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SEPTEMBER 2018 Newsletter



REFUGIO MAZÁTLAN UPDATE

Refugio Mazatlán seeks to assist disadvantaged adolescent boys so that they can eventually achieve economic independence, and become happy, well-adjusted, successful community members who are socially responsible and altruistic.

The third quarter of 2018 was another successful one for Refugio Mazatlán. We now have 25 boys living at Refugio Mazatlán. Thank you to our staff, donors and volunteers. You are changing the lives of these young men.

EDUCATION AND LIFELONG SKILLS

Our goal is to provide the young men of Refugio Mazatlán with sound educations so that they can subsequently learn lifelong skills such as university degrees or trades.



Ismael's graduation and Kevin with his certificate

The boys finished the school year in June and our first high school student to graduate was Ismael. He graduated from Instituto Pedagógico Hispanoamericano

(IHP) and has now started at ITESUS university to study Graphic Design. He is the proud recipient of the O'Neil McGean Scholarship. These funds were raised at the St Patrick's Day event in 2017. Thank you to Renee Domeier and everyone else who helped with this huge endeavor.

Kevin received an award in recognition of his great accomplishments in Secundaria. We are very proud of our boys as they continue to progress so well academically.

Six boys were fortunate enough to visit Canada this year. Eduardo and Alberto, who were so kindly hosted by Rose and Jason for six months, returned this summer with a much better understanding of the Canadian culture and excellent English. Thank you, Rose and Jason, for your generosity and for the love and time and energy you gave the boys. They will never forget what you did. Four other boys visited Canada for the two-month summer vacation - it was an experience of a lifetime for them and we are astounded at the amount of English they learned in such a short period. We cannot thank the families enough for welcoming the boys into their homes and for creating so many memories for them. Williams stayed with Ralph and Joanne in Kindersley, Christopher with Melinda and Peter in Calgary, Josue with Melody and Rick in Kindersley and Jesus Javier with Cynthia and Don in St. Albert. We are most grateful to these Canadian families who provided the boys with such amazing opportunities.



Five of the boys at a get together in Canada

The boys attend many different functions at their schools including various historical and academic events. They

celebrated Independence Day by donning costumes to school and the boys at "CEBA CUAHUTEMOC" IMSS hosted a Literacy Day.



Literacy and Independence Day celebrations

The boys started the new school year studying hard during homework time. The desks made by Ralph are much appreciated.

At Refugio we do not employ cleaning staff. Instead the boys have assigned chores each week including cleaning the home, doing laundry, cleaning the solar panels, and keeping their rooms neat and tidy.



Studying and cleaning to start the new school year

BIRTHDAYS

Seven of our boys celebrated their birthdays in the third quarter with delicious cakes from Richard and Lawrence. In addition, Joaquin, our driver, and Richard had their birthdays for which celebrations were held at the home.



Birthdays celebrations for Christopher, Kevin & Ian, Jesus, Joaquin and Richard

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities are a big part of the growing boys' lives. They need continual exercise and healthy



Baseball activities

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activities and participate in these both at school and as organized by the home. Misael, who recently joined us as a caregiver and tutor, has done a great job taking the boys out to play baseball where the boys let off a lot of steam and learn about the sport.

In addition, the young men are counseled by our full-time psychologist, Yosmira. She provides both individual and group therapy. This is necessary bearing in mind the ages of the boys and their challenging pasts.



Group therapy activities with Yosmira



Kevin & Diego off to Red Cross camp

Kevin and Diego continue with their Red Cross activities. They both attended a camp in Puebla with their Red Cross colleagues during the summer vacation. This proved to be quite an experience for them. Recently Kevin received recognition for his Red Cross services and was invited to participate with the Fire Brigade and their events.

OUTINGS

Our teenagers are full of energy, but they also need time to relax. The staff have set up a fully packed agenda for the boys that include excursions whenever possible.

In August, the kids took advantage of the warm weather and visited Loma Linda, a nearby waterpark. They also spent time at the beach and swimming pools when possible.



A day at Loma Linda

In September some of the boys were lucky enough to be invited to the Angela Peralta theatre. This was quite an experience for them and gave them an opportunity to

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Courtenay and Lucia are now tutoring high school math, while Ana still offers her literature sessions. Thank you to everyone!



Off to the Angela Peralta theatre

participate in a great cultural event. Thank you, Ana Belen for all your support.

In August four of the younger boys were treated to a vacation which involved a road trip to Zacatecas, Patzcuaro, Morelia and Guadalajara. The journey included traveling through a total of 8 states and each of the cities was a first for the boys. The weather was wonderful, and the kids got to learn about different parts of their country.



Boys swimming and cooking with John & Laurie

The boys need medical and dental treatment on an ongoing basis. We are most fortunate to have the support of a few donors to cover some of these costs.

In August Diego visited the dentist for his new braces. Many thanks to Rob and Carmen for your support.



The road trip for four lucky boys



Diego and his new braces

FAMILY DAY

Every two months the parents or families of the boys attend a "Family Day" at the Refugio. They are counseled on discipline, how to be good parents, and on supporting their children's goals.



August Parent's Day was about discipline

DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

We have many volunteers who help the boys with English, Mathematics, Literature and general mentoring. John and Laurie have been teaching some of the boys English. In addition, they have baked with them, taken them swimming and provided some mentoring. Karen and Patty continue with their English classes, and

THANK YOU!

Many community members donate food and other items from time to time, and we thank them all for their kindness. In addition, there are regular volunteers who cook for the boys on Sundays including Richard and Lawrence, Michelle, Gustavo and Janet. Thank you - we value the gift of your time and energy.

We update our list of "Current Needs" on our webpage (<https://www.refugiomazatlan.org/current-needs>)

There are significant costs involved with caring for our teenagers, including staff salaries, education costs, utility bills, transportation costs, medical expenses and food. Refugio Mazatlán is most grateful to those who help us financially. Special thanks to Tres Islas and The Gems of Mazatlán. Tres Islas provides a weekly grocery stipend and has also contributed generously towards our education expenses. The Gems of Mazatlán made the Canadian summer trip for the 4 boys possible as well as several Mazatlán shopping sprees for groceries, a computer and building maintenance items. Huge thanks also to those who recently made generous donations to cover school sponsorships. Thank you from all of us at Refugio Mazatlán – your generosity is truly making a difference for these young men!

MEET SOME OF THE BOYS

We have provided some brief information about some of our more senior boys so that you can get to know them.



Alonso is 19 years old and attends COBAES preparatoria school. He is taking English classes at Teacher Gabino's and is learning to be a chef alongside Alastair at Water's Edge. His goal is to be a chef.



Enrique is 19 years old and is in his last year of preparatoria at CETMAR. He is passionate about surfing and walks dogs to earn extra money. He is interested in marine biology and fishing.



Ismael is 19 years old and has just started his first year of university at ITESUS doing graphic design. He takes taekwondo classes and works at Looney Bean help cover some of his extra college expenses. His goal is to be a graphic designer.



Williams is 18 years old and attends IHP preparatoria school. He is in his final year of high school. He spent 2 months in Canada for the summer vacation and is working hard at improving his English. He is interested in mechanics or architecture.



Pedro is 18 years old and attends IHP preparatoria school. He has been living at Refugio Mazatlán longer than any other boy! Pedro works at a restaurant to earn extra money. He would like to be a psychologist.



Christopher is 18 years old and attends IHP preparatoria school. He has worked at Topolo Restaurant to earn extra money and was lucky enough to spend 2 months in Canada for the summer vacation. His English gets better and better every day. He is interested in information technology and robotics.



Eduardo is 17 years old and attends IHP preparatoria school. He spent 6 months in Canada with Rose and Jason, studying English every day. He takes part in taekwondo and is interested in human sciences.



Emmanuel is 17 years old and attends IHP preparatoria school. He participates in taekwondo and English classes and he also walks dogs to earn extra money. He is in his last year of high school and is interested in gastronomy.



Josue is 17 years old and is in his final year at IHP preparatoria school. He takes part in taekwondo and plays baseball. He was fortunate to have spent 2 months in Canada for the summer vacation. He is interested in civil engineering and medicine.



Yael is 17 years old and attends IHP preparatoria school. He is in his last year of high school. Yael is very talented in taekwondo and he also attends English classes. He would like to become a medical doctor.



Jesus Javier is 16 years old and attends COBAES preparatoria school. He too had a wonderful two-month experience in Canada. He works hard to continue learning English and is also part of the marching band at his high school. He is interested in accounting and psychology.



Luis David is 16 years old and attends IHP preparatoria school. He plays baseball and walks dogs to earn extra money. He has also worked at Topolo Restaurant. He would like to become a pilot.



Jose is 17 years old and attends IHP preparatoria school. He takes part in taekwondo and English classes. He works as a gardener at a condo building in Centro. He is interested in accounting.

REFUGIO MAZATLAN SUNDAY LUNCH PROGRAM

Are you in Mazatlán? Do you enjoy cooking? Would you like to get to know the Refugio boys while joining them for Sunday lunch?

Our cooks, Celene, and sometimes Joaquin, work hard to keep our 25 always-hungry teenagers fed. Imagine cooking 3 meals per day for that many people! Both Celene and Joaquin are off on Sundays and up until now we have relied on volunteers to come into Refugio and prepare the meals.

We know that many people would like to be involved at Refugio and we so appreciate the support. This season we would like to try something different for Sundays. We thought we would offer a volunteer opportunity for those who might be able to help on an occasional basis. We are seeking one volunteer (or a group of volunteers) per Sunday to prepare a lunchtime meal and bring it down to Refugio for the boys. We would be most grateful if the volunteer(s) could also donate the food itself for this meal, but if this isn't possible we would, of course, also appreciate the time only. Generally, we have all 25 boys every second Sunday and about half that number on the other Sundays (every second Sunday some of the boys go "home" to their families).

We are creating a sign-up sheet and if you would like to commit to one or some Sundays over the next year please contact Nicole at nicole.refugiomazatlan@gmail.com or 669 146 4173.

Meals can be simple but nutritious. The boys eat their main meal of the day at lunch time – 1:30pm. Mexican food is always enjoyed, but they also love just about anything else you might want to prepare. We can give you ideas if you need them.

Many thanks in advance. We look forward to hearing from those who might be interested.

