



Jan/Feb 2011 Newsletter

Cambiando Vi das

New 2011 Slate of Officers

President 2011: Stephanie Arnest

Immed. Past Pres.: Rod Rosile

Fundraising Chairs: Mary Jane Rintleman & Ben Laird

Secretary: Bonnie Schamber
Treasurer: Karla Lawler
Rotary Chair: Susana Connors
Communication Chair: Jill Hannah

Exec. Counselor: Carmen Ramos

*What we do for ourselves ... dies with us;
what we do for others and the world remains immortal.
(Author unknown)*

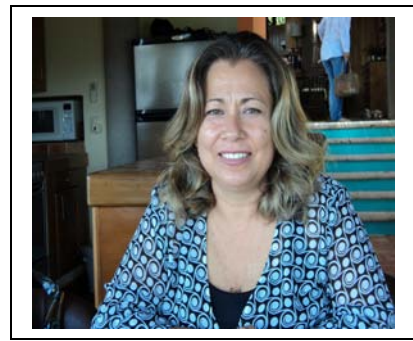
A word from our new President

← *I can honestly say this is the most important responsibility I have ever had in my entire life! Needless to say I am very grateful to have such a strong and gifted Board of Dir. Together we fully pledge to make Cambiando Vidas better and stronger and more inclusive than ever. Our new vision (please see below) is lofty ... and yet it is reasonable and attainable. We have more volunteers stepping up than ever. We are taking on more projects, more program expansion, more integration of cultures, and more fund-raising energy than ever. Things are definitely “on-the-grow” and I am thrilled to be part of it. Let us know what you think ... your ideas, support and counsel are indispensable.*

← *Feliz Ano Nuevo * Happy
New Year!*

Stephanie Wolf Arnest

Passing the Program Director’s Torch



Viki Robelo

Blanca

Emma Marquez

Second only to our most sacred directive ... **“Para los estudiantes de primer”** ... comes the critical task of managing Cambiando Vidas to serve “best-&-the-most”. This is the also-sacred position of **Program Director**. There is almost no way to explain the complexities of this vital position except to say, it attempts to advance up to 50 students ... every day ... please their families ... every day ... and communicate regularly with an equal number of financial supporters. Whew!!! **IT-IS-A –VERY-HARD -JOB & ON MOST DAYS ... IT-FEELS-IMPOSSIBLE!**

Viki Robelo: After more than a decade of devoted service to Cambiando Vidas, Vicki is moving on to new horizons ... new challenges. In her own words, **“My vision of life ... it’s never too late to do anything in life and whatever you do needs to be well done”**. This year marks her own HS Graduation making this occasion doubly memorable. Viki will continue assisting with the fine Rotary International work begun in Zacualpan and **“finally-finally”**



launch her own hearts-desire Jam Making business! **here she is in “jam class”!**

(...

She won’t be far! Viki has been instrumental in helping our new Program Director, Blanca Emma Marquez learn the job ... and will remain available long into the future to watch her cherished students climb the ladders of opportunity she helped put them on! **We all say, “Viki ... job well done!”**

Blanca Emma Marquez ... is truly a rare discovery! Just when we thought we would never find someone to carry on this difficult and vital job ... destiny presented us with the perfect choice! Her qualifications are exceptional and moreover ... her enthusiasm is contagious! Blanca was born in Jalisco, MX and moved to California in America with her parents. This entitles her to dual citizenship. There, she excelled in her studies and landed a great job ... as a valued member for many years of the Kodak Corporation Training Team. Nine years ago she met her husband ... Esteban Cervantes Corrales ... a fisherman who had spent his entire life here in Chacala ... as had his father, Esteban Cervantes Valencia. This past 2008 ... with her two and his four children all grown and off into the world ... Esteban brought Blanca back to his beautiful Village & home ... Chacala! We scarcely knew she was here because up until now she has been out on the sea with her husband ... fishing.

We are understandably conflicted with sadness & gratitude as we bid farewell to Viki ... and welcome Blanca to our most important task as the new Program Director. For a while you may find them both at that familiar desk in the Biblioteca upstairs above our "Primera Escuela". Please share our strongest & best wishes to these wonderful women as they each take on their new lives!

New Mexican CV Non-Profit Formed

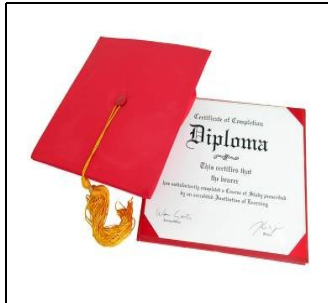


“Fundacion Cambiando Vidas

A.C.”

Great News ... for Mexican Nationals wishing to help sponsor Cambiando Vidas (CV) students! “Fundacion Cambiando Vidas A. C”. has progressed through the application phase (including applicable fees & designation of Officers!) this past November 2010 and is now in progress awaiting formalization by “HACIENDA” (...this is the “internal revenue service” of

Mexico). Obviously this will allow Mexican Nationals to receive Hacienda tax deductible receipts for their generosity to Cambiando Vidas. AND ... because it requires very strict reporting and record keeping ... each donor has the added assurance that at-least 90% of their gifts will go directly to students officially in the program.



Featured Student

Gabriela "Gaby" Negrete Elias

Gaby initially chose Law Studies but switched to Accounting which remains her major. She began English classes 2 yrs ago & on Dec. 16th 2010 Graduated from Trudy's English as a Second Language / Advanced Class. CONGRATULATIONS GABY!!! It was a small ceremony attended by a few of her long term CV supporters & families of the other students. Gaby has always been one of the most dedicated volunteers in EBACH - never missing a monthly meeting or work detail. Gaby is a rising superstar and a very grateful credit to her devoted sponsors. THANK YOU GABY !!! ... You are giving every one great hope!

Community Service Program Expanded



This New Year's Edition is the perfect time to remind each other how much our financial support returns to us. Foremost, our donation helps our local students gain a better grasp of their aptitudes & options, the education that will take them there, and a sense of community that will inspire others. Alone, this is truly rewarding ... but not nearly the only benefit. Our students are not handed money ... they literally do earn it! They do that one-and-all in the form of **Community Service**. Here's how they commit to serve this community in the coming year! **A.) The Recycling Program** for younger students teaches environmental responsibility, cleans our town/streets and makes money for EBACH activities. **B.) The Beach Program** for older students helps remove debris, provide trained Life Guards, and offers sport & recreation. **C.) The Beautification Program** sponsors town clean-up days, School Grounds Maintenance, "pruning & planting". **D.) The Big Brother / Big Sister Program** offers academic tutoring, sports coaching, and mentoring. **E.) "The Citizenship Program"** teaches individual responsibility & participation in our school, town, country and the world. Our community and each one of us benefit every day!

Rotary Int'l Funds Leadership Program



Kalispell Rotary of Montana...

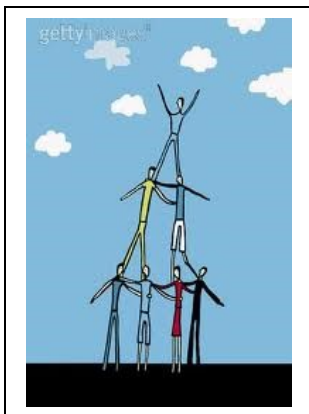
... has teamed with our local La Penita de Jaltemba Rotary to fund a joint grant proposal with matching funds by Rotary International. This is one of the largest grants to date and could not be possible without the tireless devotion of our local Rotary & Int'l Members who once again **“Put Service before Self”!**

The Leadership Program is called ... “Learning for Life” A collaborative system of funding for Upper Level Secondary School, which includes the option of Vocational Training (school fees, uniforms, school supplies and transportation); ongoing support (training and mentoring to help students succeed in achieving their academic and vocational goals despite hardship and obstacles); monitoring (formal and informal assessment of student progress and performance: student interviews, review of marks, instructor reports, attendance and participation records); and return on community investment (students as emerging leaders and as role models for other youth in their communities.)

All students receiving assistance through this project are required to perform community service during their year of study. We believe that one of their most important contributions will be sharing their insights and perspectives with other at-risk youth who may become future Learning for Life scholars.

This project originated with a request to the Rotary Club Bahia de Jaltemba, La Penita for Upper Level Secondary School (High School) scholarships and leadership training. The request came from community leaders and young adults in Chacala and La Penita who had visions of building a better life through education and community service.

Chacala/La Penita and surrounding communities have a history of cooperation which will assist in the maintenance of the project beyond the funded period. Cambiando Vidas will serve as project administrator in close collaboration with Los Amigos de la Penita and Rotary partners. Both sites have successful new recycling programs that generate income to help support operations. Plans are to grow these recycling programs for greater profitability, with a portion of the income dedicated to an ongoing Scholarship Fund.



*** The CV Vision:**



Cambiando Vidas: *On the shoulders and vision of those who brought us so very far indeed ... it is time we shoot for the moon. We have come to recognize that no request for knowledge need be turned away. We are not just a tiny village with a small number of meritorious youth but we are also a very fortunate village with near endless resources to support the realistic dreams of every student. Our resources include a beach paradise and climate, many successful residents & frequent long stay visitors, vast practical experiences, wisdom & insights to draw upon, a social consciousness second to none, and the collective will to help every Chacala resident reach for their own personal stars. We do not need to say no when grades slip or family troubles divert a student's progress. We can say yes to tutoring, yes to family counsel and yes to discerning & guiding individual aptitudes. We can say yes to support their desire for Trades Schools, professions and University Studies. We can make community service fun, educational, diverse and constructive. We can find the cultural balance between community traditions and individual opportunity ... we really do have so much to offer one another. And we can Change All the Lives who choose to grow ... our students ... and in the doing ... our own.*



Work
play

Gaze & appreciate



Sundown

Moving the Recycling Center

