

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS

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Providing Quality Medical Care to Children in Los Cabos Mexico

www.adlncabo.com

amigospresident@yahoo.com

Tel: 624 1443195 / 1433495 Fax: 1050577

ADLN reported in our May **Newsletter** on the visit of Pediatric Oncologist from the famous **St. Jude Outreach Program** and also physicians of the same specialty from the Mexican Mainland. This work has continued to go forward and we now are helping **five children with cancer** in the **Hospital Pediatrico de Sinaloa** under the direction of **Dr. Eduardo Altamirano**. This is again is a project in coordination with **Los Cabos Children's Foundation** and the **Baja California Sur Secretariat of Health** that involves children from the whole State.

Amigos de los Niños finds these little patients, or more frequently, by word of mouth they come to us recommended by other families who have been helped through our **Mission**. **ADLN** then does all the work in getting together their papers and medical file and any testing or pediatric evaluations necessary though **Dr. Laura Elena Castaneda**, who helps with **ADLN children** and is part of the **Pediatric Oncology Project**, then we arrange for the patient and one or both parents, as the circumstances permit, to fly to **Culiacan** where they are met at the airport by the medical staff from the **Hospital Pediatrico de Sinaloa**. Once there, they receive the best of care and all have been inscribed in the **Seguro Popular for Catastrophic Illness**, a new public insurance program made available to Mexican children who find themselves in this situation. This insurance covers part of the astronomical cost of chemo therapy and other medicines they will need for their treatment which in some cases is up to two and three years long. This is making a real difference in how these children can find their way to wellness again. **Dr. Altamirano** is on staff with the **Pediatric Oncology Project 'Spirit of Joy'** and cares for the children using his eighteen years of expertise, twelve of those including a program with **St. Jude Children's Research Hospital of Memphis Tennessee**.

Los Cabos Children's Foundation has rented and is renovating a temporary home for these families, as they need to stay for long periods of time in **Culiacan** during treatment. The home has been christened **Casa Valentina** in memory of a child that was lost in her fight to overcome illness. Her Mother, '**La Mama de Valentina**' as everyone knows her, has taken on the volunteer work of organizing and operating **Casa Valentina** through a Foundation she is creating.

As we progress with the plans in both **Los Cabos** and **La Paz** for the facilities to attend to these cancer patients, we will be able to care for more of them here at home and the trips to **Culiacan** will be reduced to only the more complicated

procedures. As the dream is realized, and through training and the acquisition of equipment, **we will be able to do the entire treatment and care for these children right here in Cabo so they don't need to travel long distances.** The first major step towards this goal was the **Santa Josefina Blood Bank (Please call 1050354 for your appointment to see if you can help by donating blood!).** A blood bank is a major necessity for children with leukemia for supplying them with **palettes** and **blood transfusions.**

In other good news, **ADLN held a five-surgery Ophthalmology Clinic** for children with strabismus, **Dra. Brenda Najjar** preformed these surgeries at **Amerimed Hospital** on May 18th. **Gustavo, Irving, Oswaldo, Valentin** and **Gaby** are all seeing much better now! **ADLN** will hold another of these clinics before years end to take care of all the children we have on our list for this type of surgery.

Jose Juvencio received elbow surgery preformed by **Dr. Javier Escamilla,** Orthopedic Surgeon, also at **Amerimed Hospital.** Six more children are on the waiting list for similar surgeries, **as donations come in,** we will be able to schedule these operations.

The **Amigos de los Niños Dental Clinic** on the 12th and 13th of June with **Dr. Greg Psaltis** and his wonderful team went very well, **8 Special School students,** and **40 children from the Los Niños del Capitan school and surrounding neighborhood** were seen to follow up on children they saw in February and look for new patients to take advantage of the opportunity. This will be an **annual clinic** in which we will try to keep up with the children that we are presently seeing, and add new ones as others finish....we should be able to keep these children's teeth in pretty good shape! **The estimated value of the material and service donated by these dental professionals is over \$13,000, Muchas Gracias!!**

Three children are presently being prepared by **ADLN** to be sent to the **Avera McKennan Hospital** in Sioux Falls through the **Los Cabos Children's Foundation** for treatment not available here in Cabo, **Melissa** and **Erick** are sever orthopedic cases and a young lady named **Jazmin** has a sever cardio problem. The future will look much brighter for these children after their visit to the wonderful people in Sioux Falls! **Avera McKennan** has provided over **\$2,000,000** in **pro bono medical care** to our children as well as making **Tele Medicine** available in **Amerimed Hospital** for quick diagnosis between physicians here and there. Thank you!!

The **1st Annual Amigos de los Niños Softball Tournament** was a huge success; everyone had fun as well as a very competitive time! The team from **Villa del Palmar** won the **Grand Final** and all celebrated later at **The Love Shack.** Thanks to everyone who helped and took part, we are looking forward to doing this again next year. The teams really gave it their all and it was a wonderful venue for bringing people together for the children and to raise public awareness of their

needs and how the **Mission** of **ADLN** seeks to help. I heard a rumor that **Beach Volleyball** is next...stay tuned!

ADLN also held a two-day **Garage Sale** with great items donated by our volunteers, **thank you** to all who helped make this a success!

Amigos de los Niños next major Fundraising Events will be during the famous **Bisbee Fishing Tournament** with a first ever **Beauty Pageant** sponsored by **Platinum Capital International** kicking off the week and the **Annual Bisbee Golf Tournament** ending with a great time for golfing fishermen and many locals who compete for the **Best Hotel Team, Restaurant Team, Pros, Closest to the Hole, Longest Drive and on and on....** everyone leaves with a **prize** at this fun tournament sponsored by **Golf in Mexico** and team, there are a lot of great opportunities for getting your businesses name on it though **sponsorship**, take a look at www.golfinmexico.net/BISBEE/ and be part of the fun!

And then, from the 8th to the 13th of October it is **Red Rocker** time again! **Sammy Hagar of Cabo Wabo** fame holds his **Birthday Bash** every year to the great delight of his fans who come from all over the world to celebrate with him during these concerts. **Amigos de los Niños** is always present during these events to celebrate by sponsoring **Bay Cruises, Beach Parties** and the **Auction of Hotel Stays in Los Cabos** during this week of **Rock and Roll** festivities... and also every morning to hand out **coffee and donuts** to the lines waiting to receive their tickets for the shows. **See adlnocabo.com for all the info as it becomes available!**

ADLN is able to help these children through help from others, **be part of this effort and see what richness it can bring to your life!** We will need lots of **volunteer help in October for our events**, please call **1443195** and **Speak with Vicky** if you are interested in having a good time while helping children get well...as always...**the amount of children who need help to overcome serious medical problems never ends in our growing community, nor should our ability to give it**, this requires the availability of **ongoing donations** to be able to keep up with the job, please continue to offer these children the help they need, if not us, who? We are available for your inquiries, and offer **US and Mexican tax-deductible receipts** for you donations.

Thank you!

Gay Thatcher de Herrera
Executive Director
Amigos de los Niños