

Annual Report 2006
Amigos de los Niños, AC

General Information

MISSION STATEMENT

Amigos de los Niños provides quality health care in Los Cabos to children up to the age of 18 who have no other means of receiving same or whose health care provider is deficient arranging for external medical consultations, organized clinics and assistance in setting up medical treatment for special cases of the severely ill or disabled.



Andrés
In Loving Memory

Amigos de los Niños de Cabo San Lucas A. C.

History, Social Impact & Vision

The organization, 'Amigos de los Niños' (Friends of the Children), took its first step toward committed community social work when a group of people, both foreign and national, all living in Cabo San Lucas, showed interest in helping their less fortunate neighbors. They joined together during the Holiday Season and decided to dress one person up as Santa Claus, and distribute Christmas gifts to marginalized children in the 'barrios'.

They found, although a lot of laughter and smiles were provoked, that this was defiantly not an adequate solution for the much greater problems that these children faced. They also learned that the kids looked for The Three Kings to bring them presents, not Santa Claus, whom they had never even heard of!

After holding a series of meetings to form a consensus on what their ideas for social aid really were, and taking into consideration the cultural differences that made it necessary to figure out the 'how to' effectively deliver this aid, they decided to elaborate and carry out projects that would address the heart of the problem, and effect change for a better quality of life for the children.

Now, with a vision of looking for significant ways to help, they started looking for projects.

It was found that the public schools in Cabo San Lucas did not have water purification systems, so, the newly formed group installed this service, improving the basic health of hundreds of school children.

With this project accomplished, a vision for the future was formed by Amigos de los Niños. It would be to help alleviate the tremendous need for quality medical care that these marginalized children so desperately required.

This need was being further accentuated by the rapid growth of the Los Cabos area, and the fact that the majority of jobs available were of the lowest paying-no benefits type such as basic construction work. Many of these mainly immigrant families were not included in the Mexican Social Security medical program, or, the attention they received from the institution was inadequate due to the lack of staff and supplies within this governmental organization.

It was in 1991 when Amigos de los Niños became incorporated as an official non-profit organization, an 'Asociacion Civil' in Spanish. The Mission was to help alleviate the serious problem of children who had no means of receiving medical attention. Amigos carried out their plans to accomplish this through; Organized Clinics, Special Case Children, and External Consultations with local doctors.

All methods for providing medical attention for the children through Amigos de los Niños are totally free of cost.

ADLN can achieve this end exclusively through donations from our local community supporters and foreign visitors who are made aware of our work, and who wish to help make a better quality of life possible for these children. We also receive in-kind support from many local businesses, this is a basic for being able to satisfactorily complete the work at our clinics.

Amigos is also fortunate to count on the help and support of many local doctors and medical institutions, they donate their work, or do it at a fraction of the normal cost. Without them, we could not do what we do.

In 2003, Amigos de los Niños saw over 1,500 children, and in 2004, we have seen over 1,000, in 2005, another 1,000

In 2004, ADLN held clinics in Cardiology, Asthma, ENT, Audiology, Plastic Surgery, Pediatrics, and Adolescent Gynecology. We also had 41 special cases at different stages of progress in the medical specialty that they require.

The majority of doctors who assist in our clinics come from the USA, but many of the local medics have been inspired by them, and are now

interested in doing free clinics, consultations and special case work for ADLN on their own.

Some of our special case children are receiving treatment in the USA. They have been taken, with the help of many caring people, to medical facilities in the US that specialize in their particular medial problem.

In 2005, ADLN Clinics have included; ENT/Audiology, Cardiology, Orthopedics, Asthma, and an Organizational and Grant Writing Seminar for ten local non-profit groups to further our knowledge base and foment working together to get the help needed to the people in need the best way possible. We will also be sponsoring an Eye Glass Clinic the first week in January 2006 where we hope to give away 1,000 pairs of glasses, getting the New Year off to a good start.

Amigos de los Niños completes the everyday work necessary to the organization with a six-person team at the office located in a small house donated to ADLN for this purpose. More than fifty faithful volunteers assist with all the fundraising projects, and the help we need with clinics, translating, bringing and setting up the equipment, transportation and entertaining kids while they wait for their appointments.

The office team began their jobs in January of 2004, and receive a moderate salary. Before this, the Board of Directors and volunteers had done this work.

The decision for having an office staff was made by the Board of Directors at the end of 2003, it was considered an urgent and necessary step in keeping up with the growth of Los Cabos, and, more importantly, with the medical needs of the marginalized children in the area. Our Mission demanded that we accomplish this if we were to continue to achieve the social impact that was required of Amigos de los Niños.

The office positions are; Executive Director, Coordinator of Clinics and Special Cases, Assistant to Director, Secretary, Messenger and Accountant. The staff also does many hours of volunteer work when not on office time.

The ideals of all the people who take part in Amigos de los Niños, Office Staff, Board of Directors, Ex-Officers, Volunteers, Donors, and Medical Personnel are based in the belief that all children deserve a life of equal opportunity and circumstance to insure the most important aspect of life, health. Without health, life is extremely limited.

Our Mission is based on ethical work to achieve this end, and in faith to provide for some miracles when we fall short of what is needed to save or change a child's life, and in resignation to be able to go through the times we fail to win the battle.

Amigos de los Niños also tries to console and guide the parents and families of these children as they go through these trying times.

The joining together of all these people, those who give and those who receive, activate the best learning device possible for showing how to humbly help your fellow man. This is an integral part of the social impact of Amigos de los Niños, along with the thousands of children who's lives have been helped, saved or changed through this Mission.

As a fruit of this effort, there are more people everyday willing to lend a hand to their community and it's people. Over the years, the children Amigos have attended grow into men and women who help as they were helped.

Sickness is not the only thing that is contagious, so is love, faith and lending a helping hand.

The example of Amigos de los Niños is a direct cause in furthering the culture of community involvement, and returning a part of what you have been given.

Reports 2006

Clinics and Special Cases

'SPECIAL CASES'

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS 2006

Special Case Children in Avera McKennan Hospital

Sioux Falls, SD

Through Partnership with

Los Cabos Childrens Foundation

Doctors, Airline and Organizations who collaborate:

American Airlines

Monte Ford

Anita Schiller

All the AA staff in Los Cabos

Avera McKennan

Fred Slunecka, CEO

Dr. Hanna

Pat Simmons, R.N.

Dr. Smithson

Dr. Paraswaran

Dr. Karl

Dr. Kytalia

Roseanne Morris, RN

Mayo Clinic

Ronald McDonald House, Rochester, Minn.

Los Cabo Childrens Foundation

Tom and Cathy Walsh

Jeanie Conzemius

Casa de Carlitos

Jon Madland

Bob and Donna

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish

U.S. Consul, Cabo San Lucas

Mike Houston

Patients (6):

Armando

Armando was six when he was first sent with his family of six to Sioux Falls. He has now been given a clean bill of health after a return visit to the Mayo Clinic after the six-month point. We are still sending blood and thyroid test to the Mayo each month, but Armando is well on the road to restored health.

Maria Jose

This sweet five-year-old girl had open-heart surgery in April. She visits us often at the ADLN office and her family has become good friends. She can now participate in all normal children's activities, and doesn't need a nap in the afternoon anymore! She and her family always meet with new families who are going to the States for heart surgery, they let them know what to expect, this helps the new patients and family make the trip a little earlier.

Andres

Andres passed away a little after his twentieth birthday. The six-year battle with cancer proved to be too much for his body. We are thankful to all who helped in the more that two-year effort to get Andres well from Hodgkin's lymphoma. Rest in peace.

Pedro

Pedrito also went to Sioux Falls in March, and has been under going treatment for his syndrome there. Some of the conditions of the syndrome being remedied are; the surgical construction of the rectum not present at birth, Pedro uses a colostomy, Test have shown that he does not have a Pituitary Gland, so humane growth hormone treatment is necessary and is being donated through a pharmaceutical company, he will need an injection every day until he reaches adulthood. His testicles were also surgically, with the help of medicines, descended.

Pedro and his Mother Francisca just came home to pass the holidays in Los Cabos. They will be returning in February for the last surgeries in which the colostomy will be attached to the rectum making everything function normally. He will also start grow with the injections, he is very tiny now! Pedro also has a cleft lip and palate, which have previously been repaired, but will need more work as he grows.

Pedro is now home for good and with his growth hormone therapy is growing, the colostomy has been removed and for now, all is well. ADLN has had Pedro in our care since he was a tiny baby, we are so glad to have been able to get him back to normal after all these years!

Miguel

Miguel has had his cardio procedure that will make his life normal.

Pamela

Pamela is eight and is being attended by Dr. Mares, an Oncologist who works with ADLN in La Paz. She is also waiting to go, she suffers from leukemia. Pamela has been going to Obregon for her chemotherapy at the IMSS. They do not have the capability to finish her treatment there. Unfortunately, we lost Flor Pamela before she could make the trip to Avera McKennan Hospital. Rest in Peace.

Ana Maria

Ana has made one trip to the US for a cardio procedure, and will be going back in 2007 for the completion of this treatment; she will then be good to go!

Joselyn

5 month old Joselyn was born with sever intestinal and liver malformation, she was sent to the US, but she could not be saved. Her surgery did make the rest of her short life more comfortable until her passing. Rest in Peace.

Yoselyn

Little four-year-old Yoselyn will be going to Sioux Falls for heart surgery.

Mario

Mario has severed heart malformation and will be going to the US on December 11th for his surgery, God Bless him and his family on their trip.

Fernanda

3-year-old Fernanda is waiting to go to the US for kidney surgery.

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS, A.C. 2006

SPECIAL CASES

ORTOPEDIC

Dr. Javier Escamilla

Orthopedic Surgeon

Patients: 15

Erick Espinoza García

3 year old who at the age of two months was in an automobile accident and thrown through the windshield. As the consequence, Neurological damage was suffered plus the dislocation of both hips and blindness. Eric had one surgery to correct the hip problem, but it was not successful. It has been done again this time using an external extender device. Eric has finished his last surgery and is in post-op care, he will then go through rehabilitation and we have hopes he will someday be able to walk through continuing help from the Special School and Mobilize Mankind. We will be asking for a wheelchair for him from Mobilize Mankind also; he is getting too big for his parents to carry.

Osmara Razo

8 year old who suffers from cerebral palsy. Her dislocated hips and tense ligaments were corrected through surgery. She suffered a fall from her bed about a year after and broke her leg requiring a second surgery from which she is now recovered and in rehab.

Elizabeth Rodríguez Liera

13 year old with cerebral palsy. She has an extremely turned in hand which was corrected by surgically by relaxing the ligaments. She has the same problem with one foot which will be operated on at a later date.

Gladis Esmeralda Castillo Ochoa

6 year old a child with a certain degree of club feet, Dr. Escamilla is evaluating her for surgery.

Yanet Maday Gallardo

1 year old, another child with foot problems. After studying the X-Rays; Dr. Escamilla would like her to be a little older for the surgery.

Juan Aldair Zoto

This child has an infected heel which is being treated with antibiotics. He is now well

Abigail Sabas Rodríguez

12 year old child suffered a fractured leg in which a metal plaque was placed. This plaque has now been removed, and she is in physical therapy.

Rosa Itzel García Petatal

2 year old baby who at birth had her arm and shoulder dislocated, as well as extensive nerve damage done by the attending physician at the IMSS pulling the baby out by her arm. Dr. Escamilla has operated on the shoulder, getting it back into place, and we will have to wait and see if there will be improvement of nerve damage with time. At last notice there has been improvement and Rosy is having feeling her arm thanks to her Mother's excellent care and diligence with the therapy!

Eber Garcia Mora

3 year old suffers from a congenital condition where the fingers and toes don't form properly. Edgar received his first surgery at the Medical Mission in 2004. It has now been found that he has a similar problem in his knee that requires surgery.

Yesenia Mejia Acevedo

1 year old hydrocephalic with shunt, club foot and dislocated hips. She also suffered from a urinary tract infection which needs to be under control before any surgery can be done. Further test are being done.

Deysi Clarissa Corral García

12 year old with a cyst on her left hand which caused pain. This was surgically removed, and the child is fine.

Cristóbal Adolfo Meza Martínez

4 year-old with one clubfoot that has been surgically corrected. He is doing very well.

Christopher Castro Quintana

5 year old, Dr. Escamilla relaxed this boy's tendons and dislocated hip, he is in rehab now.

Daniela Esmeralda Montañó

4 year old with flat feet, she now has orthopedic shoes, and exercises to correct this condition.

Sofía Margarita Torres

5 year old who has her right hand totally twisted to the inside. She will require surgery.

AIMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS, A.C. 2006

Special Cases Neurology

Physicians

Dr. Salvador Frías

Neurologist

Pacientes: 16

Mayra Mejia Montaña

Sever neurological problems 12 year-old-girl. Frontal Lobular Epilepsy and Oligofrenia. She is being helped through meds.

Mariela Guadalupe Peralta

14 year old has a cranial shunt to take liquid off the brain, the valve was stopped up and she was sent to the Salvatierra Hospital in La Paz to have it repaired.

Antonio de Jesús Cazares

5 year old who has been kept on Ritalin for his extreme hyperactivity. This enables him to attend school.

Diego Álvarez Martínez

6 year old suffers from convulsions from a blow to the head. He is taking Depakene

Laura Julián Sebastián

15 year old who is being treated for convulsions with Rivotril. She is also on a strict diet, and studies are underway of an infratentorial and supratentorial tomography

Javier Rivera Piñon

9 year old has problems with motor movement, speech, conduct and attention. Dr. Frías has him in observation, and recommends he continue with special schooling.

Blanca Meza

15 years old with cerebral palsy. Her convulsions are under control, but she still is in need of an operation for her advanced scoliosis of the spine

Cesar Bonifacio Félix:

11 years old who started having epileptic attacks and profound trances after a blow to the head. He had an Encephalogram, and is now taking Depakane which must be carefully controlled by visits to Dr. Frías.

Giovanni Burgos Ríos

6 year old with cerebral palsy, he is being treated with Depakene and Rivotril as well as physical therapy

Antonio de Jesús Ramírez

15 year old, this child has motor and mental deficiencies, he is also very undernourished. Dr. Frias has recommend Lamotrigina and Frisium to help him.

Gerardo Jesús Maldonado

4 years old cerebral palsy, he is receiving his medication for convulsions, and will be getting a wheelchair from Mobilize Mankind

Gonzalo Francisco Diego

7 years old cerebral palsy, convulsions under control though Dr. Frias

Marco William Aldaz

7 year old this child suffers from convulsions when he sleeps. He is being given Carbamazepina for this and is improving.

David Carbajal Vélez

9 months old, show motor reactions. An Electroencephalograph was done and he was diagnosed with West Syndrome, This will involved life long treatment that Dr. Frias is studding now.

Maria Gpe. León de la Cruz

6 years old with epilepsy, Dr. Frias is revising her medication.

Martina Amador Lucero

8 year old who suffers from profound trances, an EKG was done and Dr. Frias will be prescribing medication.

SPECIAL CASES ADLN 2006 ENT / AUDIOLOGY

PHYSICIANS

Dr. Juan Manuel Portillo Montelogo

Dr. Mike Rensink

Jim O'Hara, Audiologist

PACIENTS: 8

Karina Alcantar

15 year old who had a bad case of tonsillitis, which was treated with meds, and then surgically removed by Dr. Portillo.

Gilbran Arias Barrera

16 year-old with ear infections, he was sent to Dr. Portillo from Dr. Rensink's Clinic. He is undergoing treatment for the infection and must keep his ears dry so surgery can be performed

Edgar Ulises Lara Estévez

This is a three-year-old child with multiple congenital birth defects, one of them is deafness. He was given hearing aids during Jim O'Hara's April Clinic and now has improved hearing that allows him to go to school.

Rosa De La Rosa Armenta

13 year old with both eardrums perforated due to severe infections. She is undergoing treatment to get the ears well and dry, and then will have surgery.

Aniceto Reyes

11 year-old boy who suffered from severe ear infections. After undergoing treatment from Dr. Portillo, the infections abated and surgery could be performed. Aniceto goes for periodic check-ups to make sure he continues well.

Ana Carlota Talamontes

This 16 year-old has received surgery for ears and nose after her severe infections were cured. She too continues periodic check-ups with Dr. Portillo

Zenón Rosas Teliz

4 year old with hearing problem, after a hearing potential test, he was canalized to one of Audiologist Jim O'Hara's Clinics. This child heard for the first time in our Audiology Clinic in November, he was given a complete set of aids and all her needs to clean and care for them all in a Teddy Bear motif. This was one of those moments we live for!

Adriana Elizabeth Martínez Espinosa:

15 year old with a severe infection and tumor in the left ear requiring surgery which was done in November and Adriana is recovering very well.

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS, A.C. 2006

EXTERNAL CONSULTATIONS

PHYSICIANS

Dr. Edgar Contla Urologist/Nephrologist

Dr. Jesús Marcial Pediatrician

Dr. Francisco Rocha General Surgeon

Dra. Laura Elena Pediatrician

Dr. Alejandro Velderrain Cardiologist

Dr. Antonio Serrano Optometrist

Dr. Salvador Frías Neurologist

PACIENTS: 31

Gonzalo Francisco Diego

7 year old with cerebral palsy who has been a patient of ADLN for several years helping his familia with medical exams and continuing meds for convulsions.

Paola Álvarez Bala

1 year old who suffered form gastro-intestinal problems

Yolanda López Ramírez

7 year old with recurring urinary problems

José Manuel Higuera

8 year old who suffers from serious infantile diabetes and needs insulin injections up to three times daily. He is attended to at the Hospital Federico Gómez in México City. ADLN helps here with back up exams, meds, analysis or help for getting him to Mexico City.

José Manuel González

9 year old who suffers from recurring respiratory illnesses

Ángel Jesús Alejo Nava

6 year old a child suffering from obesity which has caused respiratory problems

Jesús Gaona Chávez

3 year old who had his tonsils removed in Dr. Rensink's April Clinic and suffered from post operatory bleeding

Alejandro Santa Cruz

4 who required X-Rays alter a fall

Maria de la Luz Hernández

7 year old, an underweight child whom we supplied with PEDIASURE and vitamins

José Ángel Jiménez

3 year old with ameabiosis

Carlos Beltrán

10 year old treated for urinary problems and sinusitis

José Adrián Bautista

7 year old child with a deep infection in a finger which did not respond totally to antibiotics and requires future treatment which will include scraping the bone and possible amputation.

Jazbeth Hernández

5 year old with bronquitis

Carolina Yoselin Victorio

4 year old treated for roto-virus

Silvano Torres Moreno

6 year old who suffers from acute pain caused by rheumatoid arthritis

Alondra Collins de la Peña

9 year old with cerebral palsy. ADLN was able to get her the test she needed to be accepted in the Telethon's CRIT program

Axel Adrián Cota Amador

12 year old who has one undeveloped or undesended testicle

Luis Gerardo Gómez Magdaleno

3 year old, underweight and undernourished. Being of high risk, the child was given a test for HIV and found to be negative. Other problems under treatment

Ulises Estevez

6 year-old sent to pediatrician and for lab test because of his colostomy. ADLN send this child as needed for medical exams and test because of his multiple congenital birth defects. Meds given also.

Gabriela Baer

5 year-old sent to the pediatrician for a sever cold. Meds given also

Yanet Maday Garcia

4 year-old sent to pediatrician for X rays and lab test for pneumonia. Meds given also.

Eduardo Reyes Gonzales

6 year-old sent to the pediatrician with throat infection after lab test meds were given.

Jose Guadalupe Tamayo

12 year-old who suffers from cerebral palsy. Jose was sent to the pediatrician for a throat and pulmonary infection, he received lab tests and meds.

Hugo Aldair Soto

7 year-old who suffered from an intestinal infection. After lab test, meds were given.

Edith Lorenzo Cerros

12 year-old who was sent to pediatrician for gastritis. She had lab test done and meds were given.

Daniel Beltran

9 year-old sent to pediatrician for urinary problems, lab test and meds.

Armando Quinones

6 year-old Armando is an ADLN/LCCF bone marrow transplant survivor. He has periodic blood and thyroid lab test done that we send to the May Clinic in Minnesota.

Julieta Chavez

1 year old sent to the pediatrician for malnutrition and serial colds. She was given meds and vitamins for both problems.

José Jacinto Carlo Espinosa

7 year-old who was sent to the orthopedist because he suffers from flat feet. He is still undergoing treatment.

Omar Gomez Gutierrez

1 year-old sent for testing for HIV because of parental background, his results were thankfully negative

Jose Alonzo Segura

14 year-old who suffered severe burns to his arm and shoulder when hit by lightning. He received help through the 'Michu y Mau Foundation' and was sent to the Shrinners Hospital in Sacramento CA. We have helped the family with expenses for their periodic visits back to Shrinners for his continuing treatment, he is doing very well.

Amigos Eye Care and Amigos de los Niños, AC
Eye Glass Clinic
January 2-3-4-5 2006

16 Member Team from
Oregon Pacific University College of Optometry

Doctors of Optometry:

Dr. Alan Love
Dr. Beth Kinoshita
Dr. Tawna Roberts

Doctor Responsible:

Dr. Antonio Serrano

Place of Clinic:

Anikan Hospital, Cabo San Lucas

Eye Glasses Provided:

Jan. 2	152
Jan. 3	257
Jan. 4	336
Jan. 5	561

Total Free Eye Glasses: 1,306

**Amigos Eye Care / Amigos de los Niños Eye Glass
Clinic**

Jan. 2 - 5 2006

16 Visting Optomitrist, Plus ADLN Staff and Volunteers

Real and Donated Cost Evaluation

ITEM	UNIT PRICE	TOTAL US DLS
DONATE		
D		
Residencial Suite HDM 7 Nights	1,000 p/n	7,000
Residencial Suite HDM 7 Nights	1,000 p/n	7,000
Residencial Suite HDM 7 Nights	1,000 p/n	7,000
DONATE		
D		
Van 7 Days	250 p/d	1,750
Transport	100 p/d	500
DONATE		
D		
30 Box Lunch Club 96	8 each	240
30 Chostomo	85 total	85
30 Box Lunch Andres	8 each	240
30 Box Lunch Lazy Gormet	10 each	<u>300</u>
		24,115
REAL COST		
Drinks		50
Supplies		200
Hospital		500
Tents and Chairs		600
Portapoty		<u>100</u>
		1,450
GRAND TOTAL		49,680

Amigos de los Niños

Neuro Sugery Clinic

Apirl 2006

Physicians:

Dr. Joel Rodríguez Díaz, Neuro Surgen	\$109,900	X 4 Surgeries
Dr. Adolfo Martinez, Emergency Medicine	\$0	X 1 Surgery Assistance
Dr. Francisco Rocha, General Surgeon	\$6,500	X 3 Surgeries
Dr. Jesús Dominguez, Plastic Surgery	\$60,000	X 1 Surgery
Dr. Walter Perches, Anesthesiologist	\$37,800	X 4 Anesthesia
Instrumental & Surgical Nurses (4 persons)	<u>\$28,200</u>	X 4 Surgeries
	\$242,400 MN	(\$22,000 US Dls)

Facility:

Amerimed Hospital	\$253,180 MN	(\$23,000 us Dls.)
(See each patient for specific cost)		

Services:

Neuro Service International SA de Cv	\$33,000	
Grupo Venta Internacional SA de CV	<u>\$21,700</u>	
	\$54,700 MN	(\$4,970 US Dls)

TOTAL \$550,280 MN (\$50,000) Equal to \$11.000 MN (\$10,00 US Dls.) per Child

Patients:

Eric Trujillo:

Eric is sixteen years old who has suffered since the age of ten from sever and disabling seizures. These were becoming increasingly worse, the last event requiring hospitalization. The reason for the seizures was a frontal tumor. This was first diagnosed by ADLN Neurologist, Dr. Frias, and then confirmed by Dr. Rodriguez.

The use of a laser beam-mapping machine was rented, and an engineer sent from Guadalajara to operate it. It performs the technical diagnosis and maps exactly where the tumor is. This is a very advanced procedure that has never been done in BCS before. It is done at such large and well-known hospitals as Siglo 21 in Mexico City.

The surgery lasted thirteen hours and Eric was interned for two days in the intensive care unit. The surgery had a positive outcome and the non-malignant tumor was removed.

Erick came back once after surgery with seizures from the swelling and trauma of the operation, he was attended by Dr. Martinez in telephone consultation with Dr. Rodriguez. He was given a stronger dose of medication until the swelling went away, which it now has, and his meds have been reduced again.

Eric is now well on the way to complete recovery, he has not had seizures again, and we hope he will continue to stabilize and return to a normal life.

Miguel Ángel:

This five-year-old has been a patient of ADLN for four years; we have never been able to get a team of doctors together who were willing to operate on his frontal tumor.

This tumor had been operated on the first time at four months old, with not very good results. Miguel Angeles's face was quite disfigured, and the skin was being pulled over one eye that eventually would mean he would lose vision.

During surgery, the doctors found that the space left from removing the tumor during the first surgery was filled with a plastic substance. This was removed, no more tumoration was found, and the space cleaned and then was covered with the proper surgical medical plates that are used when cranial bone is removed.

Dr. Dominguez then performed Plastic Surgery to rectify the damage done by the other surgeries and ended the twelve hour surgery. Miguel Angel was also in intensive care the first days after his surgery.

Ángel Delfino:

Angel is a nine-year-old who suffers from Spina Bifida, which requires a valve in the cranial area to relieve pressure from accumulated liquid. This liquid then travel down a tube surgically inserted down to the urinary tract where it is taken out of the body. Angel had had his vale since birth, and it was no longer working properly.

Dr. Rodriguez changed the valve, and Dr. Rocha inserted the tube to the urinary tract.

Angel came back as an emergency eight days after being discharged from the hospital, After telephone consultation with Dr. Rodriguez, and test done by Dr. Martinez to the valve, it was determined that the tube that carries the liquid was plugged at some point.

Dr. Rocha re-operated and found what he had suspected had happened. Since Angel had a lot of scar tissue from the first operation, and from the operation for the Spina Bifida, the tissue had wrapped around the tube and strangled it. The tube was place on the other side of the abdomen, and so far has been working well. Angel also is paralyzed from the waist down and in a wheelchair; this also contributes to many problems in the abdominal area.

Angel was just in Amerimed again this week with a gastric-intestinal infection that we were afraid could have been the tube again, fortunately, it was not and he is going home today.

Anibal Valenzuela:

Anibal is four, and also suffers from Spina Bifida, he has never had hydrocephalic valve. His head was quite large and he suffered from sever headaches. Anibal look like he had been to the spa the day after surgery instead of such an invasive medical treatment. The relief of the pressure in his head made an amazing difference in him, and he has been fine since the operation

Maya Mejilla:

A ten-ten-year-old with multiple neurological problems. Unfortunately, although we think she may be operable, the entire test was unable to be completed because of her condition. She suffers from convulsions and this factor interfered with test being completed.

Added Note:

While here for the ADLN surgeries, Dr. Joel Rodriguez was hired by Amerimed to take the position of Chief Medical Officer for them.

So, we now will have a Neuro Surgeon in town!

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS, AC
ENT / Audiology Clinic April 2006

DOCTORS:

DR. MIKE RENSINK	ENT
DR. PAUL COTTON	ANESTHESIOLOGIST
JAMES OHARA	AUDIOLOGIST
ROBERT MARTÍN	AUDIOLOGIST

CABO SAN LUCAS:

Children seen: 72

13	AUDIO EVALUATIONS
21	AUDIO TEST
25	HEARING AIDS
16	TONSIL – ADINOID – EAR SURGERIES

SAN JOSE DEL CABO:

Children seen: 56

22	AUDIO EVALUATION
16	AUDIO TEST
15	HEARING AIDS

SURGERIES MONDAY / LUNES

- | | | | | | |
|----|-------------------------|-----|------------|-------|-------|
| 1) | Itzuri Castillo Duran | 4y | T&A | 19.5K | Time: |
| 2) | Fernando Torres Moreno | 4y | T&A | 21.5K | Time: |
| 3) | Michelle Ceseña Manzo | 4y | T&A | 23K | Time: |
| 4) | Deysi Joani Capristo | 8y | T&A | 20K | Time: |
| 5) | Josué Juárez Gutiérrez | 5y | T&A | 23K | Time: |
| 6) | Luis Vásquez Anguiano | 6y | T&A | 24K | Time: |
| 7) | Azucena García Burgoin | 6y | A PosT | 29.5K | Time: |
| 8) | Adalberto Parra Acevedo | 11y | TubesRposL | 49K | Time: |

SURGERIES TUESDAY / MARTES

- | | | | | | |
|----|---|-----|-----|-----|-------|
| 1) | Jair Samuel de Anda | 4y | T&A | 16K | Time: |
| 2) | Antonio García Guillén | 4y | T&A | 16K | Time: |
| 3) | Mario Hernández Vásquez | 7y | T&A | 37K | Time: |
| 4) | Guillermo Hernández López | 8y | T&A | 26K | Time: |
| 5) | Ernesto Limón Morales
(dentist, get info, 1730201 con Olga)) | 15y | T&A | 48K | Time: |
| 6) | Jesús Gaona Chávez (Maybe) | 14y | T&A | 95K | Time: |
| 7) | Javier García Campos | 12y | T&A | 42K | Time: |

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS, AC
ENT / Audiology Clinic November 2006

DOCTORS:

DR. MIKE RENSINK	ENT
DR. PAUL COTTON	ANESTHESIOLOGIST
JAMES OHARA	AUDIOLOGIST
ROBERT MARTÍN	AUDIOLOGIST

CABO SAN LUCAS:

Children seen: 42

20	AUDIO EVALUATIONS
9	AUDIO TEST
10	HEARING AIDS
8	TONSIL – ADINOID – EAR SURGERIES

SAN JOSE DEL CABO:

Children seen: 46

20	AUDIO EVALUATION
2	AUDIO TEST
9	HEARING AIDS

SURGERIES DR. RENSINK NOV 7TH.

- 1) Santiago Rivero Torres 4 M 18K Poss.TubesT&A
- 2) Magali Meza Hernández 6 F 30K T&A
- 3) Fernando Francisco Medina Santos 8 M 28K T&A
- 4) Fernando Josué Rodríguez 8 M 43K T&A
- 5) Miguel Alejandro Vásquez Cortés 9 M 32K T&A Nasil Cath
- 6) Jesús Rubén Pena Martines 9 M 52K T&A
- 7) Kassandra Núñez Meza 11 F 52K T&A
- 8) Marco Antonio Estrada Crespo 12 M 56K Tubes T&A

Reports 2006
Newsletters ADLN

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS

March 2006

Mexico A.C. / US 501-C3

Providing Quality Medical Care to Children in Los Cabos Mexico

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We are happy to report that Amigos de los Niños is in full swing for 2006. January is generally spent getting the office, financial reports, budgets and the 'Special Case' and 'Clinic' Calendars in order, planning time to achieve all we can to help the children. It is also when we have almost NO funds as we have spent everything on the kids during the year before! We believe in spending all we receive, when we receive it, for our every-growing list of children who need medical help.

To accomplish this, Amigos de los Niños conducts all our efforts with total transparency. Our 2005 financial report is now finished, as well as all our accounting and donation receipt books, anyone who wishes to look them over, please call 1443195 and speak with Vicky for an appointment. We welcome the opportunity to inform you about all aspects of our organization!

January started with a bang this year though! Amigos de los Niños held an Optometry Clinic beginning Jan. 1, yes friends, the day after New Years we were up and running, literally! A team of sixteen Optometrist and students came with over 4,000 pairs of eyeglasses to select from, and give away at the five-day clinic. This great group comes from the Pacific University Collage of Optometry in Oregon; 'Amigos Eye Care' has done mission trips all over the world. Read more about them at: <http://opt.pacificu.edu/test/amigos/>

Many thanks to Hacienda Del Mar for supplying beautiful accommodations for these visiting Optometrist during the first week in January, VERY high season for HDM, showing true dedication, as always, to helping Amigos de los Niños do our job.

1,306 pairs of glasses were given away to people who came from near and far to receive this free service!

Many thanks for help with the clinic also goes to: Tansportadora Roca, Transportadora Cabo Region, Club Ninety-Six, Andres Ramirez, Lazy Gourmet, The Office, Dr. Antonio Serrano and Anikan Hospital. Without the help of the community, these clinics would be impossible to arrange!

In February, we can always count on the year really taking off with a generous donation from Pueblo Bonito and Sunset Beach Resorts. For 2006 a check for \$25,000 Dollars was received from the hands of Mr. Ernesto Coppel, Founder and

CEO. As always, we are very grateful for this support from Pueblo Bonito and Sunset Beach, we consider them family after enjoying such a long-term relationship with them, thank you so much!

Los Cabos Childrens Foundation continues their yearly support of Amigos de los Niños, because of this; we are able to set our plans on solid ground knowing that we can count on these funds. This is an enormous help in building our capacity to serve! Thank you!

We have also received individual donation that enable us to do our work, thank you too!

If you are shopping at the local CCC, (Centro Comercial Californiano), they are 'Rounding off' centavos in favor of Amigos de los Niños, so please, shop with them, and give to Amigos!

These collaborations continue on a more profound level also, Los Cabos Childrens Foundation and Amigos de los Niños continue their joint efforts to save and change children's lives while building friendships and helping others who effect these children's daily lives. The collaboration has now lead past getting the children well by also helping with their social and educational well being to really form a safety net around them.

Amigos de los Niños has worked with many children from our Special Education School here in Cabo San Lucas; many of them have extensive health problems we have helped to heal. While completing this work, we have come to know and admire Professor Pablo Linares, Supervisor of the Special Education System for our zone. The good Professor has found his vocation in what he does, and among his successes is the guarantee that children with the intellectual ability to do so be accepted into the regular school system. This is vitally important for children who suffer from deafness, speech or motor impairment that should not affect their ability to be successful in school and life, just remember Helen Keller and her impact on the world!

We were made aware of several needs to better the capacity of the Special Ed Teachers to do their job. In the two most remote and poorest areas of San Lucas, 'Cangrejos' and 'La Palma' we found that these classes were being held under a tree, outdoors, there was no classroom available for them. So, Amigos de los Niños suggested to Los Cabos Childrens Foundation that they could help with this situation. Professor Linares presented a plan, and Los Cabos Childrens Foundation will be building the two classrooms needed for Special Ed at these schools.

We all met with our Mayor, Luis Armando Diaz, who will have the Los Cabos Municipality pick up the cost of labor for this construction, and gave his blessing and thanks to the effort. Los Cabos Childrens Foundation, with probable help from an Eagle's Wings Foundation grant, will also be giving financial support for the

operation of the school bus that serves the Special Education School, and making much needed repairs to the restrooms. The charitable organizations of Los Cabos, by working together, are making an even bigger difference! We are awaiting the arrival of Mobilize Mankind for their spring visit bringing more therapy, wheelchairs and orthopedic equipment for these children also!

This is an email I want to share with all of you, it went out to everyone involved with the successful bone marrow transplant for Andres at Avera McKennan Hospital in Sioux Falls, SD. It was sent on the day his doctors had given him a clean bill of health after one year of treatment, and by using a new and innovative process in which his brother, Rene, who was the donor, had only 50% compatibility.

Dear Friends,

Yesterday, February 23rd. was indeed a joyful day. The news of Andres being cured has been so long awaited and prayed for by so many good people. We all give thanks for this miracle.

As I look back on this story, I remember the bittersweet start in February, 2005, when Amigos de los Niños sought out Carmen and Andres to ask if they would be willing to make the last effort in Sioux Falls to cure Andres.

Their answer was positive, they would go to Avera McKennan Hospital and Casa Carlitos with faith and hope, and that faith and hope united with the good will and amazing talent and tenacity of the doctors and medical team would lead to this amazing cure. God Bless you one and all!

The bittersweet part comes from the memory of another day in February when I was folding the Medical Visa appeal letters for both Maria Jose and Rigoberto who were to go to Sioux Falls for heart surgery, as my hands were finishing the last envelope for Rigoberto, who was a beautiful little boy of four, the phone rang and Rigoberto's Uncle informed me that 'Rigo' had suffered a heart attack and was at the General Hospital, 'please help us!' In a matter of minutes we had contacted our two cardiologists, Dr. Velderrain and Dr. McFaul, but here was no hope, Rigoberto had passed away in his Mother's arms at the hospital.

Needless to say, we were all thrown into the depths of loss and mourning. I remember calling Tom Walsh and all I could do was cry. After the funeral, and some resignation gifted to us by God, I found that I had Andres on my mind all the time; surely God's hand was in this also. It was then we started the process to send Carmen and Andres to South Dakota, passports and visas, a hard trip for such a sick young man.

Yesterday, with my heart so full of joy and excitement for the new chance that Andres and his family will have, and the wondrous rewards one finds intertwined with the lives of others, both the sick and the healers, I went to the San Jose Cemetery where Rigoberto is buried. Yesterday, February 23rd, was the one-year anniversary of his passing. So this story has also come full circle, the circle of love that never ends, a circle started and completed on February 23rd.

I told 'Rigo' about Andres, I am sure he was playing with the angels and not paying much attention, but I know he was very pleased that Andres will go on in this world to accomplish wonderful things and wishes him the very best.

Thank you all, you are overwhelming in your generosity to these children, thank you,

Gay

This has been an exciting year for all, we are so thankful to be telling of success.

In February, Pedrito also went back on his second trip to Sioux Falls to finish his treatment for the syndrome from which he suffers. He will have final surgery connecting his colostomy to his surgically restored rectum, and receive the start of his hormone growth therapy to replace the function of the pituitary gland he was born without.

Ana Maria, twelve, and Miguel, seven, who also made the trip for heart surgery will both receive the life giving operations they require on March 29th. Keep them in your prayers.

Armando is doing well after his SECOND bone marrow transplant; he will be coming home soon. We DO NOT give up on these children!

Locally, Amigos de los Niños keeps carrying out orthopedic surgeries with Dr. Javier Escamilla at the Amerimed Hospital. Eric and Elizabeth will soon be receiving their operations, and a list of twelve other children are on the agenda for 2006.

Amigos de los Niños is also planning a Nero Surgery Clinic for Easter week. Dr. Joel Rodriguez of the Santa Engracia Hospital in Monterrey Mexico has generously offered to come to Cabo to do this for us. We will be looking at hydrocephalic children who need valves, and the case of Miguel Angel. Miguel Angel was born with a frontal (forehead) tumor, we have been looking for a remedy for this the last several years, and we hope this is it. A Neurosurgeon, Ophthalmologist, Plastic Surgeon and possibly a Maxio- Facial Prosthetics Specialist will be needed; the miracle is that we have all these people available and willing to help!

Dr. Mike Rensink and Audiologist O'Hara and Martin will soon be back in Cabo for the first of their ENT/Audio Clinics of 2006. Twenty children are on the list for surgery, and the usual thirty to fifty hearing aids will be given to those who need them.

And the work goes on! Thank you to all who support this cause, we appreciate your donations and prayers more than we can express!

To get in touch with us, please call (624) 1443195 and 1433495, or write to amigospresident@yahoo.com or visit our web page at adlncabo.com

Gay Thatcher de Herrera
Executive Director
Amigos de los Niños

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS

May 2006

Mexico A.C. / US 501-C3

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April and May have been literally **consumed** with the all-out everyday effort (And expense!!) by **Amigos de los Niños** to get the children well and help advance our community's ability to give **quality medical service** to those who need it the most. **We are in great need of donations because of the extent of our recent work, so if after reading this you find yourself motivated, PLEASE DO!!** The congratulations and kudos we receive for our works are appreciated, but a **check, no matter the size**, would be even better!!!! The information is at the end of the newsletter, and **thank you!**

The first Clinic this year was held by the **Optometrist's** who gave away **1,306 pairs of glasses**, this was followed in April by **Amigos de los Niños** biannual **ENT / Audiology Clinic** with **Dr. Mike Rensink** and **Audiologist Jim O'Hara** and **Robert Martin**. Over **100 children** were seen between the two specialties. **19 ENT surgeries** were performed by **Dr. Rensink** with the help of Anesthesiologist **Paul Cotton**, and RN **Virginia Garcia**. **The Audiologist gave away 60 aids to children with hearing loss**. These Clinics have been going on for the past 15 years, and we all give our heart-felt thanks once again to these generous doctors. We would also like to thank the **DIF** and the **Centro de Salud Hospital of Cabo San Lucas** for permitting us their operating and patient's rooms, as well as their **wonderful nursing staff**. And, as always, **Dr. Juan Manuel Portillo** our very own local ENT who is the physician responsible for this clinic and the after care of the patients.

The **Amigos de los Niños volunteers**, always there to help, are also responsible for the successful outcome of these Clinics, **THANK YOU!** Thanks also to these restaurants for giving the doctors great dinners, **GIGGLING MARLIN, MI CASA, NICK SAN**, and **LA GOLONDRINA TRAILER PARK**, and to **The Bungalows**, who kindly supply rooms for the team. To celebrate the end of the Clinic, **Mary Tornero de Diaz**, the Mayor's wife and head of **DIF**, was our lovely hostess at a party held in the new **La Fonda** restaurant. Wonderful food, and with Dr. Flores and Chemist Victor Hugo doing a great job serenading us after dinner!

Amigos de los Niños and **Los Cabos Childrens Foundation** are **pleased and awed** to announce the return to Los Cabos of, **Miguel / heart surgery.....Pedro / two gastric surgeries, and growth therapy for his lack of a Pituitary Gland.....Ana Maria / heart procedure, she will be going back to Sioux Falls in another in two months.....Armando / back for the second time from a bone**

marrow transplant..... Joselyn / back from emergency gastric surgery.....and Andres back after one year in Sioux Falls receiving treatment and a bone marrow transplant. WOW! Six children with a new start on life after loving care, and good medicine from our friends at Avera McKennan Hospital.

Dr. David Erickson, Senior Vice-President and Chief Medical Officer for **Avera Health**, was here with his lovely family visiting Los Cabos over Easter, **Pueblo Bonito** showed him all their wonderful hospitality at **Sunset Beach**, and he enjoyed a tour of the new **Santa Josefina Blood Bank**, soon to be opened, and **Amerimed Hospital** where **Amigos de los Niños** does most of our surgeries through the generosity of very special discounts for our youngsters.

A real relationship has been forming over the last three years between **Avera Health**, who maintain 27 health centers and hospitals in the South Dakota area, and **Los Cabos** thanks to a very amazing man, **Mr. Tom Walsh**, President and Founder of **Los Cabos Children's Foundation**. Tom used to just vacation and play golf here, but now that he has fallen in love with the Los Cabos children in need, **he's a goner!** We owe much to Tom's visionary outreach to everyone he meets and inspires to join in the Mission of **Los Cabos Children's Foundation**. It has been a privilege for **Amigos de los Niños** to work alongside this great new non-profit, and we look forward to a very long happy marriage!...and maybe just a little golf!

The checks from **Los Cabos Children's Foundation** for the **Special Education Schoolrooms** in Cabo San Lucas at the 'Cangrejos' and 'Las Palmas' schools have been given to **Professor Pablo Linares**, Supervisor of the Special Education System for our zone. The construction will start soon, and next school year, the Special Ed children won't be taking their classes under a tree, but in brand new classrooms!

Amigos de los Niños Nuero Surgery Clinic turned out to be a fifteen-day affair, **Dr. Joel Rodriguez** was here during Easter week and did one hydrocephalic valve replacement operation for **Angel**, and studied and did testing for the four other children who were on the roster. He then returned to operate on: **Miguel Angel**, along with reconstructive surgery done by **Dr. Jesus Dominguez**, this lasted twelve hours, three days in intensive care, and resulted in a good outcome for removal of a frontal tumor and plastic surgery. **Eric** also had a brain tumor removed, and again, twelve hours with the operation ending at three in the morning! **Eric** was also in intensive care for several days and now is being carefully monitored by **Dr. Adolfo Martinez** until Dr. Rodriguez's next visit. Finally, **Anibal** had a valve inserted to relieve the pressure of liquid in his brain caused by Spina Bifida; he looked like he had been to the spa instead of surgery! A young girl named **Mayra** is still undergoing test for the possibility for her surgery in the future.

For these neuro surgeries, special medical equipment, and the Engineer who operates it, were brought in from Guadalajara. **THIS TYPE OF SURGERY HAS NEVER BEEN DONE IN THE STATE OF BCS BEFORE**, that is how far **Amigos de los Niños** has come in our ability to provide quality medical care to the children who are in need, this is possible though **YOUR DONATIONS** and the generosity of the doctors and hospitals who assist us. Dr. Rodriguez was able to stay in Cabo through the courtesy of **Pueblo Bonito Sunset Beach**.

As this newsletter 'goes to press', the **Santa Josefina Blood Bank** will be opening at the Anikan Hospital. This has taken six months of hard work done through the assistance of the **BCS State and Municipal Government**, especially the office of **International Relations, Amigos de los Niños**, the team at **Snell Realty** and the generous donation of funds by **Los Cabos Children's Foundation. Dra. Delia Godoy** has been the expert guiding the medical/technical side, along with **Dr. Adolfo Martinez**, and **Ingeniero Ricardo Cañedo** has done the beautiful remodeling job. Next week, nurses and chemist will travel to La Paz for training at the State Blood Bank, the licensing process from the Health Department is underway, and **Santa Josefina** should be up and running in June. This is a tremendous step forward for health care in the Los Cabos area!

Just as we celebrate the good things, we have also recently suffered the immense sadness of losing a child. Little baby **Joselyn** passed away last Sunday. The surgery she had at **Avera Mckennan** made her short life easier for her and her parents, but it could not undo the severe intestinal and liver damage that she suffered. **Joselyn** fought a good fight, with her strength she brought people together that would otherwise not have met. She advanced the medical and visa cooperation between all involved in these efforts. She was the first child sent to Sioux Falls who received a US Visa attached to her mother's visa. This means that an extremely ill child under seven may have their visas done this way, without having to make the trip to Tijuana which would be a hardship for them. We had spoken about this with **US Consul Mike Houston** and **Counsel General Mark Leoni** only weeks before **Joselyn** had need of it. Rest in peace sweet baby, we all learned much from your short life. Thank you **Dr. Ortega** and **Trisha** for always saying yes to **Joselyn** during her effort to stay with us a while longer.

So goes our story, light and sadness running by in smiles and tears, all intermingled and moving forward towards more hope for sick children, **Amigos de los Niños** thanks all who take part in this cause, **give us the means, and we will do the work!**

To get in touch with us, please call (624) 1443195 and 1433495, or write to amigospresident@yahoo.com or visit our web page at adlncabo.com **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!**

Gay Thatcher de Herrera
Executive Director
Amigos de los Niños

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS

AUGUST 2006

Mexico A.C. / US 501-C3

Providing Quality Medical Care to Children in Los Cabos Mexico

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Hello again from **Amigos de los Niños**, what a year it has been to this point! The dimension of the work that has been done so far, and what lays ahead for the future of **Los Cabos Children in Need** overwhelms us. **ADLN** has come so far in our ability to help these children; we are counting on **YOU** to help us keep doing this! **Your donations are the first step to changing and saving children's lives! PLEASE SEND THEM IN!!! If you own a business, or just do your personal income tax, ADLN gives TAX DEDUCTABLE RECIEPTS (USA OR MEX) for all donations.**

Amigos has continued our work with **Special Cases** going forward with several orthopedic surgeries, and we will hold an **ENT/Audiology Clinic** in the fall where approximately **sixteen ENT surgeries** will be performed, children examined, and **Hearing Aids** given away to the hearing impaired. Over 50 aids are given away each time these doctors visit, and they have come two and three times a year over fifteen years that comes to over **1,500 aids on Los Cabos children's ears** thanks to these clinics!

Most of the **Special Case Children** we wrote about in our last newsletter are doing well, **Pedrito** is growing thanks to his growth hormone therapy, **Miguel** is fine after heart surgery, **Ana Maria** will be going back to **Avera McKennan Hospital** for further pre-scheduled heart surgery, and **Yoselyn** will be going with her for cardio problems also, **Armando** is doing well with his bone marrow transplant, he had a bad two weeks with a bout of tonsillitis but now is good again. We thank our local doctors who pick up the after-care of these children when they come back to Cabo, **Dr. Jesus Marcial, Dra. Laura Elena Castañeda, Dr. Alejandro Velderrain, Dr. Adolfo Martinez, Dr. Victor Montes, Dr. Ruben Miguel and Dr. Francisco Rocha** have all given their time and care to make sure these Children stay healthy after their return.

Neurosurgeon, Dr. Joel Rodriguez has also been back to Cabo several times to attend to the on going care of, **Anibal, Angel, Miguel Angel** and **Eric**, who received operations in March. All are doing well; **Angel** has needed several adjustments to his valve, (actually I have been corrected, in English they are called shunts, sorry) but is now doing very well, he is one brave little boy!

Andres has had to make the journey back to Sioux Falls after a sixteen-day hospital stay here and in La Paz that had us jumping over, under and around hoops to get him the blood and platelet's he needed. He is now recuperating after having this crisis controlled by **Dr. Vinod Parameswaran** who has been his Oncologist at **Avera McKennan** for over a year now. The plan will be to have him stay in Sioux Falls until he is able to gain more weight and go to physical therapy regularly to improve his muscles and strength before coming home again. The illness has taken a lot out of him, and it will take time to gain it back.

The **Santa Josefina Blood Bank** was very sorry not to be able to be open yet for this emergency. **Santa Josefina** is complying with all State requirements before officially opening, and in the mean time, all the staff are traveling to various medical venues for continuing education and training, we had hoped to open in June, but August will be a definite **GO**, so roll up you sleeves all you good hearted people, this will be yet another way for you to give back to paradise. **Blood is Life**, we will be keeping you up on the '**How To**' and '**Who Can**' of **Blood Donation** in the next issue of the **Amigos de los Niños** newsletter, so be looking for it! I just donated for the first practice run.....please don't be wimp's...it didn't hurt at all, just a tiny prick, ten minutes, and that's it. The blood bank is beautiful, as nice as you would find anywhere....so step up and **DONATE BLOOD!!**

A group of us have just returned from a trip to Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as guest of the **Los Cabos Children's Foundation**, **Dr. Javier Escamilla, Orthopedic Surgeon**, **Dr. Adolfo Martinez, Emergency Medicine**, **Dr. Carlos Navas, Directing Physician** at the **Santa Josefina Blood Bank**, **Dr. Eduardo Altamirano, Pediatric Oncologist** for the **Sinaloa Pediatric Hospital** and **Ing. Ramiro Rojas, Director of Amerimed Hospital**, all left on our journey on July 29th. on **American Airlines**, this time the tickets were paid for by an **LCCF** benefactor, supporting how **AA** sends all these children without charge to and from Sioux Falls, well actually Omaha. Think of this when you travel and make **American Airlines** a preference!

The flight took us from Los Cabos to Dallas and on to Omaha where **LCCF Executive Director Jeanie Conzemius**, and her Assistant **Brenda Kuyper**, met and drove us through three states on the two and a half hour trip to Sioux Falls. The first day, we attended Mass at the Spanish speaking **Our Lady of Guadalupe Church** where all these **Special Case Children** have been welcomed and their families supported, and we where later welcomed with a BBQ at the **Minihaha Golf Club** by Sioux Falls dignitaries, doctors and very caring local people. It's a great town, I think we forget that wonderful places like Sioux Falls still exist sometimes, everyone is nice, NO rudeness and everyone wants to help in some way. It was an amazing trip to meet all the people and see the places our kids have gone in South Dakota!

We where later invited to the annual '**Make a Wish**' **Golf Tournament and Banquette**, a heart-warming event where highlights from the wishes of very sick children from the area were highlighted, what a wonderful organization! The next

day we toured the **Blood Bank, Pediatric Oncology Unit, Dr. Kutayli's Cardiology Clinic** and all the rest of the beautiful facilities at the **Avera McKennan Hospital**.

Last, but certainly not least, we attended the first meeting of the **Board Of Directors for Los Cabos Children's Foundation**, I will list them here just so you can see how many very important and busy people have taken the time to work towards the betterment of the children of Los Cabos and with whom we are very happy to share a space on the governing board of this non-profit organization; **The Rev. Bishop Robert Carlson, Jeanie Conzemius ED LCCF, Dr. David Erickson VP Avera Health, Monte Ford VP American Airlines, Barbara Forester Philanthropist, Dr. Marwan Hanna Oncology, Dr. Stephen Carl Pediatric Surgeon, Trisha Pacholski VP Snell Real Estate, Dr. Vinod Parameswaran Pediatric Oncology, Tom Walsh Founder/President LCCF, Cindy Walsh VP Dakota King, Gay Thatcher ED of Amigos de los Niños, AC.**

The discussion was incredible, and I will be reporting to you as the dreams we discussed become reality.....the interest and ideas of this group will have such a positive impact on our community! **Amigos de los Niños, AC.** is proud to be one of the first groups included in this foundation's grants, and to be an important part of their operation here in Los Cabos. We are discovering, with them, new and wonderful ways to help the children.

Amigos de los Niños has received a donation from the famous Mexican 'TELETON' for the past three years, we are very proud of this because these donations **only go to the most respectable and consistent non-profit organizations in Mexico.** These donations are to be used for medical equipment. The first year ADLN purchased a device which is used in our bi-annual **ENT/Audiology Clinics**, the second and third were used to purchase **ten especially custom fitted wheelchairs** for local children. This year, we asked for six computers, desks, and all you need for state of the art computing for the **Cabo San Lucas Special School. Mobilize Mankind** has been working with these children in many ways, at the last event we went to at the special School we were so moved to see a young girl with cerebral palsy named **Monica** using a head set to strike out the letters to communicate what she wanted to say. She concentrated so hard perspiration was sliding down her cheeks; imagine what it would be like to be caught in a body with little or no means to communicate with others. These computers will be used for similar students of the Special School; it will open their world, **Amigos de los Niños** is so happy to be able to provide the through the 'TELTON'. Be sure to watch their 24-hour TV program during the first part of December, it is an inspiring thing to see!

As you can tell when you read these newsletters, **Amigos de los Niños** is networking more and more with other non-profit groups to make our efforts even more significant, **working together will always bring better results!** Amigos is proud to be part of the synergy that will help take Los Cabos children out of the grasp of sickness and need.

And don't forget...in October, 7th to 13th, **Amigos de los Niños** will be holding our largest fundraisers of the year during the **Sammy Hagar Birthday Bash and Meltdown at the Cabo Wabo Cantina!** There will be **Beach Parties** and **Bay Cruises on the Oceanus** for all to enjoy, **auctions, raffles, prizes and entertainment** will abound! **Amigos** raised \$18,000 at last year's events, and we send a big thank you to the **RED ROCKER** for this opportunity. **Amigos de los Niños volunteers from the USA headed by Carla Stead** will be here to help with this effort. If you have something available from your business or person that you would like to **donate to Amigos de los Niños for our auctions and raffles** during these **RED ROCKER** events, please let us know, **call and ask for Vicky, (624) 1443195 and 1433495**, or write to amigospresident@yahoo.com **WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT PLEASE STEP UP AND HELP US MAKE THIS THE BEST YEAR YET!**

Gay Thatcher de Herrera
Executive Director
Amigos de los Niños

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS

December 2006

Mexico A.C. / US 501-C3

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It is amazing that we are coming to the end of **2006**; over **700 children have been helped though Amigos de los Niños**, some with just a small touch, others with life saving medical interventions, they are healthy and alive today because **some of you made donations, both large and small**, enabling **ADLN** to be there so that these **children could survive**.

Unfortunately, we end the year greatly saddened by the loss of **our beloved Andres Galvan**. **Andres** had a bone marrow transplant two years ago at **Avera McKennan Hospital** in Sioux Falls SD, he had become cancer-free, but the long six year battle had proven too be too much. **We send our heartfelt condolences to his family and friends**, and all of those who accompanied **Andres** on this journey. **Rest in peace Andres, and God Bless those who are left behind, we are forever empowered by your courage and grateful for you example.**

The next **ADLN** patient to make the trip to **Sioux Falls** on the 11th of December will be little one-year-old **Mario** who will undergo **open-heart surgery**. God Speed **Mario**, all our prayers go with you and your mother Cristina. The only solace for the heartbreaking loss of one of our children is to try again, and again, and pray for the doctor's hands and the patient's bodies to be blessed for a successful outcome.

In addition to these cases, **ADLN** has held four major '**Free Clinics**', helped over 80 '**Special Case Children**' suffering from sever or chronic illness, and sent dozens to a much needed **doctors exam** to help them through a minor illness or just to keep them healthy during this year's work.

Amigos de los Niños has also been instrumental in helping with the ground work for the brand new **Santa Josefina Blood Bank** now serving Los Cabos, a major medical facility filling a very major need!

These are not small things, they are **bright and shinny** and show the best in all of us. **We all walk in Grace when we are part of this effort. Thank you!**

The Amigos de los Niños Honor List for 2006

**Amigos de los Niños USA
ARVD Foundation
Bisbee Golf Tournament**

Cabo Wabo
Centro Comercial Californiana CSL
Eagle's Wings Foundation
Hacienda del Mar
Haddonfield Rotary
Los Cabos Children's Foundation
Los Cabos Tenders
Pueblo Bonito Group
TELETON Mexicana...and
Our Many Individual Donors

We are humbled by Your Generosity

Along with this list goes, thankfully, a **very long list** of local businesses and people from far and wide who give **in-kind donations**, restaurants, caterers, hotels, car-rentals, news media and folks who bring us toys, clothing, hygiene products and over the counter medicines. Doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, labs, technicians and other non-profit organizations, **without all these people we would not be able to invited doctors for clinics, help children medically right here at home, bring off the important events ADLN holds annually, or be able to supply a community with donated items when they most need it...usually after one of our yearly hurricanes. Please receive our heartfelt thanks and enthusiasm for this cooperation.**

It is never easy to get all of the **monetary donations** together we need to carry out our **Mission**, and even when we do reach our goal for each year, there are **still children on our waiting list, waiting for the money to come in so that ADLN can help.**

It really is, as they say, '**Always the money**'.....but we don't measure it in coins and bills or in small and large checks, **we see it as a specialized physicians, medications, treatments, surgeries, hospitalizations, passports and visas.** And finally we measure it by the result we all cherish, a child and their family whose lives have been changed, made better by the cure and the caring. Many times the caring is what most surprises the people **ADLN** helps, what touches them along with the medical care. Unfortunately, many are marginalized in a rapidly growing society; these people are not accustomed to being noticed, let alone being lovingly helped. **They are overwhelmed when they receive what your donations enable us to give.**

Touching hearts, saving and changing lives is surely a noble and rewarding goal. Please consider this within your mind and heart and hear the voice asking for your help, the voice of a child who will not receive this help if we are not here, with the funds, to be able to do it.

Charitable giving and Non-profit Associations are experiencing their largest growth in history worldwide. Governments, corporations, employees, international organizations, and individual donors are giving as never before.....and even so..... it is an uphill battle. Poverty, disease, environmental and social issues are dark and daunting enemies. **Will we be in time to win? Do we know how?**

The growth in charitable giving and organizing is **saying we do have a plan and the heart to carry it out.** In a place so small and isolated in the universal scheme of things as Los Cabos, **our vision of helping must surely start at home, and home is where the heart is.** So many of you have lost your hearts here at Land's End, and it has been proven that you are **willing and able to do the right thing by the example you have given thus far.**

If it were not for the children we would contain ourselves to just saying **thank you** for what as been so **generously given**, but it is **for the children** who are still **waiting in hope and need** of medical help that makes us continue asking. We cannot be silent and not ask for more. Can you **not** give?

If you have a business in Los Cabos....or have lost your heart to the place, consider a one-time gift or pledge a yearly donation personally or through your business. **You will surely find no greater thanks than through a child's smile. You can trust us on that one!**

Plus.....an immediately issued **US or Mexican Tax Deductible**, now how can you possibly resist a **child's smile** and **lessened taxes?** (ADLN's fully audited annual accounts are available for donors to view through previous appointment. 1443195, please ask for Vicky)

We are waiting to hear from you for **2007** donations to **Amigos de los Niños**, please help us be able to fill the needs of the New Year. What better way to show what you are thankful for in your own and your family's life, or what the significance of the **Christmas and Holiday Season** truly is than restoring a child's health?

God Bless us one and all as we celebrate this Holiday Season here in Paradise...but please remember the many non-profit organizations that work to make it a paradise for all, make sure you spread the joy!

Gay Thatcher de Herrera
Executive Director
Amigos de los Niños