

# News from the Villa

## Friends of Villa Infantil

Winter 2009

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

### Education...The Key to Success

Shirley Hale, a member of Friends of Villa Infantil, writes a monthly column in the *Lake Chapala Review* keeping the Lakeside residents up to date on Villa Infantil. The month of February brought another much larger article not only touching on Villa Infantil, but also delving into Education in Mexico. The article entitled, *Education. . . The Key to Success*, also contains several photos of the children and can be read on the online magazine, *Mexico Insights, Living at Lake Chapala*. To read the article, and the rest of this magazine for the month of February, please go to [www.mexico-insights.com](http://www.mexico-insights.com) and to log in use **feb2009** as the user name and **lights** as the password to see the article . Click on Education . . . The Key to Success. You can read the entire February issue this way.



### A Tribute to Doreen Barfitt



At the time of her visitation and funeral in November 2008, many friends had already left for their homes in Mexico. Her family developed a poster, "Life in Mexico", which depicted activities and friends. In lieu of flowers at her funeral, her wish was that people donate money to help children in Mexico.

Through a very good friend, the family obtained information about Villa Infantil and it was decided that the Villa would be the beneficiary of these donations. A copy of our newsletter and pictures of the children were displayed. The response was most gratifying. Her family says that they are so grateful that many children will benefit through this memorial in celebration of Doreen's life.

A picture of the presentation and a thank you note were placed in the local Aurora newspaper. Friends of Villa Infantil and everyone at Villa Infantil are extremely thankful for the generosity shown by the family and friends of this very special woman.

Last year Doreen Barfitt of Aurora, Ontario and Chapala lost her courageous battle with ovarian cancer.

She had lived part of her life in Toronto before moving to Aurora with her husband and three boys to operate a Home Hardware store. They soon expanded and finally built their own large building which continues today under the supervision of their three sons and their wives.

Doreen and Stuart first wintered in Florida. The call to Mexico was strong and after a couple of visits they bought property and settled in a townhouse Lakeside in Riberas del Pilar. Doreen loved the Mexican children. She was constantly purchasing lollipops and goodies. When she walked along the shoreline, the children would run out of their homes when they saw her coming.

It was indeed very sad news when Doreen was diagnosed in March 2007 with ovarian cancer. She fought her battle courageously and never complained.

### Photo & Story Contributors

#### In this issue:

Ruth and Al Metcalfe  
Tom Watson  
Shirl Hale  
Fred Nisbeth  
Judy Cutler



Thank you all for your help!

Sally Pachulski  
Newsletter Editor

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## Card Party Benefits the Villa



The February card party held at El Parque was a huge success! 68 players attended and 7,500 pesos was raised and has been delivered to Madre. There were 17 prizes, including a necklace by Eva Fiegehen, a painting by Joan Stanley, 6 tickets to the Northern Lights, several bottles of wine, and dinners for two at, Robertos, Magana, Giovani's, Tony's, Secret Garden, Pedros, and Manix. Home baking and tea finished off the afternoon. We hope to make this an annual affair. Thanks to Judy Cutler for organizing this successful event!

## A Visit to the Villa



Once again Fred Nisbeth has brought a suitcase full of donated clothing, a generous donation check and lots of smiles to Villa Infantil. Fred tries to visit his parents, Dag and Karin Nisbeth who winter lakeside each winter. Fred sets up a donation jar and copies of the FOVI newsletter at Bay Haven Senior Care Community in Collingwood, Ontario where he works. Each year the response is tremendous and this year was no exception. Thanks again to Fred, his co-workers and all those people who arrive each winter with wonderful donations for the Villa..

## We're on Facebook!

Thanks to Tim Donnell, Friends of Villa Infantil now has a space on facebook.. The network is named FOVI and if you have a facebook account you can share the group page with your friends. Go to facebook.com and search for FOVI. You'll be helping spread the word about the Villa.

## New Infrastructure

Each rainy season a dam across the road from the Villa overflows and sends water cascading through the grounds and under one of the casitas. So after each rainy season there have been costly repairs. Madre Maria is now having a retaining wall built that will divert the water and save those repairs.

Even more important is the new well. Problems with the old well finally resulted in the need to truck in water each day. The cost of this necessity was \$1000 MEX each day! This, naturally, necessitated a new well.

Madre Maria was able to secure some government funds for partial payment of both projects but is responsible for paying the rest from donations.

## Needs List

Madre Maria has provided a needs list which has been posted on our website and also attached to this newsletter. Your gifts of food, cleaning products and toiletries are greatly needed and appreciated!

[www.friendsofvillainfantil.org](http://www.friendsofvillainfantil.org)

## New Mailing Address

When mailing donations checks from outside Mexico, please use the following address. All five lines are essential for the donation to be received by the Villa:

Villa Infantil  
c/o Tom Watson  
2163 Lima Loop  
PMB 071346  
Laredo, TX 78045

We regret that we cannot accept package of any type due to the high duties imposed by customs.

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

Please make your check payable to:  
**Villa Infantil** and send to:

### Outside Mexico:

Villa Infantil  
c/o Tom Watson  
2163 Lima Loop  
PMB 071346  
Laredo, TX 78045

### Within Mexico:

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

# *Friends of Villa Infantil*

*Winter 2009*

## Needs List

Styling Gel	Paper Towels	Vegetable oil	Juice
Bar Soap(1-2-3)	Pine Sol	Salt	Fruits
Bath Soap	Clorox	Sugar	Vegetables
Shampoo	Fabric Softener	Evaporated milk	Cookies
Cream Rinse	Floor Cleaner	Small boxes of milk	Mayonnaise
Baby Wipes	Ajax	Cartons of milk	Ham
Diapers	Windex	Yakult Yogurt Drink	Cheese
Toilet paper	Disposable Wipes	Caltoce	Eggs
Napkins	Mop	Pancake milk	Ketchup
Light Bulbs	Broom	Honey/Syrup	Baggies 15x22
30 Gallon Garbage bags	Shoe Polish Black & White	Whole Wheat bread	Children's Tylenol
White Kitchen Garbage Bags	Vanish/Oxi-Clean	Single Serve Juices	Sterile Gauze Pads
Rifocina (Medicine)	Batrum(Medicine)		