

	<p><i>A refuge where children reach their full potential</i></p>	 Website: <a href="http://www.refugiomazatlan.org">www.refugiomazatlan.org</a>
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## JUNE 2018 Newsletter



### REFUGIO MAZATLÁN 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 2018 was another successful one for Refugio Mazatlán. Thank you to our staff, donors and volunteers. You are changing the lives of these young men.

### EDUCATION AND LIFELONG SKILLS

Our goal is to provide the young men of Refugio Mazatlán with sound educations so that they can subsequently learn lifelong skills such as university degrees or trades.

On June 16, after months of planning and hard work, Williams, Christopher, Josue, and Javier flew off to Canada for the summer vacation. Melinda from The Gems of Mazatlán worked tirelessly to find host families and plan an adventure that the boys will remember for the rest of their lives. Excitement and nerves were at an all-time high as this was the first time on a plane and the first time out of Mexico for all 4 boys. They will be in Canada for two months to learn English and experience a new culture. Williams is staying with Ralph and Joanne in Kindersley, Christopher with Melinda and Peter in Calgary, Josue with Melody and Rick in Kindersley and

Javier with Cynthia and Don in St. Albert. Their hosts have gone to a lot of trouble to welcome the boys and they have organized several exciting events for them.



**Javier, Josue, Williams and Christopher at the airport and then enjoying a Father's Day breakfast with their great host families**

Eduardo and Alberto are still enjoying their stay in Regina with Rose and Jason. Their English is improving daily and they are even playing on a baseball team.



**Christopher with his merit award**

The boys at Instituto Pedagógico Hispanoamericano (IHP) continue to excel at school. It was a proud moment for us when Christopher received an award for placing second best in his grade.

Additionally, five of the six flag bearers for the upcoming year will be Refugio Mazatlán boys: Josue, Christopher, Luis David, Pedro and Yael. This is quite an achievement and a great honor.

None of this would have been possible without the generous education contributions made by Tres Islas, Ted and Lynnette, Jim and Jan, Renee and Stewart, Sally, Brian, Fred, Anonymous in Maz and Anonymous in England. Thank you all.

In August we will have 27 boys in the home. One just graduated from high school and will be attending university, studying Graphic Design. 12 will be in high

school and 14 will attend middle school. If anyone would like to renew their sponsorships or donations towards our education costs, we would be extremely grateful. Donations can be made via our website, or by cash or check.

Each of the boys has a Personal Development Plan. For the boys who are in their last two years of school we help them determine career options. This quarter, the boys in their second year of preparatoria started visiting universities to learn more about and get ideas for possible future career paths.



**Josue, Yael, Williams and Emmanuel with a tutor at a university**

We have recently placed more focus on learning English and are most grateful for the time of the volunteers who help them, including Karen, Patty, Jason, Janet, Laurie and John. We are looking forward to the boys showing an improvement in their English proficiency soon.

## BIRTHDAYS

Five of our boys celebrated their birthdays in the second quarter. The birthday boys continue to look forward to their specially designed cakes from Richard and Lawrence.



**Diego, Guillermo and Pedro and their yummy cakes**

## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Twice a week the boys participate in martial arts, physical activities and/ or music classes. Recently, the boys have started practicing yoga, and they really enjoy the classes offered by Judith, who graciously donates her time.

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**Some of the boys in a yoga class with Judith**

Other physical exercises include working out in our small gym, doing group exercises and walking to various locations including the beach and El Faro. Some of the boys recently made a trip up the renovated El Faro and enjoyed the wonderful views.



**Some of the boys on a trek up the renovated El Faro**



The boys also take part in activities and classes from ANSPAC. It is an organization that promotes the improvement of adolescents through social, moral and cultural knowledge and activities.



**Our boys together with some of the ANSPAC team**



**Yael, Diego, Luis David and Josue with medals**

Some of our boys who take martial arts classes attended a regional Taekwondo tournament in May. Yael, Diego, Luis David and Josue all brought home impressive medals. Thank you to Chris and Kim for the generous monthly support which enables these classes to continue – as well as many other programs.

Some of the older boys continue with part-time restaurant jobs. Thank you Topolo, Looney Bean, Water's Edge for providing these opportunities.



**Enrique with the dogs**

Some of the boys have taken up other work to earn money and learn how to be responsible. Recently Enrique and Emmanuel became dog walkers in the Centro area. They learn responsibility, get some exercise and have fun, while earning money.

Kevin and Diego regularly attend Cruz Roja (Red Cross) classes and activities. In June Cruz Roja visited Refugio to teach the kids more about the organization and for some fun activities.



**The Cruz Roja visit to Refugio**

Therapy is an important part of the boys lives at Refugio Mazatlán and our workers continue to do a great job helping the boys through counseling and activities.

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**An activity during a group therapy session**

### OUTINGS

Our growing teenagers are full of energy and they are kept busy with many healthy activities. However, they also need time to relax and our staff has set up a fully packed agenda for the boys that includes excursions whenever possible.

Guillermo celebrated his birthday on a great outing to Stone Island, which was very kindly hosted by Richard and Lawrence. The boys had a memorable time relaxing on the beach, eating lunch, playing games, swimming, boogie boarding and some even got to take a ride on a banana boat.



**A lovely day on Stone Island**

### FAMILY DAY

Every two months the parents or guardians of the boys attend a "Family Day" at the Refugio. They are counseled on discipline, how to be good parents and on supporting their children's goals. This quarter we had two Family Days – one in April and the other in June. In April the event took place in El Bosque de la Ciudad with many fun-filled activities planned by our staff. The second Family Day was in June and the parents were counselled about caring and setting limits for their children during the upcoming school vacations, during which several of the boys will spend some time with their families.



**Beremundo counseling the families at Parent's Day**



**April Parent's Day included some fun activities**

### DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

Three lucky boys Jairo, Kevin Alejandro and Diego, were treated to a fishing trip that was very kindly hosted by Bart on his boat. The boys had a grand time and brought home a big haul of several different types of fish. Our cook, Celene, made some scrumptious meals with the spoils, and the boys themselves made some delicious ceviche. Thank you Bart!



**Kevin Alejandro, Jairo and Diego with Bart**

In April Jeff and Doug visited the Refugio bearing many gifts including tablets, USB drives and clothes. They enjoyed meeting the boys and learning about the home.



**Jeff and Doug meeting the boys and giving them gifts**

Computers are a big part of the boys' lives. They use them for homework, learning and at times for recreational purposes. The set-up in the computer room regarding tables and chairs was not great and did not really encourage the use of the computers.

Ralph volunteered his time and energy to make some lovely computer tables. The materials were provided by the Gems of Mazatlán. Not long after that Dan generously donated several used computers – great timing, thanks Dan!



**Before and after pictures of the computer room and a tired Ralph following installation**

Three of our boys have received sponsorships for much-needed orthodontic work. Thank you to Jan and Chris (José), Carol and Jerry (Guillermo) and Carmen and Robert (Diego).

Many community members donate food and other items, and we thank you all for your kindness. In addition, there are regular volunteers who cook for the boys on Sundays and holidays, including Richard and Lawrence, Michelle, Gustavo and Janet. We are most grateful to our kitchen volunteers. We value the gift of your time and energy.

We keep our list of "Current Needs" updated on our webpage.

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 very grateful to those who help us financially. Thank you from all of us at Refugio Mazatlán – your generosity is truly making a difference for these young men!