

A refuge where children reach  
their full potential



REFUGIO MAZATLÁN  
Tu futuro, nuestro proyecto

# Quarterly Newsletter

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## *New School Year*

August heralded the start of yet another school year for the boys at Refugio Mazatlán. As we wished five of our boys well on transferring to Mi Futuro, we welcomed several new boys to the home. We are happy to have received a couple of boys from Hogar

San Pablo in terms of our agreement to take their boys after their last year of Secundaria. In addition, another six boys in their first and second year of Secundaria joined the Refugio family.



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## MI FUTURO en mis manos UPDATE

It was an exciting day in August when five of our Refugio boys moved into one of the apartments at Mi Futuro to begin a life of more independence and responsibility and to start their university classes.

They now have a set schedule for doing their own cooking, cleaning and laundry and they each



have part time jobs to help pay for some of their university costs. They are all doing well and enjoying their classes.

If you are interested in providing financial support towards the operating costs of the new home, we would love to hear from you. [www.mifuturoenmismanos.org](http://www.mifuturoenmismanos.org)

## BACK TO SCHOOL

In August all of the boys started a new school year. They arrived at Refugio a week ahead of classes to settle in and get to know the others.



Five of our boys are at the Pesquera Secundaria (middle school) near El Faro and three of those boys are new to Refugio.

We have six boys at the IMSS open Secundaria (middle school) near the Fisherman's Monument and two of those boys just joined us.



COBAES Preparatoria (high school) which is located on Calle Cinco de Mayo has five of our boys. Two of those boys are new to Refugio and come from Hogar San Pablo. Kevin started at Vasconceles Preparatoria (high school). There are five



boys at Instituto Pedagógico Hispanoamericano (high school). Thank you to those who help us with our education expenses. You are changing the lives of these kids.

If you would like to sponsor a young man, please contact us or visit [www.refugiomazatlan.org](http://www.refugiomazatlan.org) One-time donations can be made online, and contributions can also be accepted on a monthly basis. Thank you for your support!

“Knowledge is power. Information is liberating.

Education is the premise of progress, in every society, in every family”

Kofi Annan



## KEVIN

Kevin Ulises Pena Coronado is a young man who is definitely going places. He completed his final year of Secundaria at Pesquera (middle school) with a 10 (out of 10) average. He was awarded the top honor in the school.

Kevin was also the first of our boys to go to Canada for a year to learn English and experience a new culture with his host family, Rose and Jason, and their extended family.



Kevin's dream is to become a doctor. He participated with Cruz Roja where he earned his First Responder certificate. Following Cruz Roja, Kevin started volunteering for the Mazatlán Bomberos and recently received recognition for his service.

He decided to try and enroll in the very competitive Vasconceles Preparatoria (high school) and passed the entrance exam with flying colors. He is now enjoying the challenges that the new school presents him.

Kevin returned to Rose and Jason over the summer vacations to improve his English and spend time with the family that he has come to know and love.

While in Canada, Kevin took up a health and weight loss challenge with Jason. Kevin won the challenge and to date has lost almost fifty pounds in the process.

Well done Kevin – we are all so proud of you.



## REVITALIZED PROGRAM

Our goal at Refugio Mazatlán is to continually improve the service that we provide our boys. Our focus is to encourage them to be good people and to provide them with a lifelong skill through quality education.

This year we decided to improve on the academic



programs. We have done this by reorganizing our staff and their hours. We have also tried to leverage better off the many capable volunteers that have kindly offered their support.

We have thus been able to add classes in the mornings for the IMSS schoolboys who need more support and whose grades we hope will consequently improve. Thank you, Courtenay!

Laurie and John are also aiming to enhance the English program this year by utilizing a combination of English software and volunteer teachers. We are hopeful that many English volunteers will return shortly and support us in this endeavor.



We have also put a lot of focus on ensuring that the boys



are busy most of the day to stimulate their minds and to enhance the family spirit. Our caregivers have organized many creative activities that the boys have embraced.





## ACTIVITIES

Each of our boys has an individualized activity program. This includes jobs that some of the boys have to earn extra money. The program also includes extra curricula activities that are both physical and academic in nature. Both individual and group therapy sessions are also part of the boys' extra curricula schedule.



to Loma Linda.

The boys are doing Taekwondo three evenings a week. Other activities that they participated in this past quarter included a thorough cleaning of the



home in July, a visit to Hogar San Pablo in September to play soccer and preparations for the storm at the end of September.



## VOLUNTEERS & DONORS

Donors and volunteers play a big part in supporting Refugio. We appreciate the help that we receive from Chavito who regularly cuts the boys' hair. The boys always



look forward to seeing Ricardo and Lorenzo who continue to cook for them on Sundays and provide birthday cakes. The boys enjoyed giving Ricardo a pie for his birthday in July.

Several of the boys need expensive dental work and we appreciate the support from Rob and Carmen for Jose Manuel and Diego. The Gems



of Mazatlán are making new smiles possible for Eduardo and Guillermo.



Tracy, who has been such a big supporter of Refugio, recently had to return to the US temporarily for medical reasons. The boys were sorry to see him go and wish him a speedy recovery.

We are most grateful to our donors and supporters. To learn more about our current needs at the Refugio please visit our website at [www.refugiomazatlan.org](http://www.refugiomazatlan.org). Thank you in advance for your help!



Website: [www.refugiomazatlan.org](http://www.refugiomazatlan.org)



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