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Cambiando Vidas

"Changing Lives"



Fall 2011

Newsletter

NEW The Quality of Local Education

NEW

This **CV** Edition deals entirely with opportunities to elevate the quality of education in our three Chacala schools: Pre-School, Primary & Tele-Secondaria, the Jr. High. The availability of state sponsored education ... and the quality of that education are two vastly different things. This movement began anew last fall when Janelle Tessari hosted women of the community in a discussion of the very political and cantankerous issues thwarting quality! As a direct result of those discussions, we have some seriously good news ... not enough (not NEARLY enough)...

Ways to Donate

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Students visit the Petroglyphs of Alta Vista for a day of learning, swimming and fun!

but a very promising and hopeful start.



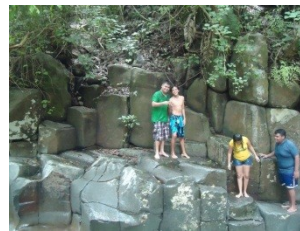
LEARNING FOR LIFE

You plan, you hope, you dream ... you do your best to push away unrealistic expectations ... and WHAM, something better than you could have dreamed happens! Phase-One of the 3-Part, Rotary Sponsored Leadership Program was a major success! For starters, when the bus left for Puerto Vallarta ... we were stunned with perfect attendance! This Rotary International joint experiential project (w/ La Peñita Rotary) scored a bull's-eye.



Imported & wonderfully talented facilitator, Debbie Walton of Carlsbad, CA ... with Eddie Dominquez, President of La Peñita Rotary excited the senses and personal confidence of every participant ... who each in turn left with a highly elevated and stimulated sense of ...

- Self-leadership & personal discipline.
- Synergistic teamwork... actually working.
- & the sheer joys & empowerment of learning!





Moreover ... participation was universal and exuberant.

Four *CV* adults, 8 *CV* mentors and 35 *CV* students ...
all participated whole-heartedly in ...
Changing each others' Lives!

EBACH President, Raul has this to say ...

“On August 21st we had the 1st of 4 leadership courses in Puerto Vallarta. We were put in groups with Los Amigos de la Peñita. Our leader, **Debbie Walton** showed us 7 steps for problem solving and used activities & fun games to practice those steps”.

“With serious problems in our country we learned as future leaders we can find solutions to these problems & that we are the future of our country. Our assignment is to continue working as a team, and always remember, “**Together we have the power!**”

“A leader, who is not afraid of responsibility and puts his or her face before the others ... without concern for consequences to themselves, can bring the changes we need in our future”.

(WOW!)

Raul Villa
President of EBACH





CV is unendingly grateful for the long history and faithful generosity of Kalispell, Montana Rotary as well as our dear friends at La Peñita Rotary. The positive effects of this event were ... “off-the-chart”! When it comes to “Service Above Self” ... you light the way ... we are humbled!



Sponsor-a-Teacher



Many of you saw the “Education Week” article Mary Jane Rintelman circulated, describing the profoundly heart-breaking graft and corruption within the Teachers Unions of Mexico. If you haven’t, it’s on this link.

http://web.me.com/mjrb/Site/Cambiando_Vidas_News.html

It reveals that students are a very low priority of the “elected-for-life” Union (“Sindicato”) hierarchy ... but you already know that ... it shows!! Lavish gifts, immense political power brokering, alleged murder ... and ultra-low learning standards ... seem routinely acceptable. We are not powerless however ...



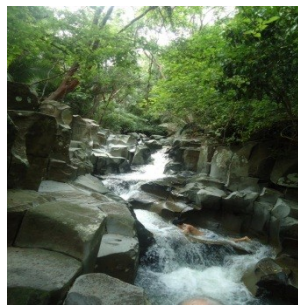
there is much we can do. We can surround and supplement and build incentives around good teaching. We can provide morale support, tutoring, mentoring, supplemental curriculum, environment --like "nice" school grounds, after-school programs, playground equipment, kitchen & hot-lunch, library expansion, computer center etc. ... AND donations! Yes, we can attract and keep GOOD teachers that care and try and want to do well ... with financial incentives. We can train, support and motivate better teachers. Effective immediately, we are seeking financial support... & ... individual volunteers for teacher development. Call or drop in for more details ... please ... we need help! Thankfully, CV is healthier and more effective than ever ... good things are coming our way! This is the right time ... the perfect time to build education quality.



"Trini" Goes Back to School!



The passion and heart's desire never fatigues. After more than a dozen years as co-founder and as our tireless Cambiando Vidas advocate, Trini raises the bar! For the next three years, every Saturday for 10 months a year, she will attend "INNOVATIONS in EDUCATION" ... a course at IEENN University in Tepic. Every week she will return with substantial new content to share with our schools, our students and their families. And ... she will earn her Teaching Credential. Unions take note ... we will move mountains to see that her assignment is ... Chacala! Even before this new initiative Trini has been busy



contacting each EBACH parent, one-by-one, building new favor & understanding, dispelling “chisme” ... putting Cambiando Vidas back in the valued position it deserves. She also broke through the bureaucratic maze to secure a destruction permit ... for the dangerous old fisherman’s dorm ...



... paving the way for new & expanded opportunities adjacent to the Tele-Secondaria. Ask her to share her vision! Before we could tell her yes, we needed a new kind of Sponsor ... not just one who would shift sponsorship from a student to the Sponsor-a-Teacher Program, but one who would make an incremental commitment. With all they have done already ... so well ... for so many years ... with all they continue to do ... and without hesitation, Ben & Mary Jane jumped in with “mucho gusto” to fund her first year! Feel free to voice your support for Trini with love and encouragement...

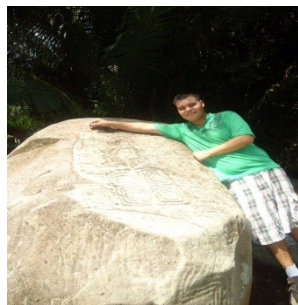
trinimoya2@hotmail.com



Primary Teacher!



“Luck trumps hard work & guile”. We didn’t make



this happen, it just did!

Wait 'til you meet **Maria de Jesús Moran Alvarado** ... you will get it! She has that rare and impassioned "burn" to make a difference. It's instinctive ... the words just slip out of everyone's mouth ... "Is there is anything at all we can do to help ..." She is one of those charismatic people we ALL want to help.



Her crowded classroom is clean and orderly. Her students are attentive and participating. She has four years of experience and her excitement to be with us is obvious ... she says **"My job is to model complete citizenship and to provide the skills & confidence necessary to succeed in the world"**. Her teaching degree is from IEENN (Instituto de Educacion Normal de Nayarit). Maria lives in Compostela with her family. She loves sports which shows daily with her students! Her enthusiasm is palpable!



Pre-School Teacher!

NEW

What's more cherished in education than a Kindergarten teacher who gives young minds a great foundation ... a love for learning? Gabriela Gómez Hernández is also new this year and we have a fresh chance to give her all the support she needs to be that treasured teacher! Her experience comes from working at an orphanage since she was 15! Oh my!

"I want to teach children that their energy & capacities will cause the world to be a better place."



AND ... she lives right here ... with her husband Omar and two children, Sacbe & Tonelli. You

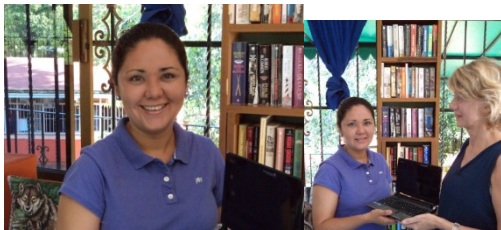
may have already heard the wonderful music Gaby & her husband play on the beach. Our little ones are in the midst of pure love!



Personal & Group Counseling



Rocio Rosales Monteon is a Cambiando Vidas Student ... sponsored by Rod & Betty Todd and Gerry & Linda Marshall. She has just begun her final year at the Institute of the Americas, Nayarit. Her degree will be, “**Licenciada en Psicología**”. Personal & intimate counseling is really needed. Rosario is already providing private sessions & topical work-shops. Once again our hopes of training local students who return to uplift the quality of all Chacala education ... therefore the whole community ... is HAPPENING! She is pictured here receiving her gratis Lap-top ... compliments of the generous folks at Las Brisas. And ... BTW ... her private and group workshops will take place at the Cultural Center right near the Primary ... with great appreciation for the generosity of Joy Watson.



Ways to Help Raise the Quality

of Education

... as many do something... it means everything!

- **Believe!** Talk about CV successes with friends & neighbors. Pass along the good news and good work ... help build our family of supporters. It's one of the purest and most personally rewarding gifts you can give a friend. Forward these newsletters, send us names, be our growing Corps of Advocates!
- **Contribute generously and faithfully** knowing there are many grateful and trusting lives daring to reach for dreams of stability and purpose. Ask and learn how your precious contributions are used. Be informed ... know the facts.
- If you do or would like to make a personal commitment, **sponsor a student!** Communicate with them regularly ... by Facebook or email ... with encouragement, friendship, understanding ... and strength. You can show them a bigger life! You can have a bigger life!
- **Visit the village, the schools, the teachers, the students** ... if you don't already! It's an eye opener (and BTW ... the charm of Chacala is priceless). It is not possible to give or do ... more than you get.
- **Ask & learn** ... all you can about Cambiando Vidas, the history, the personalities, the challenges ... the opportunities. Then ...
- **... Plug in!** You have talents & skills & time & character ... humanity that will make a big, beautiful difference. Tutor, teach, help, work ... plan events, go places with students, walk, talk, eat ... laugh. You WILL "change lives" ... theirs ... yours! Your experience and your wisdom is crucially "bienvenido"! Whatever you have to offer can be tailored & coordinated into the guiding vision and realities of Cambiando Vidas

life.

- **Beneath** the primitive charm and melting warmth of the peoples of Chacala ... lies a daily struggle... with very narrow horizons. It takes very little to help stamp out futility and expand their horizons.
- **Blanca** We are so fortunate to have her Whew! ... is she ever an answer to prayer ... growing and spreading her wings! She's waiting for your ideas and enthusiastically qualified to fit your offers of time and talent into the united quest for quality education.
- **Thank YOU ALL** for such wonderful support ... from all of us at Cambiando Vidas ... from each new & dedicated teacher ... from our priceless students.

Steph

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