

A refuge where children reach
their full potential



REFUGIO MAZATLÁN
Tu futuro, nuestro proyecto



Quarterly Newsletter

| Issue 13 | REFUGIO MAZATLÁN NEWSLETTER – December 2019

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

One of the most valuable skills for the boys to learn is English. For several years we have had tremendous success with our Canadian English "program". Thanks to the generosity of many families in Canada, 10 boys have been able to visit Canada forming lasting relationships with their host families and enjoying a once-in-a-lifetime adventure. We would love to offer this opportunity to as many boys as possible so if you feel that you may be able to host one or more boys, we would be very happy to hear from you. We have found that a 2-month stay over the summer break works well. One of our boys will be graduating from middle school this month and is unfortunately unable to start high school until August. If anyone would be willing to host him for 2 months or more this winter/spring, please contact us. And this summer we have at least 12 boys who would be thrilled to hop on a plane if we could find host families.



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MI FUTURO en mis manos UPDATE

The five young men at Mi Futuro have settled in well. Their routines are established and include attending university classes, part-

time jobs, and cooking and cleaning at the apartment.

A challenge for the boys has been finding a good balance between all of their

responsibilities. We are thrilled to have three of the boys, Williams, Emmanuel and Josue, to help out at Refugio Mazatlán. They assist the younger boys with their homework and other activities and know the “Refugio Rules” better than anyone, so they are the perfect candidates for the job.

If you are interested in providing financial support towards the operating costs of the new home, please let us know.



“Give a man a fish
and you feed him
for a day; **teach** a
man to fish and you
feed him for a
lifetime”

Maimonides

WORK

The boys are encouraged to take on part time jobs in order to earn some money, to learn how to be responsible and to understand about saving.

Christopher and Eduardo work at Topolo, Jairo, Diego, Alejandro, Luis Mario, Angel, Paul and Juan Diego sell french fries and fruit for small businesses at Venados games.

Daniel walks a dog and Juan Diego keeps the garden at Vue Centro Historico. The boys also help out at functions as waitstaff when requested by some of the friends of Refugio. We are grateful to those of you who provide opportunities for the boys to learn these skills.



ACTIVITIES

We ensure that the boys are active most days as it is important for their physical and mental health. Activities for



the Secundaria boys include Taekwondo classes with a professional teacher. They have learned some impressive moves which were displayed on Family Day in December. Gym classes for the Preparatoria boys are given by Eduardo who has always had a passion for physical



fitness. Other activities include games and exercises that are designed and administered by the teachers/caregivers, and of course walks, hikes and beach time in beautiful Mazatlán.



OUTINGS

Outings vary from half day trips to adventure parks to weekend visits to campgrounds.



The Gems of Mazatlán kindly sponsored a daytrip to Mazagua. The boys had a blast.



In November the boys went to a travelling funfair. They received an allowance to go on a few rides

and have a snack.

In December the boys enjoyed a shopping outing to get clothes for the Christmas presents from Tres Islas – thank you to all the donors.



Through his school, Eduardo took part in an educational trip to Puebla in November. He got to experience a different part of Mexico and learn more about his country.



Refugio Mazatlán

receives support from the Venados Booster Club and we occasionally get tickets to attend sports events. Baseball season started in November and the boys were lucky enough to spend an evening watching the Venados play at the newly renovated baseball stadium.



EVENTS

The last quarter of 2019 included a number of different events. A fun Halloween party was hosted by Pat, Merle, John and Laurie. The boys had an excellent time playing games and eating yummy hotdogs, cakes and Halloween treats.



For Día de los Muertos we had an altar at Refugio that included photographs of those no longer with us who were close to the bigger Refugio family.

Although Thanksgiving is not celebrated

in Mexico, Richard and Lawrence bought and prepared a delicious meal and the boys had yet another reason to be thankful.



Many Christmas posadas took place in December. The first one was hosted by ANSPAC.

Chavita (Rosy), along with her family and friends once again provided a lovely



posada including a delicious meal and gifts for each of the boys. Thank you



Chavita for your kindness!

Refugio highly values the support provided by Grupo Alerta in preparing the accounts and for other general support. The kids took Christmas gifts to the staff in recognition of their work.

Refugio also held posadas for the boys and staff. The boys received their Tres Islas gifts at the Refugio posada. December was a busy time for everyone!



VOLUNTEERS

We truly appreciate the immense support that we receive from our volunteers. This year, some of the volunteers were recognized at a presentation during the December Family Day.

Dr Jorge Garcia de la Rosa generously sees our boys when they are ill. He also enlists help from many of his medical colleagues for specialist care. Thank you all!



The Gems of Mazatlán continue to provide invaluable support to Refugio by sponsoring renovations, furniture and outings. Thank you, Pete and Melinda!



We are fortunate to have several volunteers who teach the boys English and Math.



Thank you to all of you, including Courtney and Lucia.

Richard and Lawrence have been there for Refugio since Day One, and the boys would be lost without them. Thank you for your generosity.



Laurie and John have also been involved with Refugio since inception and we are truly grateful for their help in coordinating volunteers, setting up English classes, and mentoring kids. Laurie is also a grant writer extraordinaire.

Once again, Debbie at Tippy Toes had a Christmas Angel Tree for shoes for the boys. The kids were able to choose their shoes themselves and are so happy with their purchases. Thank you, Debbie – and thank you to all those who so generously contributed to this effort.



Dr Victor Hugo Gonzalez Angulo performed complex maxillofacial surgery for Jose Manuel. Thank you for your generosity, Dr Gonzalez – and huge thanks also to the donor who covered the expenses. Jose Manuel is doing well!

DONORS

In November Cynthia Beaver and the Rotary Club together with Floyd and Donna Fausak funded much -needed improvements to the bathrooms on the main level. Floyd also helped complete the renovations. The boys got involved cleaning the tiles so that they could be reused. Thank you, Cynthia, Rotary Club and Floyd and Donna,



Our boys have been sleeping on small wooden beds and thin plastic covered mattresses since we opened. The Gems of Mazatlán decided it was time to upgrade the sleeping arrangements, and thanks to Marilyn and Kim they were able to purchase beautiful bunk beds with comfortable mattresses. Gems volunteers, together with some other Refugio supporters also assembled the beds. The problem now is that the boys don't want to get out of their beds because they enjoy them so much. Thank you Gems – it is greatly appreciated.

To complement the nice new beds, we would now like to get some proper curtains for the dorms. Gems will provide the fabric and supplies – are there any volunteers out there who might be able to sew them for us?

THANK YOU to all our supporters – and we wish you a Happy and Healthy 2020!



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