

# News from the Villa

## Friends of Villa Infantil

Fall 2008

*The mission of the Friends of Villa Infantil is to serve the needs of the children by giving of ourselves, our time, our resources and our skills to enhance their lives and provide a safe environment and an opportunity for education, growth and development*

### Comings and Goings

It seems with each newsletter, we report changes in the Villa family. This edition is no different, but this time we are starting with a change in the nurturing body of the Villa. As we reported previously, Madre Rosa came from Guadalajara with the babies and we were blessed with a wonderful leader for the "baby house." So it was with much sadness that we found that Madre Rosa has been reassigned and another nun was to be arriving. Our sadness was soon replaced with joy at the return of Sister Blanca after a three year absence who has now taken over the supervision of the toddler through kindergarten-aged children. The children are delighted with her guitar playing and singing. Sister Pati, who has spent quite a few years with the toddlers has moved across the driveway to supervise the babies. Her quiet way and quick smile will surely be a delight to those little ones.

Meanwhile, we've also had new faces arrive and some old leave. Among the new faces are a baby girl 6 months old and her two brothers who are aged 18 months and 2-1/2 years. One of the first babies to arrive spent only a short time at the Villa and has been adopted. Emanuel has been adopted by friends of the family who adopted the five siblings last year. Catia has returned to her family and Luis Fernando is now back with his mother. Sisters Monce and Mariana were transferred to another facility which has the ability to assist them with their special needs.

The last few months have been very busy for the Villa and the children have now returned to school. We always are sad to see those little faces leave the Villa but realize that it's the best thing for the children even if it is difficult for us to watch them go.

### A Fond Farewell

Friends of Villa Infantil sadly said goodbye to Barbara and Kevin Finnerty when the Lakeside couple recently returned to the US to attend to family business. Those of us who have the good fortune to know them are thankful for the opportunities we had to work with them at the Villa.

At first glance, Kevin's energy was most apparent. He was eager to tackle many tasks and among his numerous accomplishments, organized an incredibly successful golf tournament to benefit Villa Infantil last year. Kevin is the Energizer Bunny. He never stops and his constant motion benefited the Villa greatly. Barbara is the quiet one but no less of a powerhouse.

Barbara is responsible for creating and organizing our very effective sponsor communication program which enables sponsors of the children to receive periodic updates, photos and information about their sponsored child. Her meticulous attention to detail and passion for sharing information with the sponsors, really added a wonderful element to the program.

The two also were frequent visitors to the Villa, bringing food and making lunch for everyone there on a regular basis. They were always willing to go the extra mile to listen to the needs of Madre Maria and share those needs with the other volunteers at our monthly meetings.

Barbara and Kevin will be sorely missed as both friends and volunteers. We all hope that all goes well for them up north and they can hurry back home to Lakeside.



### Photo & Story Contributors

#### In this issue:

Lorraine Farrow  
Doug Beckingham  
Lisa Le

Sandra Cartwright

Thank you all for your help!

Sally Pachulski

Newsletter Editor



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## A Visit to the Villa



Anita & Doug Beckingham and their friends Richard & Marie Held, recently visited Villa Infantil for a morning of fun. The two couples took 25 kilos of rice, 25 kilos of beans, hot dogs and other food items and then played with the children all morning. Above are some photos from their visit. If you are interested in visiting the Villa, please see the information on the next page concerning times the Villa is generally open to guests.

### Any Canadians Who Can Help?

Beth Cathart, daughter of Anita and Doug Beckingham who are featured in the above story, makes it a point to visit the Villa when she comes to visit her parents. On her last trip she asked what was most needed and she was asked to bring baby formula and sunscreen. Her church in Ontario, Springville United Church, generously collected the items but now due to airline baggage weight restrictions she has no way to get them to Mexico! If anyone reading this article is driving down and can help, please contact Beth at [bethc4@sympatico.ca](mailto:bethc4@sympatico.ca).

#### Submission guidelines for photos and stories.

All photos submitted should be 600 x 400 pixels. The photographer should mark any credit information wanted on the photo if credit is desired. Photos and stories are due the last day of February, May, August and November for editions released the month following. Use of photos and stories is at the discretion of the newsletter editor.

## Upcoming Events

Mark your calendars for Lakesides newest event a wonderful Asian Night Dinner and Silent Auction to be held at the Clubhouse at Raquet Club. Please see page four for more information.

We are currently making plans for our 2008 Annual Golf Tournament & BBQ to take place in February. Watch your email for more information. Last year was a sell out and there were disappointed supporters of the Villa who could not get tickets. This year we will let you know as soon as the tickets are available.

We will also have a booth at the Chili Cookoff again this year. More info will be available in the next edition of the newsletter.

## A Little or A Lot

At the last meeting of Friends of Villa Infantil, the subject was brought up about how we are an unusual group. We do not have a president, treasurer or secretary. We value everyone's input and also respect a person's choice to NOT input on an issue. Our philosophy is a little or a lot. You can dedicate hours and hours each week to the Villa, you can visit the children occasionally, you can attend one event every year, or you can organize your own fundraiser. The choice is yours. Our mission is to provide the children with a good education and when possible, provide emergency relief by raising funds and finding sponsors for the children. If you are reading this newsletter, chances are you have done SOMETHING to help the children. Maybe a little, maybe a lot. But whatever you do, it's greatly appreciated. If you are interested in volunteering in any way, shape or form please contact Sandra Cartwright at [information@friendsofvillainfantil.org](mailto:information@friendsofvillainfantil.org). You'll be glad you did.

## Casa Flores B&B

Casa Flores B&B in Ajijic has chosen Villa Infantil as their Charity of Choice. Their website (check it out) [www.casafloresajijic.com](http://www.casafloresajijic.com) profiles the Villa and the B&B has become an in-town drop off point for clothing and non-perishable items. If you have items you would like to donate but cannot get to the Villa, feel free to drop off your items with Steve or Fernando at Casa Flores. Friday nights they offer gourmet dining to the general public. Call the B&B at 376 766 5493 to make a dinner reservation.

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## Visit our Website

Our website is up and running! Please stop by and visit and send any suggestions you may have for improvement to Sally Pachulski at [newsletter@friendsofvillainfantil.org](mailto:newsletter@friendsofvillainfantil.org). The site contains information about the villa, our newsletter and more information. Visit the website at [www.friendsofvillainfantil.org](http://www.friendsofvillainfantil.org).

## Got News?

We are always looking for material for our newsletter. Please feel free to send any story ideas or write an article about your visit to the Villa or volunteer work you might be doing either at or for the Villa. We would also love to use photos you might have from those visits.

Please send any submissions to Sally Pachulski at [newsletter@friendsofvillainfantil.org](mailto:newsletter@friendsofvillainfantil.org). The newsletter is published quarterly.

## Visiting the Villa

If you are visiting the area and would like to arrange a visit to the Villa to see your sponsored child, it's easy to do. Please contact Sandra Cartwright at:

[information@friendsofvillainfantil.org](mailto:information@friendsofvillainfantil.org).

She can coordinate the visit for you.

Normal visiting hours at the Villa are:  
Monday - Friday: 10 to 12 & 4 to 6  
Saturday 10 to 1:30.

## Donations & Receipts

Friends of Villa Infantil is grateful for all donations. We thank you for understanding that we cannot issue receipts for donations that do not pass through our organization. If you would like to make a donation directly to Madre and would like a receipt from Friends of Villa Infantil, please contact either Tom Watson at [Tom.casawatson@gmail.com](mailto:Tom.casawatson@gmail.com) or Michael Cook at [mikecookcottingham@hotmail.com](mailto:mikecookcottingham@hotmail.com). Both Madre and Sister Pati appreciate the kindness and generosity all the sponsors have shown on their visits as they arrive with food, clothing, supplies, medical supplies, toys, donations, and lots of love, smiles and hugs for the children.

## Sponsorships

Please consider sponsoring or co-sponsoring one of the children at the Villa Infantil orphanage. Your financial contribution will help provide an education and assist in assuring the general well-being of a child.

You will receive newsletters, regular updates, and photographs of the child you are sponsoring. Visiting and communicating with your child is encouraged and we will translate any correspondence you would like to share with him or her. For more information, please contact Tom Watson by email at [Tom.casawatson@gmail.com](mailto:Tom.casawatson@gmail.com)

## Please Join us for the Next Meeting

You are cordially invited to the next meeting of *Friends of Villa Infantil*. Please contact Shirl at [shirlthegirl21085@yahoo.com](mailto:shirlthegirl21085@yahoo.com) for date, time and location information.

## Contact Information

### Sponsorships

Tom & Sallie Watson (376) 766-3396 or  
e-mail [Tom.casawatson@gmail.com](mailto:Tom.casawatson@gmail.com)

### General Information on Villa Infantil

Sandra Cartwright  
e-mail [information@friendsofvillainfantil.org](mailto:information@friendsofvillainfantil.org)

### General Donations

Michael Cook (387) 763-0184 or  
e-mail [mikecookcottingham@hotmail.com](mailto:mikecookcottingham@hotmail.com)

### Fundraisers & Events

Pat & Ron Thompson (387) 761-0360 or  
e-mail [coolbreeze127@gmail.com](mailto:coolbreeze127@gmail.com)

### Newsletter Editor/Webmaster

Sally Pachulski  
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Please make your check payable to:  
Villa Infantil and send to:

### Outside Mexico:

Villa Infantil  
c/o Tom Watson  
827 Union Pacific Blvd.  
PMB 71-346  
Laredo, TX 78045-9452

### Within Mexico:

Villa Infantil  
P.O. Box 18  
45800 Jocotepec  
Jalisco, Mexico

Don't Miss This Event!



**ASIA**  
**NIGHT 2008**

**愛 和 美 囍**

Love      Harmonious      Beauty      Double Happiness

**100%** PROCEEDS GO TO THE VILLA INFANTIL

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 12<sup>th</sup> 4 TO 8:30PM**  
**AN 8 COURSE ASIAN FUSION DINNER**

**AWESOME DOOR PRIZES, RAFFLES, SILENT AUCTION**

**ADVANCE TICKETS ONLY**  
**TABLE OF 10 CAN BE RESERVED**  
**TICKETS - \$200 PESOS - CASH BAR**

**TICKETS CALL: LISA LE: 387 761 0002**  
**[LISALE888@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LISALE888@GMAIL.COM)**

**MAURITA MORRILL: 387 761 0362**  
**[CHICKMORRILL@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CHICKMORRILL@GMAIL.COM)**

**AT THE RAQUET CLUB HOUSE**

Our Last Dinner was a Sell Out. Don't be disappointed. Order your tickets today!



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Photo Page

