

News from the Villa

Friends of Villa Infantil

June 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

School's Out for the Summer!

The school year will end on July 4th and the children will have a six week break before returning to classes on August 18th. Next year sixteen children will be enrolled in school, up from fifteen this year. Eight students will be attending the Colegio school and eight will attend the Kindergarten school.

During the summer break, the Villa Infantil is closed. If you happen to be vacationing at Lakeside during this time and have a donation of clothing for the children, or non-perishable food items contact Sandra Cartwright at (376) 764-0093 or information@friendsofvillainfantil.org. For information on sponsoring a child or to make a financial contribution please contact Tom and Sallie Watson at phone (376) 766-3396 or email: tom.casawatson@gmail.com

Providing the children of Villa Infantil with the means to attain a quality education remains the primary focus of Friends of Villa Infantil. Your generous sponsorships and donations remain the cornerstone of the continued success of the children because you make their education possible. Thank you!

Villa Infantil Joins Foundation for Lake Chapala Charities

Villa Infantil has become a member of this new and much needed foundation that was recently formed Lakeside. Similar in concept to the United Way, the Foundation is the brainchild of Rick Feldmann of the Los Niños de Chapala y Ajijic (NCA) Education Scholarship Program. The overriding vision of the Foundation is one of strength in numbers. The ability for member charities to share knowledge, non monetary resources, to conduct large scale fundraising events Lakeside, and to apply as one large charity for major grants in both the United States and Canada, are but a few of the potential membership benefits of the Foundation.

Kevin Finnerty of FOVI has agreed to serve as Villa Infantil's representative to the Foundation, and is serving on the Board of Directors as the Treasurer.

It is important to understand the activities of the Foundation do not in any manner supplant the current fundraising efforts of the Villa or the Friends of the Villa Infantil. The Foundation simply provides the Villa with the opportunity to

take advantage of some additional resources not currently available to them.

One benefit already enjoyed by the Villa, due to the networking resources available through membership in the Foundation, are the medical checkups which took place at Villa Infantil on June 4th. Hope House Children's Shelter (also a Foundation member) extended a kind and generous offer to have their visiting medical team perform medical examinations of all the children and staff at the Villa.

Photo & Story Contributors

In this issue:

Sheree Harris
Lorraine Farrow
Rodney Dutro
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Dag Nisbeth
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Sandra Cartwright &



Kevin Finnerty. Thank you all for your help!

Sally Pachulski
Newsletter Editor



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A Visit to the Villa



Fred Nisbeth tries to come to visit his parents, Dag and Karin Nisbeth at Lakeside every year. And every year he brings suitcases of donated items for the children at the Villa. This year before making his annual trip from Canada, he collected monetary donations from people at work and brought a check for Madre.

The beauty of cash donations is that they continue to be used in the community after the original donation is spent. So a check that benefits the Villa also benefits the grocer when the money is spent on food, and the farmer when the grocer purchases vegetables and fruits. The farmer spends some of his money on clothing for his children and so on and so on.



Fred couldn't resist also bringing a suitcase filled with clothes and toys for the children and these will, of course, also be well used. Thank you, Fred, and all those who donate to the Villa.

Submission rules 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.

Becoming more Self-Sufficient

A volunteer group spearheaded in 2006 by Dr. Joe DeLeon and many of his friends donated and planted the orchard and garden at the Villa. Their work is now bearing fruit. Literally. The children are now eating the limes and other fruit. The garden has been replanted with radishes, onions, squash, cauliflower, and corn.

The chickens are working hard and producing enough eggs to satisfy the needs of the Villa. Eggs no longer need to be purchased. The children of the Villa Infantil are enjoying the fresh eggs and the home grown fruits and vegetables. This is an important step for the Villa and will help keep the children fed and healthy.



Something Fun and Different

Spend time in a fun and rewarding activity with your best friend, or a few friends and car pool to the Villa to help with the babies.

There are twelve babies aged under two years old now living at the Villa. The babies have a daily routine. You can volunteer for play time, help with bottles, lunch (making and feeding), and/or clean up. We are looking for a periodic commitment from volunteers of a few hours or several hours, as often as once or twice a week, or as seldom as once a month.



Play times are from 10 AM -12 noon, and 3:30 to 5 PM. Weather permitting, play time is outside on the covered patio.

On August 25th an orientation and tour of the Villa will be held for volunteers at the baby house. For more information contact Sandra Cartwright (376) 764-0093 or you may email her at: information@friendsofvillainfantil.org; or contact Barbara Finnerty (376) 766-3492 or e-mail her at communications@friendsofvillainfantil.org.

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Visit our Website

Our website is up and running! While it is still in its infancy, we ask you to please stop by and visit and send any suggestions you may have for improvement to Sally Pachulski at newsletter@friendsofvillainfantil.org. The site contains information about the villa, our newsletter and will soon contain a needs list that will be updated often. Visit the website at 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. 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 Barbara Finnerty at communications@friendsofvillainfantil.org. She can coordinate the visit for you and also help to arrange transportation if necessary.

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 or Michael Cook at 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

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 for date, time and location information.

Contact Information

Sponsorships

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e-mail Tom.casawatson@gmail.com

General Information on Villa Infantil

Sandra Cartwright (376) 764-0093 or
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A Visit from Shepherd's Heart Ministries Medical Team and Entertainment Troupe



Thanks to Rodney Dutro, Director, and Meme Thorpe, Volunteer Coordinator of Hope House in Ixtlahuacan de los Membrillos, and Shepherd's Heart Ministries of Tennessee, the Villa Infantil had a full and fun day June 4th. The medical team of Kenneth Turner, MD, Bunnie Turner, Cassie Vlastelic, R.N., Sabrina Christianson, along with translator Ruth Nuño, performed a total of forty-three medical examinations; twelve babies, five preschoolers, sixteen school aged children, and ten adults.

While the six hours of medical examinations were being performed, a wonderful youth group led by entertainment director Nikki Bowie, from Shepherd's Heart Ministries, worked with the children on craft projects and games. They entertained and thrilled children and adults alike with an interactive musical puppet show. Between planned activities, the members of the youth group played with the children, helped feed and entertain the babies and did whatever they could to help make the day fun for the children.

Dr. Turner was very thorough in his examination of every child, and made sure that the Sisters were made aware of anything out of the ordinary or if a

child required medication or follow up treatment. A written record of each child's examination, with recommendations was left with the Sisters.

Madre Maria, Madre Rosa, and Sister Pati all expressed how pleased they were that the Shepherd's Heart Ministries group visited the Villa and provided such a wonderful service for the children and adults at the Villa. They all agreed that it was such a pleasure getting to know and spending time with Nikki Bowie and the youth group of Shepherd's Heart Ministries.

The plan for the visit was initiated when Kevin Finnerty, FOVI volunteer, and Meme Thorpe of Shepherd's Heart Ministries met at the Foundation for Lake Chapala Charities. Meme Thorpe offered the service of the Shepherd's Heart Ministries visiting medical team, along with the entertainment by the youth group. This is the first tangible benefit that has come from the Villa joining this brand new Lakeside organization.

We cannot overstate our appreciation of, and gratitude to Meme Thorpe and the Shepherd's Heart Ministries. The professionalism, organization and caring treatment of all, especially the children, was first class.

