

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS

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Providing Quality Medical Care to Children in Los Cabos Mexico

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Hello again! Whew, 2007 has gone by so quickly with all the Free Clinics, Special Cases and Fundraising Events celebrated by Amigos De Los Niños.... and we barely have time to catch our breath before starting the work for 2008!

We hope you all have had a great year too, thanks to the help of our faithful donors, Amigos de los Niños has been able to accomplish more than ever this year. If you have heard the ADLN story, or thought you might like to help us help the children through a donation of any size, please call us at 624 143195 or send us an email amigospresident@yahoo.com, please, take this step NOW in this season of sharing and become part of the ongoing story! ADLN offers US and Mexican tax-deductible receipts for your donations. Take a look at <http://www.adlncabo.com> to find out more about us, and the children we have served since 1991! We know you have wanted to help...now is the time and it is a perfect way to show your solidarity with the children of the rapidly growing Los Cabos community.....if you live here or are just passing through, leave your mark by benefiting children with medical problems. However you celebrate...Happy Holidays or Merry Christmas.....put some oomph behind the salutation, and thank you for showing you care in this important way!

In the news this year, the ADLN / Los Cabos Children's Foundation project for BCS children with cancer is growing, we have now sent 10 little patients to the Hospital Pediatrico de Sinaloa for diagnosis and treatment, six children were diagnosis with some type of cancer, leukemia is the most prevalent, and others had maladies which were either cured, or an ongoing treatment plan found for them.

2008 will be a very exciting time for this project, Amerimed San Jose will open their doors and within will be a two-room suite dedicated to taking care of these patients with the chemotherapy and hospitalizations necessary. The new hospital is complete with neonatal and pediatric intensive care so we will have everything they need right here in Los Cabos. Dr. Eduardo Altamirano, the well know Pediatric Oncologist who is the Medical Director for the project will be taking a leave of absence to come to Los Cabos and set up this Pediatric Oncology Clinic. The most difficult cases and those that are just being diagnosed will still go to Culiacan, but the ongoing treatment will be done here, and as the project

evolves and people are trained, more and more will be accomplished right here at home.

The world famous **St Jude Children's and Research Hospital** is on board with the '**BCS Twinning Program**' that puts their experience with that of local **Mexican Physicians** in the effort to help children with cancer, this is part of **St Jude's Outreach Program of which Dr Altamirano has been a partner for the past fifteen years**. We are very excited about this; it is truly a **revolutionary step in medical care for BCS children!** **ADLN / LCCF** helped with transportation and creating **Casa Valentina**, a home in Culiacan where the BCS children can stay while undergoing treatment. **Casa Valentina** was founded through the vision of Elizabeth, '**La Mama de Valentina**', as everyone knows her. Little **Valentina** was a twin and was the second of the two babies to be lost to cancer last May. Elizabeth's strength and salvation from this overwhelming sorrow has been to help other children and mothers going through this very painful experience. **Together we have made a safe haven for children suffering from cancer and its effect on the families.**

And....we remind you that the **Santa Josefina Blood Bank** is the only blood bank in the **Los Cabos** area, **it was founded as the first step in the Pediatric Oncology Project**, children suffering from leukemia need blood transfusions and platelets! The benefit in **emergency blood for the community** is also a big plus in this project! **Santa Josefina** has served over **450 calls from local hospitals** for units of blood or blood products helping to save many lives. To be able to do this....**Santa Josefina** needs **Altruistic Blood Donors.....call (624) 1050354** to find out more about our blood bank and how to **donate** or be on an **emergency donor lists** when '**your type**' is needed!

Amigos De Los Niños has taken care of several of our pending **Special Case Children** this year, the lists now run into 60 to 80 cases at any given time...some of the cases who have received **orthopedic surgery through our good friend Dr. Javier Escamilla** were **Jose, Victor, Flor, Lizeth, Monica** and **Jose Juvencio**...still this year **Adrian** will receive a much needed tonsillectomy performed by long time **ADLN** faithful **Dr. Jose Manuel Portillo**. **Thank you to all the local physicians** who help us get the children well, and all of those **who travel here to help children**, and the **wonderful hospitals and medical personnel** who allow our children to be sent to far away places to receive treatment!

Special Case Children Erick and **Jazmine** went to **Avera McKennan Hospital** in South Dakota in the last half of the year, **Erick** is recovering nicely from two orthopedic hip surgeries and neurological test and treatment, he will be home for Christmas after experiencing snow for the first time, **he is a bright little boy who is charming the doctors and nurses up there as much as he has us....even in English now!**

Jazmin just got back to **Los Cabos** after having a **heart intervention** that took her out of danger from **Sudden Death Syndrome**. She is **sweet sixteen** and so glad

to get back to a normal life, we all went over to her house for a 'carne asada' the other night and had a great time...thanks yous from about twenty cousins and a Grandmother who all love her dearly. When we can help a young girl back to health and then see her interaction with family and friends first hand, we really get to see just how much **this collaboration of non profits, doctors and people means, it is incredibly to be able to be part of helping a miracle happen!** When you help **Amigos de los Niños**, you really do help **save and change children's lives.**

While **Erick** and **Jazmine** were together in Sioux Falls in the hospital and at **Casa de Carlitos**, the home started by **Los Cabos Children's Foundation** to help these children and families while they are receiving medical attention, an amazing thing happened. **Jazmine** loved taking care of five year old **Erick** who suffers multiple neurological problems, all were amazed to see that they formed **a very special bond**, **Erick** responded to **Jazmine** saying and doing things **for the first time ever**, through their new friendship, this little boy corresponded with reactions that were amazing...they both still talk about each other and will be furthering the friendship when **Erick** gets back. **Healing comes in so many ways.** A special thanks to **Jeanie Conzemius, Executive Director of Los Cabos Children Foundation**, she takes care of the children sent to South Dakota as if they were her own, they all love her and her wonderful family and she is a big part of this healing process!

Amigos de los Niños, in coordination with the **Cabo San Lucas Special Ed School**, brought in the **ParOlimpic and Pan-American gold medal winning swimmer, Doramitzi Gonzales** in October for the **Special Schools Arts Festival** and a special conference for parents of children with special needs. Doramitzi is a wonderful spokeswoman having herself overcome a disability to become a world-class swimmer. This is an annual project that **ADLN** has taken on to shine a light on these **special needs children** though hearing stories of success and fulfillment told by people who truly know just what they go through. You certainly don't need different capabilities to be moved to tears when hearing just how much of **the right stuff** it takes to do what these special people do...and how the unfaltering support of friends and family make it possible. **ADLN** is able to find these special athletes through our friendship with the **Mexican TELTON**. Speaking of which, the 2007 donation to **ADLN** from the **TELTON** went to purchase early stimulation equipment to be placed in the **Cabo San Lucas Special School**, these are all those tactile 'soft things' that teach special children how to maneuver in this world...brightly colored soft steps, a pool of soft balls and so on, these will arrive in late December just in time for **back to school in January!**

Then on to clinics! **Optometry** in January...**Pediatric Dentistry** in February and June, **ENT and Audiologist** in April and November and **Ophthalmic Surgeries** in May, each one of these clinics takes two months and twenty five letters to the different authorities involved to organize, Secretariat of Health, Customs and Immigration, plus a local physician taking on the responsibility for all the care the children receive, and the after care that is involved. Not to mention the logistics of

getting the team **housed**, **fed** and **moving** around! **ADLN** wishes to especially thank **The Bungalows**, **Sunset Beach** and **Hacienda del Mar** who are our unfailing partners in housing for these visiting medical teams, without them, **ADLN** would not be able to provide this service to the community. **A special thanks** to the **ADLN Office Staff** for their very committed work for the children, without them, none of this would happen, **Rebeca**, **Vicky** and **Yuliana**, you are the best!

And **fundraising events**, thanks to the great **ADLN Board of Directors**, **Mike**, **Paige**, **Sheryl**, **Terri**, **Bridget** and **Jamie**, we had a lot and made a lot for the children! **An Arts and Antique Sale** in February, **St Patrick's Day Party** in March, **Softball Tournament** in May, **Garage Sale** in July, **Volleyball Tournament** in August, **Sammy Hagar's Cabo Wabo Birthday Bash** and **Miss Los Cabos** in October, **RCI Golf Tournament** in November, **ADLN** works hard for the money and **thanks all of the sponsors** who made it possible! Thank you to all the **organizers**, **volunteers** and **participants**, you make our year!

This is **Amigos de los Niños 2007** all-star list of ongoing financial donors, **thank you so much for all that you do**, you make it happen for our children! **Los Cabos Children's Foundation**, **Pueblo Bonito Group**, **Cabo Tenders**, **The McMillan Foundation**, **Eagles Wings Foundation**, **TELETON**, and **The Haddonfield Rotary**, may you all receive the blessing of a child's smile everyday!

So if it sounds exciting, it is! January 6, 2008 **Amigos de los Niños** holds the first **Free Clinic for 2008...Optometry at the Anikan Hospital**. **Merry Christmas** and **Happy Holidays** to all of you, **we wish you every blessing and happiness for the New Year!**

Gay Thatcher de Herrera
Executive Director