

AMIGOS DE LOS NIÑOS

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Providing Quality Medical Care to Children in Los Cabos Mexico

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Hello again, **Amigos de los Niños** is now two months into our busy **2009** schedule, you can find the **2008 ADLN Annual Report** at adlncabo.com to see all accomplished in 2008. We started the year on January the 3rd with our **Fourth Annual Optometry Clinic** held with the help of a **14-member team of optometrist and students** visiting from **Pacific University School of Optometry**. The clinic was driven off track this year by the **Customs Services at the Los Cabos airport**, they were unwilling to let the 3,000 plus pairs of donated eye glasses the good doctors bring with them each year pass through this time, they have a declared value of one cent each, not a lot of booty! Very embarrassing for all.

Unfortunately the community did not receive the **checkups and glasses** as in the three past occasions the team visited; **over 2,000 pairs of glasses have been given away in years past!** We did do a full day clinic at the **Cabo San Lucas Special School**. All the special needs children who attend the school eyes were examined and glasses will be provided by **ADLN**. This was an experience that the optometrist and students loved as they don't get a chance to see many special needs children in their daily practice. As always, the children are more than just special, they are what everyone should be, **happy, fun, loving and very cooperative**. **Thank you** to this team and we hope to see you again next year, **ADLN** is working on all the extra bureaucracy that now seems to be rigor for this type of **Free Clinic**, all Health Department permits are always received, but it now seems that we also have to make an appeal to SAT...the Mexican IRS! As always, a big thank you to **Hacienda del Mar** for housing this medical team while they were in **Cabo, they are one of our mainstays for helping with medical visitors!** **ADLN** had to seek the aid of a customs broker to get the glasses out of hock and I threatened to throw a fit as never seen before if the glasses were confiscated...they were young and impressionable and the glasses went back with the Optometry group!

The next **ADLN Clinic** will be in March, **Pediatric Dentistry** with Dr. Greg Psaltis and his team will come to Cabo for their **Fifth Free Clinic**. They will see children from the **Los Niños del Capitan School** and the **Cabo San Lucas Special Needs School**, then in April the first of our **Bi Annual ADLN - DIF ENT and Audiology Clinics**, approximately **12 tonsilleotomies 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 and

Audiologist Robert Martin has been coming for the past years also to attend the growing population.

Amigos de los Niños biggest and best **Christmas Present** always comes from the great **Sales Representatives and Managers of the Pueblo Bonito and Sunset Beach time share community**. They are such a vital and important part of the life and economy of Los Cabos and we love having them as some of our biggest fans and donors. They showed their love for the children with a donation of **\$30,000 US Dollars!** That is a very impressive amount and means so much to **Amigos de los Niños and the children we serve! We would not be able to do the work without you, thank you!**

But **Pueblo Bonito** and **Sunset Beach** do not stop there. They have shared this **culture of giving with the owners of their beautiful time share communities** and in January, another donation of **\$22,000 US Dollars** was received by **ADLN** from the hands of **Founder and CEO of Pueblo Bonito Group, Mr. Ernesto Coppel. Neto** as we affectionately know him had also put his donation with those of the owners and this donation, along with the one from December makes them one of our largest yearly donors, **\$52,000 US Dollars** goes a long way to getting children well! In addition to this enormous monetary support, **Sunset Beach donates many courtesy rooms during the year for physicians and friends who help with ADLN events through the year.** This feels like a huge hug from these different parts of the Los Cabos resort community, when so many people care everyone feels it.

Leading Hotels of the World recently held an international seminar for their Directors of Reservations at the lovely **Marquis Hotel** in Los Cabos. **ADLN** was invited to speak to the group about our work in Los Cabos and received a very generous **donation of \$55,000 Pesos, thank you so much!**

Discovery Land Foundation has also just confirmed their donation again for **2009**, it is these donations that repeat each year, often bigger and better, that allows **ADLN to keep up with the huge growth and need in our area. In these precarious financial times it is indeed a beautiful thing that the support for children in need of medical care keeps multiplying, thank you all so much for being so dependable and generous with your charitable giving!**

ADLN Special Case Children are coming right along too; we currently have **over 50 cases** and are working our way through finding **medical treatment or on going care for all of them.**

Yoshio and **Jonathan** have both undergone **corrective orthopedic surgery** with **Dr. Javier Escamilla** having their tendons relaxed, this condition is due to spasticity provoked by cerebral palsy and hopefully with therapy they will be able to walk in the future. The lovely **Sara Magallanes, Physical Therapist** has also come on board to help us with the rehab these children need after surgery...this is what makes the treatment really work, having a therapist put the last touches on it

and teaching the parents how they can help the child at home also. Sara is also helping **Ricardo**; the orthopedic patient who had his leg surgically lengthened and foot turned, so his body can get use to his legs being the same length.

ADLN had the very sad experience of losing one of our little heart patients. One month old **Saul** was sent to Culiacan to correct a congenital heart malformation but unfortunately after three weeks of intensive therapy, the doctors could not save him. In Culiacan we are able to make use of the **Seguro Popular** for children with cardio problems needing surgery; this public insurance covers most of the medical cost. Our thanks to **Dr. Quibrera**, **Dr. Valderrain** and **Dr. McFaul** for helping Saul and comforting everyone after his sad loss.

Also traveling back and forth from Culiacan Sinaloa on mainland Mexico for treatment are now **21 children suffering from cancer from the State of BCS**, there is no medical care available for them here in their own state. **Amigos de los Niños** coordinates and does the legwork and the purchasing of airline tickets for most of the traveling these families have to do, The mother and child stay in **Casa Valentina**, a home for them while they are in Culiacan started by the phenomenal **Elizabeth Rojo**, a mother who has lost three children to cancer. **Dr. Eduardo Altamirano**, one of Mexico's most noted **Pediatric Oncologist**, cares for the children in the **Sinaloa Pediatric Hospital** where they use protocols provided by the **St Jude Children's Hospital of Memphis TN with whom they have enjoyed a 20 year partnership-outreach program**. All of this is under the opuses of the **Spirit of Joy** cancer project funded by **Los Cabos Children's Foundation**. The **Santa Josefina Blood Bank (Tel: 1050354)** in Cabo San Lucas is the corner stone in the future plans to bring a cancer treatment center to Los Cabos to provide care for these children without having the added risk and stress of constant long distance travel.

Please celebrate with us at the **Amigos de los Niños 3rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Party at Miguel Locos Restaurant on March 17th from 4:00 to 11:00**. Tickets are **\$25 US or \$350 Pesos** and include delicious **Irish Guinness Stew** and **Green Beer 'till it's gone, fabulous raffle prizes** and **live music by the famous DOS HUEVOS band**.

So, we keep on with the **Mission** of **Amigos de los Niños** through the help of our friends and donors so that fewer children in our area suffer from the pain of not being able to find or afford quality **medical care**, thank you all again for being an important part of these children's lives.

Gay Thatcher de Herrera
Executive Director

