 Winter Newsletter 2011/2012

***Merezca su sueño***

**In our last edition we announced many positive things affecting the quality of education our students are receiving. These productive new people, programs and policies are making profound differences … actually quite astounding … no exaggeration! It is literally not possible to itemize the explosion of enthusiasm, engagement and enterprise every student has exhibited over the past hundred days. In future Newsletters we will attempt to share some of these heart-warming stories in depth … you deserve to know how richly and importantly your support has been …**

*… Changing Lives!*

**In this edition we depart from our usual *top-story-format* and invite you into the core of CV reasoning, adopted perspectives … & philosophy that is causing accelerated, dramatic … & quantum leaps! It is exciting!**

**Cambiando Vidas is no longer just a scholarship program … no longer just for hand-picked, hi-merit and hardship students. It’s for every Chacala student who commits to strive earnestly & deserve support. The student membership organization (EBACH) is no longer just a community-service-work-detail. It’s has become a “Student Club” with far reaching implications … and amazing values. Acceptance into CV is no longer predicated on who-you-know, available funding or popularity. It’s now fully egalitarian! Emphasis is no longer focused on volunteers, donors, sponsors and contributed talents (… and these crucially essential blessings are all multiplying exponentially). It is now entirely focused on “silent service”, thankless labors-of-love, attention to each student’s individual needs & circumstances and positive group dynamics. The metamorphosis is breathtaking! Hit-or-miss results and low community participation has turned into unstoppable momentum universal community involvement.**

**At the newly formed, highly organized and genuinely grateful Parents Association meeting, this brief & oh-so-welcome letter was presented to our CV Board Members and Program Director …**

Good afternoon:
On behalf of the young family & parents of those who make up the group, EBACH (Chacala’s grateful students), we offer our most cordial welcome! For those of you “Changing Lives” unconditionally, which supports economic and moral growth, to envision a better future, rooted in values ​​that the students themselves can believe in, helping each to become citizens better able to love our family, our community and our homeland. As the parents of these young people we welcome our responsibility in joining hands together with those of you in this effort, to help each of our children that they may gain a preparation based on
their aspirations and their desires: Together our technique will result in a professional career and give everyone a better quality of life.(Pres., CV Parents Assn.)

**You can imagine the amount of humble personal & individual effort and loving kindness that inspired this beautiful vote of confidence! As we all ponder the mysterious meaning of life … of each student’s life … we discover magically that it can only be the individual and cooperative preparation for a life-with-meaning for every student.**

**Attend any EBACH meeting, event or group activity … you will see it! They’re on time, they ALL come, they accomplish their agenda’s, and they laugh and participate and cooperate. They have fun whether it’s a community service task or a planned outing or a learning session or leadership training. The older & more accomplished readily help the younger and special needs members. They like each other … love to be together, to work or play … experience friendship and develop lifetime bonds. EBACH is perhaps the best attribute of CV. To be “in” is to be a vital member of a winning team … a network of life long reliable friendships … to be validated, included, valued … seen, heard & respected. The waiting list suddenly doubled. But those waiting for funding and sponsorship don’t just wait as they once did. They jump in on work details and get busy with studies and participation. Sponsored students communicate with their sponsors. Sponsors are becoming more and more encouraging and supportive.**

**Who knew? Those annoying little things like discipline, rules, penalties, accountability, fairness, manners and supplemental studies … have all become (get this!) … welcome! They want order and fairness and responsibility! They hold each other to task. They demand honesty and citizenship and mutual respect from each other. This gang is going places! And they are going to that better-quality-of-life their parents pray for … together.**

**Our recent graduates and advanced students are providing mentoring, tutoring, psychological counseling and after school services. If this great news sounds a little too good to be true, hang on … we all believe we are just witnessing the beginning. The depth and strength of this movement has only just begun … the parental and community support has just re-committed, the hope and promise of meaningful lives has just started to come true.**

**All the schools “out-there” as they leave Chacala schools … to reach higher … are being investigated, evaluated and engaged. (This will be an on-going aspect of CV oversight). There is a huge gain in quality and accessibility already underway. Our students will be better prepared, more appropriately guided, more closely & carefully supported. While no students in Chacala’s Primary School are CV members … The WHOLE School is! This soon includes the Kindergarten/Pre-School. Miraculously blessed with new and very dedicated young teachers, early and substantially improved preparation is well underway. Supported with newly equipped & directed sport activities, a hot-lunch program, an enhanced library plan, a highly effective, lovingly led (& growing) after-school-program, quality tutoring, voluntary guest teaching, a popular computer lab, school grounds “dignification” and maintenance, night lights, and … a very aggressive host of projects-in-progress … young students moving up to Tele-Secundaria & Prepa will be progressively better educated! Teacher Sponsorship has begun and depth is strengthening.**

**At the top of this newsletter are the words, “*Merezca su sueño”*. These are the words of Mexico’s treasured Nobel poet & writer (1990), *Octavio Paz.* The words exhort all Mexican people to strive and, “Deserve Your Dream”. Cambiando Vidas is proud to take this beautiful verse to heart. We have expressed this loving admonition as the new foundation & character of CV … to our EBACH students, to their parents and families, and now to our faithful supporters. It has won for us the beautiful letter above from our CV Parent’s Association … the remarkable humanity and cohesion of EBACH, and a worthy path for all Officers, & Supporters to follow, aspire to & believe in.**