

# AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑO

March 2008

Providing Quality Medical Care to Children in Los Cabos Mexico

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**Amigos de los Niños** is now well into our **2008** work schedule, we started the year in January with our **Third Annual Optometry Clinic**, held with the help of a **14-member team of optometrist and students** from **Pacific University School of Optometry**. The clinic took place at the **Anikan Hospital** and **522 pairs of free eyeglasses were fitted and given** to those in need in the **Los Cabos** community during the four-day clinic. **Thank you** to this team and we hope to see you again next year! As always, a big thank you to **Hacienda del Mar** for housing this medical team while they were in **Cabo** and also to **Lazy Gourmet** and **Restaurant H** for supplying box lunches!

The next **ADLN Clinic** was in February, **Pediatric Dentistry** with Dr. Greg Psaltis and his team came to **Cabo** for their fourth clinic. **29 children** from the **Los Niños del Capitan School** and the **Cabo San Lucas Special Needs School** had their pearly whites 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**. The children are so well behaved, and the dentist are so good at keeping them relaxed that it goes by really quickly and nary a tear!

On March 10th. **ADLN held our third 2008 clinic, this one in Ophthalmology**. Four surgeries were performed by **Dra. Brenda Najera** to correct strabismus or lazy eye, and one examination under sedation was completed. The children are now seeing straight and hopefully will have **less of the bumps and scrapes they usually have from not being able to see clearly!** 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 will see the first of our **Bi Annual ADLN ENT and Audiology Clinics**, approximately **14 tonsillectomies will be done and 30 hearing aids given away**. **Dr Mike Rensink** and **Audiologist Jim O'Hara** have been coming for over a decade now offering this service to the children of our community.

**So that is FOUR months, FOUR ADLN Free Clinics and over 600 patients seen by these specialist! It has been a great start for 2008!**

**ADLN Special Case Children** are coming right along too; we have **over 60 cases** and are working our way through finding **medical treatment or on going care for all of them**. **Jesus** had some **VERY large tonsils** removed by **Dr. Portillo** and is

doing much better; he will not have the reoccurring colds and infections now that he had suffered for so long.

**Yesenia** and **Jose** both have undergone **corrective orthopedic surgery** with **Dr. Javier Escamilla**, **Jose** had his **tendons relaxed**, he suffers from cerebral palsy, and **Yesenia** had a **hip and clubfoot corrected**. Both are in body cast that are not at all neat to have on, but we offer the parents and the children a few sessions on explaining how things are going to be for the three to four month healing period while the cast will be necessary. **The parents take on the responsibility amazingly well with this preparation**, it is not at all easy to carry and transport children who are in body cast but they are so anxious to have their children better that they gladly soldier through. **Both children and families are getting along very well.**

**Dr. Francisco Rocha** performed hernia surgery on little **Jesus Daniel** and saw **Jennifer** through an appendix scare which turned out to be an amebic cyst that is all gone now. **Dra. Guadalupe Garcia** is seeing young **Rene** through a kidney problem, although quite serious, it looks like the condition can be handled through a series of intravenous protein treatments and observation with the help of Neferologist, **Dr. Edgar Contla**,

**Dra. Garcia** and **ADLN** also shared an amazing story with a little baby named **Brandon**. We had the wonderful opportunity, and huge responsibility, of helping to save a baby's life, **this is the story**,

Two-month-old **Brandon** was suffering from **respiratory problems** and his family was nervously taking him to a public hospital where he was receiving exams and medicines. **Brandon** hadn't improved after a few days, and suddenly, while in his Mother's arms, **he stopped breathing**. The distraught mother handed the baby to the father, dad responded by **giving mouth to mouth resuscitation** as they rushed to the hospital where **Brandon** was being cared for, when they arrived, the medical staff told them that they would have to **transport the baby by ambulance to La Paz**. The parents knew that **Brandon would not live through the perhaps three hours of getting the ambulance and driving to La Paz**, they knew their child was almost gone and that they needed to act quickly to save his life.

**Brandon's** father works at **La Esperanza**, and knew of the **Amerimed Hospital** through them, he knew that the hospital had the most advanced equipment available in Los Cabos and was the nearest to where they were. He grabbed his gravely ill child and took him there, most fortunately, they found **Dr Guadalupe Garcia** who immediately put **Brandon** in intensive care and on a respirator, she stayed with him for the next 24 hours.

**Dr Garcia** called and asked if this child could be helped through **Amigos de los Niños**, **ADLN** accepted taking **Brandon** as a **Special Case** thus insuring that the baby would **continue his lifesaving care with Dr Garcia** at **Amerimed**.

**Brandon** is now much better ....he received blood transfusions from the **Santa Josefina Blood Bank**; they had the emergency blood on hand, when he needed it. Later, **six donors came in from among the father's friends and coworkers at La Esperanza and donated blood** so we will have it available for the next persons in need.

**It takes all of us to achieve these happy endings to such scary and life threatening situations**, a father whose quick actions kept his baby alive, the **Amerimed Hospital** and pediatric specialist **Dr Garcia** willing to take the emergency case, **Amigos de los Niños**, a non profit to help support the best medical care for the child, and the **Santa Josefina Blood Bank** to supply the emergency blood and the **La Esperanza** donors to replace it!

**But perhaps the most moving moment for us was yet to come.** The day after **Brandon** had been admitted to the Hospital his parents came to see us at the **Amigos de los Niños** office, we talked about **Brandon's** chances, the good medical care he was receiving and the parents thanked **ADLN** for being there for their son. **Brandon's** Father said they would do anything they could in the future to help us with our work for the children.

Well, as we left the hospital, he slipped me a fat envelope and said, **"We can't offer too much, but we want to give you this, we never imagined that there were people like you who would help us in a situation like this"**. I said thank you, **that is what ADLN is here for thanks to the many people who help us**, and that it had been a pleasure to be able to touch **Brandon's** life in this way. I went back to the office where I told the **ADLN Staff** about the good byes and showed them the photos, and then took the envelope out and said.... **they gave me this**, Rebeca opened it and found inside the accumulated tips from the fathers work as a waiter at **La Esperanza**, evidently his coworkers had chipped in too, Rebeca silently counted the small bills and when she looked up to say the sum **she had tears in her eyes, it was almost \$2,000 dollars**, the tears spread as we sat in awe at this final **act of love and generosity** in this **Special Case of baby Brandon**. We were all given very special gifts!

**Amigos de los Niños** has also received the first of our **on going donations for 2008**. Our great supporters at **Pueblo Bonito Resorts** donated another **\$21,000 US Dls**, this time from Time Share Owners, Management and Owners. **CEO and Founder, Ernesto Coppel gave us the check and congratulated ADLN on our work and we thanked him profusely for their continued generosity!** This brings their donations from December and February to **\$46,000!!**

We also received a **wonderful \$15,000 US Dls gift** from a local part time resident trough **Los Cabos Children's Foundation Thank you!** And **LCCF** has also given us the first installment on the **\$60,000 US Dls Grant for Amigos de los Niños for 2008**. These donations are what let us do our work, it is the base from which we can offer **four Free Clinics in four months** and cover the **medical work on over 60 severely or chronically ill children**

The new **ADLN** website [adIncabo.com](http://adIncabo.com) is coming together very nicely and we have all our newest information there, **2007 Annual Report**, **Special Cases** and **Clinics**, anything you may want to know as well as our contact information, check it out, you can **put the sweet little faces to the names!**

I will be writing another **Newsletter** soon, we have so many things going on, but wanted to get you **up to date on 2008, thank you as always!**

Gay Thatcher de Herrera  
Executive Director