



*Cambiando Vidas*

*Newsletter*

*Prima Vera 2012*

## *Absolutely Out-of-this-World*



Hector, Tania & Anahe of Team Amarillo "Paint-Up" for Buried Treasure Competition

This March 2012's third in the series of Rotary Funded "Learning for Life" Programs was a spectacular success. Every student in *Cambiando Vidas* jumped in with both feet. Facilitators Debbie Walton & Eddie Dominquez set-the-scene; It's a mythical group of Island Tribes each competing for buried treasure. Leadership decisions were required by each tribe in rapid fire as the day-long event took to the Beach Club sands of Marina Chacala. Universal roars of excitement filled the air.



Facilitators Debbie Walton of San Diego & Eddie Dominquez of La Peñita Rotary Club start the hunt!



EIGHTY Students cram Palapa Tepee, as Pharaoh Deb reveals “Clues”, & Team “Mentors” stand by.



White Team Captain Antonelli paints her teammate as Green Team Spy Daniel looks on.



Pink Team Captain Daniela touches up Gaby ... as José Lemus reads the clues ... and Blanca makes a point





Teams combine *Cambiando Vidas* in Blue and La Peñita's Conelep in Orange ... Friends are made.



Esteban gets serious Mentoring green team while Jose Lemus wins one for Pink Team



Eddie calls the day to a close, as teams gather & share lessons learned ("the" real treasure)





Silver's team did not win Everyone had fun LEARNING TO LEAD! Angelito's team celebrates.



... then everyone hit the Clubhouse pool for a BIG WET welcome splash!

Thanks to Rotary International, many many volunteers and dedicated Mentors this Series of Learning-for-Life Programs was a powerful success.

(December 2011's event can be seen on You Tube, [LEARNING FOR LIFE, Chacala , Nayarit](#)).

And here's GREAT NEWS ... it really looks like the fabulous Grant from the Kalispel, Montana Rotary Club is being renewed for another powerful year. We are overjoyed to learn of this opportunity and to bring back our "trained" next season as veteran students providing the Leadership mentoring! *Cambiando Vidas* is humbled by the generosity of Rotary International, Eddie Dominquez from the La Peñita Club, and Debbie Walton "on-loan" from the Calvary Chapel in San Diego CA. We are indebted to this great team who made it clear, "Life is a team Sport!"

# Out-of-the-Park Homerun

More GREAT NEWS, over 100 people attended Annual *Cambiando Vidas* (CV) Fund Raiser Banquet as “Gratitude” filled the Marina Chacala Pavilion literally to the rafters. The event was a night of “Thank-You’s” and without a doubt it demonstrated how earnestly the people of this village pull together on behalf of the education and citizenship of our greatest heritage ... “los niños & los estudiantes de Chacala”. It couldn’t be clearer ... “it takes a village”. These thanks bear repeating!

- President Stephanie thanked her CV Board of Directors: Mary Jane Rintleman & Ben Laird Co-Fund Raiser Chairs, the nights Hosts & “MC”, past Pres. Rod Rosile, Rotary Chair Susana Connors, Auction/Raffle Chair Sandy Hamilton, CV Secretary Bonnie Schamber, Dir. at large Elva Carron, & CV Treasurer/VP Karla Lawler.
- Blanca Sisneros & husband Esteban for an amazing 1<sup>st</sup>. year as Program Dir.
- Jim Rintleman who came to vacation and spent it all compiling “Scopes-of-Work” at our Primary School for future Projects.
- Jim & Pat Krebs were honored as CV Sponsors of the Year for 12 years of faithful & substantial contributions. (... to a standing ovation!)
- Parents of students who organized a very supportive Parents Group, & who presented CV with a “**giant check**” for \$20,000 pesos they raised themselves.
- Eleven GRADUATING students were introduced as this years crop by ...
- ... Raul Carillo Villa ... the Outstanding Pres. of EBACH who was surprised to receive a Plaque as CV’s 1<sup>st</sup>. Annual Student of the Year ...
- ... Who then read his \*EBACH Student Manifiesto: (see below and weep for joy!) This is the soul of *Cambiando Vidas*, it’s very heart-of-purpose!
- Jose Enrique del Valle & Carmen, was honored as the 1st. Annual Citizen of the Year as presented by CV’s beloved Co-Founder, Susana Connors.
- Bett Qualie for her tireless sewing of computer covers in the Learning Center.
- Gerry & Linda Marshall & their many friends for another great Clothing Sale, which raised nearly \$2,000 earmarked for their “Library Remodel” Project.
- Nancy Salvage for countless gifts of time, talent and financial support!

- To the dozens who donated multi-dozens of gifts, art & help for the nights very successful dinner, silent auction and raffel ... over \$3,500 dollars raised!
- Rudy, Sandy & Karla for their night of music in our new town Plazita, which raised \$500.
- Joy Watson whose Cultural Center serves as “office” for our new *CV* Counseling Program and fund raising for the new music Program.
- *Chac Mool Restaurant & Café* who again donated the delicious La Sagna dinner for the 100 sit-down guests.
- *Las Brisas Restaurant* who donated a dozen Lap Top Computers for deserving post-high-school “away-students”.
- Diane Douglas & Betty Dunphy, two of the village children’s most faithful guardian angels! (What they do is beyond wonderful!)
- To Maria de Jesus who brought inspired teaching back to our Primary School.
- Trini Moya, our cultural ambassador to the Parents of *CV* students!
- To Betty Todd for centerpieces, Garret Olney for inspiration ... and all the new volunteers who have recently offered their experience to the cause.
- Finally, to the countless unsung heroes who step up every day in countless ways to make *CV* a Village where deserved dreams really can come true.



*Cambiando Vidas ...*

... is entirely dependent on the kindness and generosity of the many loving people who reside here, visit regularly, or even those just passing through. The Program rests securely on the shoulders of those who came before, and looks ever further into a bigger, brighter future; a future where those who earnestly try will earn and deserve their fondest dreams. Our pledge to those who help is striving to make every dollar and every act of kindness achieve the largest and fairest result!



# A Lofty NEW Theme

**“*DESERVE YOUR DREAM*”:** This theme was echoed by each speaker at the Annual Fund Raising Banquet. They are the words of Mexico’s venerated Nobel Prize recipient, Octavio Paz, “Deserve Your Dream” has been officially adopted as the *Cambiando Vidas* operating principle. *CV* stands for, “EDUCATION laced with CITIZENSHIP”. Helping students achieve a good education alone is not enough to justify the endlessly difficult work and the consistent generosity of annual giving. *CV* is dedicated heart & soul to esteemable citizenship. Behaviors to the contrary have and will be purged. Why even bother otherwise! What you will read next below illustrates “Deserve Your Dream” in action!

## The EBACH Student Manifesto

as inspired & read to all of us by Raul Carillo Villa

We are the students of Cambiando Vidas. We call ourselves EBACH ... an anagram that means “Grateful Chacala Students of Cambiando Vidas”. When we come through the door and become EBACH members, we join a family of friends that will *Change Our Lives*. This is our vow ...

We ARE here to change lives, all of our lives; our own, our family’s, our community’s and most especially each other’s. We are each other’s best chance for a bigger life, a better life, a better world. We are each other’s most valuable resource and most trusted friend, friends we can count on for a whole lifetime, especially when the going is difficult; Friends that do not judge us or ignore us. When we excel in any part of our life, we share our skills with those of us who need help. When we have difficulty in any part of our lives, we seek help among our EBACH friends and Cambiando Vidas leader’s. We never let pride keep us from asking for help. We never let pride stop us from offering our help.

We believe strongly in fairness and that rules are the only way fairness can prevail. We believe honesty and sharing is the only way a true friend and a true citizen can be made. Those of us who have been here longer than others are happily obliged to help the new members grow and succeed. We never ask for more than our share of anything. We never expect to do less than our share of any task. We are all strong in special ways ... and pledge to share our strengths. We all need help in various ways ... and pledge to seek help among our positive peers. We are



indeed grateful; grateful for the amazing opportunity presented by Cambiando Vidas, grateful to the many generous people who make it possible, grateful for the bigger and better world we see ahead, and most especially grateful for the honor and privilege to have each other as true friends.

(Any wonder why Raul Deserves the 1<sup>st</sup>. ever CV Student of the Year Award, and his Dreams?)



**coming to Chacala**

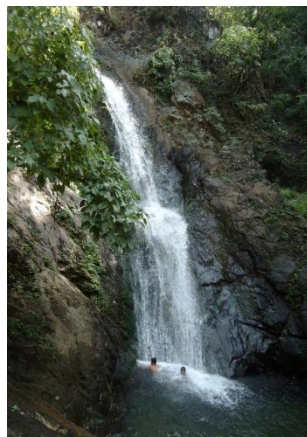
If you don't know about Kahn Academy, you soon will. It's revolutionary and it's being hand-delivered to Chacala Schools by frequent visitor, Bill Sams. "Google it and you will instantly understand. Much more on this next time as the program is phased into Chacala/ *CV* Student life.

## **Recreation Fills a Void**

2011 was a year in which many positive elements were added. On top of the already popular Learning Center and it's computer lab, and the growing "after-school-program", programs were launched for nutrition, hot-lunch, psychological counseling, tutoring, and multi-phased community service.

And now, funded entirely free to *Cambiando Vidas*, **"RECREATION"** has become a part of the *CV* experience. It was quickly discovered that most Chacala youth have never seen a big screen movie, or the Malacon at Puerto Vallarta, or an escalator. Almost none had ever been to our local wonders. And most had never been inside Marina Chacalas Beach Club. Who knew 6 boys and 6 girls would show up to have Nanci Savage or Bonnie Schamber teach them how to make "brownies" or cookies, that 6 batches of 4 wanted to go on a PV "roadtrip", a dozen to see the Alta Vista Petroglyphs, 2 dozen to hike-in & swim in El Capomo Falls. It is heartwarming to see how much they love to be together, encourage and laugh together. Happy times and good friendship; life worthwhile! So much more to come, stay tuned or better yet, jump in!.









Chacala is a community with big needs, but we are an even bigger resource. We can meet the needs of this community by elevating the standards of education, modeling and requiring responsible citizenship and supporting the local economy with our faithful patronage. The families of those who live and work here every day create the culture and provide the services that make our lives here one of most enviable in the world. We can meet their needs in return. We can give this community the very thing they want most ... a solid preparation for their childrens future and a basis for more prosperity & security. We need look no further for purpose and value in our priveleged lives. We have found our way to this community and the opportunity to make a huge difference is a major part of the happiness we will find here. This Paradise needs us ... this Paradiie offers us purpose! It is to small to ever get much more than minimal Mexican State Support (which is astoundingly minimal!), but not to large to get our collective arms around. The main reason we are so warmly welcome in Mexico by the people is our world wide reputation for prosperity ... and generosity.