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# *Cambiando Vidas*

## "Changing Lives"

### April/May 2011 Newsletter

#### Flag Day in Chacala



Last Fall's Clothing Sale organized by Linda Marshall and friends, inspired a surge in community pride. After purchasing much needed school supplies, the students and teachers decided to use remaining funds to restore their beloved Flag & Pole. Also inspired by their beautiful new school grounds, the students decided to honor all those who volunteered by demonstrating their community spirit by honoring their parents, teachers, volunteers and their country. Flag Day was celebrated with many posters made by Secundaria kids, short speeches by each on what the Day meant, and a parade through town led by their new teacher, Rene Antonio Rosales. Mayor Jose Enrique, Cambiando Vidas Pres. Stephanie Arnest, and Linda Marshall were asked to cut the ribbon and were joined by approximately 50 other attendees. Following the heart rending ceremonies, Parent Association Pres. Yaddie Villa Senor Nunez hosted a wonderful breakfast for all ... and expressed special gratitude to Linda Marshall for her great labor of love. Our

#### Ways to Donate

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little town is "Changing Lives" and not just the kids!!

## **ANNUAL KICKOFF Banquet at Chacalilla Beach Pavilion**



It was a special night to say "Thank You" to our student & community supporters. Key spokesmen & presenters were: Ben Laird ... our wry and witty Master of Ceremonies, Carmon Ramos, on new programs, Blanca Sisnerso, our new Program Director on the smooth transition, Susana Connors on Rotary International Developments, Gaby Negrete, a recent Diploma winner (English as a Second Language) ... inspirational ... in English!, Raul Carrillo Villa, our new EBACH President on new EBACH activities, and Mary Jane Rintleman on fund raising. Recognition and praise for long service was bestowed upon Mariana Day, Viky Robelo and Tandy Beard. For exceptional giving and inspired involvement, Stephanie Arnest recognized Jim & Pat Krebs, Rod & Adele Osmond, Betty Dunphey & Diane Douglas (Tutoring), Paul & Elaine Newkirk (Leadership /Posada), Rod Rosile for his service as Past President, Joy Watson, Lars Askeroth & Garrett Olney (English Classes), Nancy Lehocky & Mariana Day (Library), Lance Thorn (Construction), Taylor Moore (Communications), Casey Connors (Web Site), Gerry & Linda Marshall (Clothing Sale), Karina Schecter, Richard & Serena Laskin (Food), BK & Laura Barringer, Trina Moya & Yaddie Villa Señor Nunez (School Grounds).

An Extra-Special-Thanks was made to Mr. Malcomb Gray for his generosity in honor of his sister Janet Crack. His generosity was unexpected and proves once again, "Be kind to strangers ... you never know when you are



hosting an angel”.



We never forget that Rotary International has provided the sustained foundation for our long-term community development and community pride. Accordingly Stephanie read the Roll of Rotary Clubs whose contributions will always and ever be a vital part of Chacala history.

**Rotary International**

- Berkeley, CA
- Kalispell, MT
- Rio Vista, CA
- Omaha, NE
- Kansas City, KS
- Shawnee, KS
- Lake Norman, NC
- Camas-Washougal, WA

**3 Restaurants & Residents Support Annual Banquet**



Cambiando Vidas thanks three Chacala restaurants, Alva & Lorenzo Carreron and Karina Schechter for their wonderful culinary contributions to CV. Emilia Robinson and Arturo Padilla of Chac Mool Café generously contributed the entire pasta dinner for all attendees on February 19th for CV’s Annual Kickoff Banquet. “Mulah” of Chico’s Restaurant, provided his second-to-none delicious salsa. The ice cream social following dinner for all of CV’s



friends, was donated by Alva & Lorenzo & enhanced By Karina's world class brownies which were served at the "make your own treat" dessert table. Carla Garcia Pelayo of Las Brisas Restaurant has made significant donations to CV of the proceeds from the sale of margaritas on special CV designated evenings. Thanks you guys for all you do!!!



Thanks to these special people, this year's Banquet was entirely free to all those attending and made it a real "Thank You" night for all our supporters. As usual, if we have overlooked anyone we humbly apologize ... you are the unsung heroes of CV and without your quiet devotion the world would indeed be a sad place.

### **INSPIRED CONTRIBUTIONS!**



As most visitors have seen, the Learning Center has a Lending Library for Books (& tools), The After School Program for kids, banks of computers free for any students and for rental time to visitors. Maintaining these assets is always a Labor-of- Love. Recently, the Library had deteriorated into unusable condition. It took many days for Nancy Lehocky & Mariana Day to

clean, restore and organize it into the functional purpose intended! The kids who need and want to learn or play after school are supervised by Luz Angelica Lopez ... every day. She is a marvel! (See how little Isabel in photo ... is so happy to have a place to go and feel welcomed!) Bett Quallie arrived one day with a mountain of Love's Labor: a hand sewn, coverlet for literally every console, screen and keyboard in the Learning Center ... enormously practical considering the wear & tear of ocean air, community "dust" and gooey (kids) little fingers. Adult users invariably donate way above the requested fees ... it's just plain inspirational to visit the grounds! We hope they won't mind a little appreciation ... without ever seeking gratitude, Diane Douglas & Betty Dunphey can be found on these grounds regularly tutoring students in subjects in which they need help. One of our soon-to-graduate students, Luis Fernando del Villar, with his backhoe, does a lot of "very-heavy-lifting" ... his contributions to "Beautification" is truly a Labor of Love!

**FEATURED STUDENT: Raul Carrillo Villa**



Raul is not only our featured student, he is also the new President of EBACH and soon to achieve his University Tourism Degree on his long devoted path with Cambiando Vidas. Raul's younger brother Gaby is also in the CV Program and ... also doing well! As is often the case with our students, hardship and obstacles do not deter Raul. His personable ways and winning

smile lead him through it all. His leadership is rare and a joy to witness. Very few people possess the deep sense of responsibility he models to his peers, and younger brother every day.

Upon graduation, Raul has arranged for residence with friends of his family in San Francisco CA, and we just can't let him go until we locate an appropriate job to further his quest. He's one of those young men everyone is inspired to help along the way. (Call us with suggestions or helpful contacts).

**Thoughts from CV Pres. Stephanie**



**AS THE PROGRAM MATURES: Addressing growing pains**

Success is often self-defeating! Many an enterprise has toppled by its own success and CV has seen this possibility coming. As younger students, who are relatively inexpensive to fund make it to higher levels of schooling, expenses rise dramatically. Guidelines and procedures that worked in the earlier years run into difficulty as time ... and especially success progresses. We believe you will be pleased to learn of some new Guidelines & Standards recently adopted to meet these challenges.

Community Service now has five options that allow each student choices that meet their

individual interests. Payments (Becas) are made only to those meeting their monthly program requirements. (Leniency provided with verified investigation) Only students may fulfill the program requirements; Parents or stand-ins may not fulfill for their student. To support community cohesiveness, only students from families that live or work full time in Chacala will be admitted to the program. Everyone currently in the program from outside of Chacala is grandfathered in.

PLEASE read the "Vision of CV". This is truly our goal and it is entirely obtainable with your support.

Graded Scholastic support is provided as follows.

I. General (non-individual) and substantial support for the Primary School such as, Library, After School Program, Sports, Hot Lunch, Tutoring, Etc. (1st. through 6th grades).

II. Direct Student Sponsorships for Secundaria (Grades 7, 8 & 9) plus Math & Science Field trips, Program Enhancements, Guest Programming, English Classes, Hot Lunch, Uniforms, Books & Supplies.

III. Direct Scholarship Aid to "Prepa" Students (Grades 10, 11 & 12). At this level all students must travel outside Chacala and their transportation costs are met along with fees, supplies, uniforms, books and food.

IV. Direct Scholarship Aid: "POST Prepa" education includes technical, trades, and University students. Depending on which pursuits a student aspires to, standardized support is provided. No student is supported through Prepa then abandoned just when they are on the threshold of major personal achievement. This fundamental principle is at the heart of CV Standards and derives from the simple question, "What if they were our own child". We have committed to always finding a way! In addition to financial support, for each student & his or her family individual & family counseling and academic counseling are made available. The many programs & financial aid available beyond CV from Trade Schools and

Universities are now being found & communicated to students. Sponsor / Student Relationships are increasing at a "delightful" pace. Direct involvement with one or more specific students has become one of the great joys of participation (and truly pans out in student progress). Look for the Sponsor / Student Handbook to come your way in a few weeks.

There are no dividing lines. We are one Community and how each resident or visitor gives or participates is highly individual. Cambiando Vidas seeks to join in cohesive unity with all community betterment activities. Fund Raising will soon be placed on a calendar with regular remit periods and systematic notifications. Investing in the future of other's lives is perhaps one of life's greatest rewards. CV has many attainable aspirations and earnestly asks for your personal initiative and forbearance, your highest & sustained generosity, and deepest personal involvement ... at all levels. In return we covenant to streamline and enrich the CV program, at all levels and to assure that your investment and confidence is richly rewarded!

**EBACH NEWS: MOTHERS DAY PARTY**





EBACH Students devised, raised funds and committed to honor moms throughout Chacala. This kind of initiative is typical of the new EBACH Leadership.

- EBACH staged a very happy skit for the Annual Kickoff Banquet.
- EBACH reminds us all to “Make Friends” with Cambiando Vidas on FACEBOOK ... a great way to keep current on all the serious work and heartwarming fun!
- EBACH participation in Community Service events and regular work sessions is ... up, UP, UP, UP!

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