the month - Pedro

Refugio supporter, Pablo continued with his “Citizen of the Month” program. The “winner” for the month of May was Pedro for his achievements in his grades, responsibility, punctuality, respect, discipline, participation, organization and cooperation.

BIRTHDAYS

Several of our boys celebrated their birthdays in the last quarter. As has become customary, Richard and Lawrence baked him a creative and delicious cake. All the boys have come to anticipate these with much excitement.



Birthday celebrations for Alberto

Pablo continues to generously take the birthday boys on shopping sprees for gifts of their choosing.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We encourage extracurricular activities for our boys that suit their individual preferences including sports, surfing, boogie boarding and Cruz Roja.



Enrique surfing at Olas Altas

Our boys need to understand the risks that are prevalent at their age surrounding the use of alcohol and drugs, and sexual activities. Our staff provides counseling and guidance on an ongoing basis. In addition, we were fortunate to have Doctor Jorge provide a sexual education class, which was well attended.



Dr. Jorge's sex education

OUTINGS AND EVENTS

Our boys are very fond of camping so our staff arranged for a couple of camping trips. The first trip was to Teacapan where the boys camped one night on the beach. Unfortunately, the mosquitoes got the better of them and the night was not too restful. Fortunately, they spent the second night in a rental casa. Nonetheless they



Camping in Teacapan

had a great time and did not lose their camping enthusiasm.



"Camping" in Centro

Their second expedition was not quite as tough - they set up camp at a home in Centro where they spent time playing games and swimming, ending the night with a lovely bonfire.

WORK



Ismael & Alberto waiting for the staff appreciation event

Part time work is an important part of the lives of our boys as it provides them a chance to develop new skills, manage their money, learn responsibility and balance their time. Several of them have jobs including gardening, dog walking and restaurant work. We are most grateful to The Water's Edge, Looney Bean and El Fish Market for giving our boys these opportunities.

Families remain an essential part of the success of the boys. They are encouraged to stay actively involved with their boys and to apply the same rules and limits at home as we do at Refugio. We had another very successful family day in June that was enjoyed by all. Once again Tracy and Barry made a delicious lunch.

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Marian, Pablo, Tracy, Mike and Karla, Paul and Marni – thank you all for your kindness.

Ana, Karen, and Patty continue to share their time and talent and the boys enjoy the English classes and Spanish Reading sessions – thank you.



Family Day June 2017

They make nutritious meals most Sundays (and often on other days too) for the boys – thank you! Richard and Lawrence have also become regulars in the kitchen and we can't thank them enough for all they do!

OUR CASA HOGAR

Our building is over fifty years old and as a result needs much upkeep. We have several ongoing projects and recent ones have included installing a potable water system in the kitchen. We have also completed several smaller projects to ensure that we comply with local regulations. These have included installing appropriate signage, modifying our gas pipeline to meet code and installing anti slip strips on the stairs. We recently had some new lockers made and we have also added doors with padlocks to the existing lockers so that the boys can safely store personal items.

Our boys are also very proud of their home and keep it clean and tidy. We are fortunate enough to have some budding artists within the group of boys. They have painted the Refugio Mazatlán logo on the sign outside of and as you enter the building. In addition, they have painted creative murals in the home that help inspire them as well as the staff.



Two of our murals

DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

A large amount of support is provided by several generous donors. Many also share their time to support the boys with undertakings such as cooking, teaching, playing sport and games, and organizing fundraisers.

Many community members quietly and regularly donate food and other items: Greg, Richard and Lawrence, Gail,



Our new DVD collection from Graham & Kendall

We received a collection with more than 1,000 DVD's from Graham and Kendall which keeps the boys entertained during their free time.

Pablo's ongoing generosity provides the boys with martial arts lessons, food, school supplies,

birthday gifts and more recently boogie boards and fins.

We are also extremely grateful to Rosy and Rogelio at Gaby's Beauty Shop who



Boogie boards from Pablo



Haircuts with Rosy and Rogelio

tirelessly cut our boys hair every few weeks making them all quite "guapo".

There are significant costs involved with caring for our teenagers, including staff salaries, education costs, utility bills, transportation costs, medical expenses and food. Refugio Mazatlán is most grateful to

those who provide us with such great support. We keep our list of "Current Needs" updated on our webpage. We would also welcome further sponsors for the education costs of the boys. Thank you from all of us at Refugio Mazatlán – your generosity is truly making a difference for these young men!