

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS, AC

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Providing Quality Medical Care to Children in Los Cabos Mexico

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Amigos de los Niños has completed **four Free Clinics** this year, in January our **Third Annual Optometry Clinic** where **522 pairs of free eyeglasses** were fitted and given away.

Our next **Free Clinic** was held in February, **Pediatric Dentistry** where **29 children** from the **Los Niños del Capitan School** and the **Cabo San Lucas Special Needs School** had their teeth checked out and fixed, some of these children have now had **all their dental needs taken care of**, and we have a good list of patients for the next **Dental Clinic**.

In March, **ADLN** offered our third 2008 clinic, this one in **Ophthalmology**. **Four surgeries were preformed** by **Dra. Brenda Najera** to correct strabismus, another **Ophthalmology Clinic** will be held later in the year to take care of the long list of children waiting for this corrective surgery.

April was the first of our **Bi Annual collaborative DIF / ADLN ENT and Audiology Clinics**, **12 tonsillectomies** were preformed and **30 hearing aids given away**. This clinic is now in its **16th year**; **thousands of children have been treated and received free hearing aids** thanks to the last five **Municipal DIF Presidents**, **Amigos de los Niños** and these **generous doctors** who make the trip two times yearly to help the children. Special thanks to **Dr. Jose Manuel Portillo** for being the local responsible physician for this clinic!

Over sixty ADLN Special Case Children who are severely or chronically ill or disabled are doing well, we were thrilled to recently welcome back little 11 month old **Paola**. She had come to **ADLN** as a very small nine month old baby with Down syndrome and a **severe heart problem**. Paola and her mother were in their visa process to **travel to the US for open heart surgery** when **Paola** became very sick. After twenty days in **Amerimed Hospital** under the expert care of **Doctors Guadalupe Garcia, Virginia Samaniego and Rafael Moguel...** which included having fluid removed from the membrane surrounding her heart... she was finally diagnosed to be well enough again to travel. Our friends from **Los Cabos Children's Foundation** step in and **American Airlines** flew them first to Sioux Falls for care at **Avera McKennan Hospital** by **Dr. Sami Awadallah** and then on to **Omaha Children's Hospital** for her surgery by **Dr. James Hammel**. It was a long and worrisome battle with many moments when we were not sure **Paola** would survive, but everyone came through as they were needed and this little girl is

back home and should **be able to enjoy normal life now with her repaired heart! Each doctor and organizations are wonderful on their own....together they are invincible, thank you!**

Major corrective orthopedic surgery with **Dr. Javier Escamilla** has been accomplished for **Mari Sol, Ricardo and Armando**, all are doing well and are under long term treatment to have their cases come to a positive end...stay tuned, and we will update you on them! Thanks also to **Dr. Jesus Dominguez** the Plastic Surgeon who completed a skin graft on **Ricardo's** foot to help it reform perfectly and fit into the **Nike Tennis he so wants to wear.**

ADLN's Special Case Brandon continues his care with **Dra. Guadalupe Garcia**, You will remember that **Brandon** had a life threatening illness and was brought back from death's doorstep. Well, he is growing and now is a **BIG BOY!!** It is wonderful to continuing knowing that these children are thriving. We currently have another baby with meningitis in **Dra. Garcia's** care, we ask your thoughts and prayers be with little **Patricio** as he struggles to be well again.

Soon a new **ADLN Special Case**, a young man named **Jaime**, will be traveling to Sioux Falls through the help of **Los Cabos Children's Foundation** to be treated for leukemia; we all hope a bone marrow transplant will be possible. Meanwhile right here, the **'A' team** of **LCCF, ADLN** and **St. Jude** continue to **provide care for 12 children with cancer from the state of BCS.** These youngsters and their mothers travel back and forth to the **Culiacan Pediatric Hospital** to receive treatment by **Pediatric Oncologist Eduardo Altamirano**. While in Culiacan, they stay at **Casa Valentina**, **LCCF** provided the start up funds for this home and continue with a monthly operational donation so our wonderful friend **Elizabeth Rojas** is able to run the project and help these families deal with the heavy load they are carrying. **Elizabeth does this through the experience of losing her own child to cancer, Valentina's spirit lives on through this wonderful effort to ease the pain of others.**

The first step of this ambitious project toward children's cancer care was the **Santa Josefina Blood Bank** which has now provided **over 800 units of blood products to the Los Cabo area hospitals for emergency trauma or planned surgical transfusion.** This has been a real life saver to our community, before, all blood products had to be brought in from La Paz and that is a very, very long trip for someone who needs a transfusion! Pediatric cancer patients also use many blood products, they often need **blood palettes which are obtain through altruistic donors with a special process called aphaeresis**, basically the same as blood donation but you can do it more often....**and save children's lives! Santa Josefina** is in the process of acquiring this equipment to be able to provide this opportunity for treatment. **YOU may become and altruistic donor by calling 1050354 and making an appointment with the English speaking medical staff. To give blood might be scary for some of you, but to NEED it can be terrifying...act now!**

On June 6th, **Amerimed Hospital San Jose** opened the doors of their beautiful new hospital, and, along with this, the **Spirit of Joy Cancer Project** inaugurated a room which will be dedicated to **the care of children with cancer**. This **beautiful room full of sunshine** with a capacity of two to three beds and an ample ambulatory space for chemo therapy will be occupied by young children who have been handed a very heavy burden for such wee people, **they deserve our very best efforts to ensure that they have what they need...and I am sure we will profit as much as they by witnessing their valiant spirit while passing through this devastating illness and treatment**. Needless to say we are thrilled and in awe that we have come this far in this **vision to help treat and cure children with cancer from BCS**. You will be hearing much more about this project now that we will be bringing the children back, they will need **a donated home here in Los Cabos** to in stay while undergoing treatment, people to help them at that home and the **funds to be able to reach the vision and complete the dream. We know you will be there!**

Amigos de los Niños wishes to thank the **Centro Comercial Californiano, or CCC**, for making possible the rounding off of cents or 'Redondeo' in favor of **ADLN**, we received **\$15,000 from the generosity of all of you who said YES to Amigos de los Niños, thank you so much....you are saving and changing children's lives!** The lovely ladies of the '**Tomatoes**' also have been donating their points at the **CCC** for **ADLN, thank you too!**

And speaking of fundraising....the **ADLN Board of Directors** have been very busy planning and carrying out events to raise money for children. The **St. Patrick's Day Party** at **Miguel Locos Restaurant** in San Lucas was once again a winner bringing in over **\$6,000**. Then it was on to the **Second Annual ADLN Softball Tournament...bringing in another \$6,000...Hacienda Encantada is the champion for 2008, congratulations and thank you to all**. We still have the **Volleyball Championship** up for grabs so stayed tuned for **September!** Then The **Cabo Wabo Sammy Hagar Birthday Bash** in October....and hot off the presses.... **Amigos de los Niños** will be the beneficiary along with the shared children of **Santa Josefina Blood Bank - Spirit of Joy Cancer Project** for the **2008 Mexico Tour of the world famous Up With People Tour...Viva la Gente in Mexico!!!!**

This wonderful **message of hope and goodwill for young people everywhere, from young people from everywhere** will be presenting their show on **Friday August 29th in the Baseball Stadium in San Jose del Cabo and on Saturday August the 30th in the Stadium in San Lucas**. Tickets will be moderately priced so that our vision for every young person in our community to see and hear this message can be fulfilled....if you have a opportunity to sell tickets to these kids through your school or work let us know at 1443195 and we will also provide a few tickets for kids who may not be able to afford them, **we want everyone there!!** If you don't remember this group from the 70's, 80's and 90's, go look at their website at www.upwithpeople.org

I had the opportunity to see the **Up With People Show in Mexico City** a few months ago, the theater was filled and people were dancing in the aisles and singing all the songs along with the **110 strong cast who represent over 20 countries**, I later visited with **cast members from Nepal....Mongolia and the Cherokee Nation**, what a great experience! We also had the opportunity to visit 'Los Pinos' with the cast, this is the home and office of the **President of Mexico**. While we were there, **Mrs. Margarita Zavala, our First Lady came out to welcome Viva la Gente....she too sang the songs right along with them and was very appreciative of the charitable work going on in Los Cabos through all our nonprofit organizations.**

To end June on a jazzy note, the beautiful new development of **Ventanas Residencial** offered a concert every Friday with **Susie Queralt and her band....great music, food and wine were enjoyed by all**. The tickets and silent auction bids were all to benefit **Amigos de los Niños, and we are very grateful. Thank you to Portus, Ana, William and their sponsors for these great sunset evenings!**

So, it is an exciting year **2008!** New things are happening all the time and we are moving forward to keep up with the rapid growth around us! The **ADLN website adlncabo.com** has all our newest information, **2007 Annual Report, Special Cases** and **Clinics**, anything you may want to know as well as our contact information, check it out!

Gay Thatcher de Herrera
Executive Director