

CAMBIANDO VIDAS

(HANGING LIVES)

MISSION STATEMENT

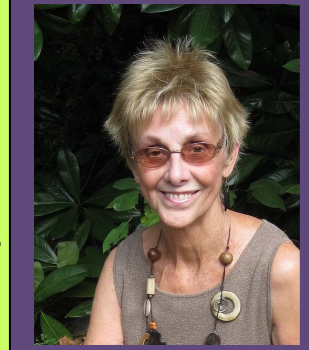
1. **Scholarships**
for local area students
grades 7th - University.
2. **Academic Support**
tutoring, computers,
internet access & quiet
study time.
3. **Community Service**
developing social
awareness, leadership
skills, problem-solving
abilities & community
awareness.
4. **Capital Expenditure....**
for the support &
growth of this program.

Tribute to Ana

Ana Getzoff was diagnosed 12 yrs. ago with stage four breast cancer - she passed from this world on August 19, 2009 one month before her 70th birthday. She outlived every doctor's prognosis and we, who loved her, thought she would beat the odds and live forever.

Our Ana came to Chacala in 1997, at the end of her cancer treatment. She was on a journey of discovery. No future was to be guaranteed. She decided to travel and started her journey in our small tropical seaside village.

She came into our small library and after-school center looking to play with the village children. She was at her happiest participating in our games, our sports and our crafts. Later, she left to continue her worldwide journey. Ana never forgot Chacala.



She came back full circle, returning at the end of her travels to make Chacala her winter home. Ana decided to record the story of her life and her challenges and she came to Chacala to finish it - Travels with Ana.



She took up where she left off and embraced the village children. As she played with the children, she could see that their education was dead-ended after the ninth grade. She became part of our founding Cambiando Vidas group. She worked and personally donated her time and money to provide scholarships for the children of Chacala. She was the secretary, creating CV's moving and delightful newsletters every year. Even more, she was the spiritual leader, a tireless fundraiser, and the heart of the organization. She was our volunteer therapist, helping to guide the children, the volunteers and the staff, in wisdom and love. It was Ana who saw the future and who guided Cambiando Vidas' board

transition last winter. As she lay dying, I suspect she said to herself "job well done Ana!"

We loved Ana. We loved her spirit, her liveliness, her smile and the light of her soul that shined through her eyes. We loved her intelligence and her fierce bravery. Her helpfulness and kindness toward others was just her way and it illuminated kindness in those around her. She wanted to be of use, to be of service, to find a need and fill it. She gave herself willingly and unselfishly to a cause. Ana believed in the power of education. She had immense compassion, empathy and heart for her friends and family.

She was a special one. She was our Ana.

How we loved her. How we will miss her.



CAMBIANDO VIDAS

(HANGING LIVES)



WORD FROM THE PREZ

Greetings!

My name is Rod Rosile and I'm pleased to introduce myself as the new president of Cambiando Vidas. This year, under the direction of a new executive committee, we are looking forward to continuing a tradition of supporting education in Chacala and surrounding communities.

I got involved in the Cambiando Vidas program for the first time about 4 years ago, when I moved to Chacala. At that time, I was teaching a computer and internet class to students in a nearby village called Sayulita. When I arrived in Chacala I met Mariana, Susana and Viky and heard about what they were doing with the Cambiando Vidas program. When they heard what I was doing in Sayulita they invited me to do a similar class in Chacala. From there I met the EBACH kids and got to know a little more about Cambiando Vidas.



I realized immediately that this was a group with a huge amount of heart. The kids in this program impressed me with their dedication to the improvement of their lives and the lives of others. I couldn't help but want to be a part of this.

So, when I was approached with the challenge of taking over as President of the new expanded Board, I couldn't say no. After all, I do have a few things going for me – I live in Mexico year round, I am familiar with the program and I really want to do something that will help prepare the residents of these little rural communities for their rapidly changing world. On the other hand, I have big shoes to fill. The founders of Cambiando Vidas – Ana, Susana, Mariana and Trini have set some very high hurdles for the next group of leaders.

This year, we have a lot to be excited about.....Our EBACH program (students with scholarships) now has 30 members, 4 of those are at university level. We have 12 more applicants on the waiting list. Even though we started cutting support to our students in late 2008 because of a downturn in our donations, we have since been able to meet our budget and continue growing thanks to new donors, new volunteers and Rotary sponsorships.

Rotary Clubs have not only come through with student sponsorships, they have helped us buy new computers and desks, started supporting our quest for an improved recycling area and supplied the funding to build and equip a new community health clinic. Our students rely on our learning center for computer access and the Internet access because most of them do not have computers at home.



And now, this program that started in Chacala, is looking forward to reaching out to other villages in the area that are less privileged. After all, not all of the small towns in our area have beaches and other attractions that draw in possible donors and volunteers. Now our kids can experience the joy of helping others. Everybody wins!

CAMBIANDO VIDAS

(HANGING LIVES)



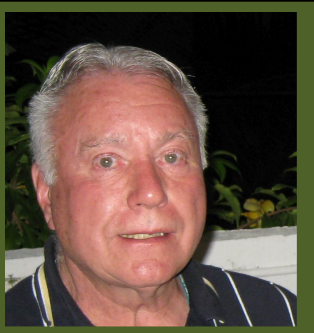
STUDENT OF THE MONTH

Ever since Dalia was a little girl she has been a wonderful student. Her classmates would say she is a little shy and quiet. Even though Dalia is a little timid, it has not stopped her from participating in our EBACH leadership group activities – which can include everything from picking up plastic recycling in Chacala to talent shows. In this photo she is performing during our talent show in 2008.

Dalia's grades have been 9.6 and higher and this spring she will be graduating from CONALEP. This school is similar to a High School and Technical College for students wanting a technical education or those planning on attending college.

She fills up her time by not only taking a full-time class load at CONALEP, she takes English classes and assists her family in managing a small hotel. Dalia has been part of Cambiando Vidas' Scholarship program for 3 years. After she completes her current studies in tourism we all hope she continues on to college. Her grades definitely would allow her to pursue whatever career path she wants.

Dalia is living with her parents and 2 brothers in Rincon de Guayabitos, a community a little south of Chacala. Thanks to her scholarship, higher education was and will be a real possibility for her. We look forward to watching her become a young professional in our area.



ROTARY UPDATE

Computer Lab Improvements A little over 2 years ago a new face became familiar in Chacala - BK Barringer. BK is a member of the Mooresville/Lake Norman, NC Rotary and soon became a close friend to many residents of Chacala. It didn't take him long to figure out how he could help the village. Along with his Rotarian friend, Dale Elks, he submitted a grant for the much needed upgrades to the fledgling computer lab at the Dale Reinhardt Learning Center.

The Mooresville/Lake Norman Club served as the international partner and the Rotary Club of Compostela served as the host partner to fulfill the requirements for a matching grant.

It took 2 years of submissions and follow up by many Rotarians to make this happen. In mid September, faster computers, paper, files, shelves, desks, chairs and more arrived in Chacala. It was Christmas in September for our students!

Our thanks go out to the Mooresville Rotary, Compostela

Rotary, Rotary International and of course BK and Dale.

You deserve some time on the beach!



AMBIANDO VIDAS

(HANGING LIVES)



ROTARY UPDATE (CONTINUED)

Medical Center Opens “Vale La Pena” (Value the Effort) is an often heard phrase in Mexico. Rotary dedication to Chacala and Cambiando Vidas takes the phrase to new heights of patience. The Chacala Medical clinic was a

dream of Rotarian Dale Reinhardt ten years ago. Dale died before his dream became a reality, but his son and many Rotarians from the U.S., helped to fulfill the dream. Chacala has a new medical clinic that now qualifies for a national government health program. A medical staff attends to patients five days a week for a nominal fee including medications.



Chacala Recycling Center The Camas Washington Rotary Club and the Kalispell Rotary Club have donated money to the Chacala Recycling Center. The recycling program is run by the Cambiando Vidas Scholars. The current site is unhealthy and an eye sore to both the town and the students that work there. The good news is that the new site has been chosen. The money from the two clubs has been matched by the town so the project funding has been secured. The bad news is that the permits are stalled. Politicos have gotten in the way.

However, we are working through the process, quoting “Vale La Pena” as we go.

English Development The Rio Vista Rotary Club Chacala English Development Fund has created several opportunities for the students and residents of Chacala. The learning center now has a computer station dedicated to the development of English skills. It offers the Rosetta Stone software and headphones. The development fund also supports English classes given by an excellent Canadian instructor that uses English as a Second Language methods.



Rotary Club Sponsorship

When the call went out for assistance during the early part of 2009, three Rotary Clubs were there to make sure NEW students could still enter the program.

The Berkeley Club set up a Memorial Scholarship in the name of Sofia, who was one of our scholars that died in a car accident last winter.



The Omaha Morning Rotary sent money to sponsor two new students and the Houston Rotary is in the process of finalizing a match.

Who would have guessed that the world recession would create opportunities for four students on our waiting list?

THANK YOU ALL!!!