

WHO WE ARE

The International Friendship Club was founded in 1987. Today there are members from the USA, Canada, Mexico, Europe and many other countries. The Club is a volunteer organization operated totally without personal gain and has been granted Registered Charitable Status by the Mexican Government. The club is operated on a Committee-Structure basis.

The International Friendship Club has 3 mandates: to solicit and distribute funds and materials in response to the humanitarian needs of our community; to promote friendship through social and cultural activities; and to help organize and unite our community.

General meetings are held the second Tuesday of every month at the IFC clubhouse. Everyone is welcome!



INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Edificio Parian del Puente # 13 (upstairs)
Libertad corner of Miramar, El Centro,

Puerto Vallarta

Hours 9 am - 1 pm

Tel: (322)-222-5466

from the US/Canada 1-310-844-7411

www.ifcpv.com

Email: ifcvallarta@gmail.com

ADMINISTRATOR - Josué Santiago

FACILITIES AND BAR

FRED FORBES

Well, another wonderful season is gradually coming to an end for a lot of us snowbirds as we get ready to head back to our home destinations. It has been a great season at the clubhouse with lots of activities happening that were very well attended. It has been a very good season for the social hour with great attendance on every Friday night making for a fun evening and making new friends and enjoying time with old ones as well, and then all going out as a group to a good restaurant for a nice meal, and this has been well attended with everyone having a great time.

I have enjoyed my time with all of you at the social and the restaurants and look forward to seeing everyone again in the next season. I will work with the board to develop some additional social events to further enhance the goals of the International Friendship Club.

I thank each and every one of you for your support and your friendship and hope that all have a great summer and good health and I will see you all here next season.

MIL GRACIAS. FRED FORBES

Facilities and Bar Chairperson

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Mandy MacLeay

We are already the end of the season. I wish to thank all of you who have participated in our various fund raising activities, and to all of our volunteers, thank you all so very much! This club and its goals are based on our participation in one way or another.

We are planning some new events and bringing back some old activities for the next season. I hope they will add to your enjoyment of your time in our little corner of paradise, and through them continue to benefit our community at large.

I wish you all a great summer, keep in touch and I am looking forward to seeing you all soon.

FROM THE VICE PRESIDENT

Bill Le Beau

Elections 2009

The March meeting witnessed the election of club officers for the next two year term. Re-elected to office were:

Mandy MacLeay as President;
Bill Le Beau as Vice President;
Ira Horowitz as Treasurer;
Del Dixon as Recording Secretary and
Helen Powell as Corresponding Secretary.

They will be officially installed at the April meeting. The vote was unanimous and the assembly thanked each of them for their long hours of hard work and dedication.

BEYOND VALLARTA TOURS

Jeana Dunphy and Bret Buskrud

This first year of an affiliation with the International Friendship Club and Beyond Vallarta Tours saw two great trips take off.

The first was a trip to Copper Canyon. Copper Canyon is an amazing destination; the largest (bigger than Grand Canyon) and deepest canyons in North America. In the canyons reside the elusive Tarahumara Indians, who are the runners. Their name itself comes from the Tarahumara word for "fleet of feet". The Chihuahua al Pacifico Railway is one of the engineering feats of the world. Taking 91 years to construct and traveling from sea level to almost 8000ft., it travels through 3 eco systems ending in the clear air of the pine forests.

We stayed in a lovely restored hacienda in the picturesque town of El Fuerte the night before boarding the train, arriving in Divisadero, the highest point in the canyon and the most beautiful, the next day. There we spent 3 days exploring the area through bus and walking tours with a local guide. We had the opportunity to visit a Tarahumara school there and deliver gifts of school supplies which the IFC members had brought. The children and teachers were most grateful and the children sang the national anthem for us. We saw demonstrations of the Tarahumara's dancing, music and races.

Although it was January, the weather was lovely—crisp air and sunny.

Our trip back to Vallarta took us into unfamiliar territory for many of the guests. We celebrated our last night together at the square in Old Mazatlan, dining al fresco accompanied by a local jazz band. A great time was had by all.

Our second trip took us to Guadalajara. Staying at a superbly located hotel in the Colonial Center, we had an opportunity to enjoy a walking tour of the Center with a local guide. The following day we visited Tlaquepaque and we were among the first to enjoy a lunch at David Luna's brand new restaurant Casa Luna. A lovely setting and delicious tastes delighted us all as did the shopping and walking tour. We enjoyed more gastronomical delights that evening at the bull fighter's favorite restaurant in Guadalajara, Sacromontes.

Of course, one cannot miss the famous market (the oldest craft market in MX) at Tonalá where on our last day, we filled up the bus with treasures to take back to Vallarta.

We have all made new friends, seen some fascinating areas and contributed to the International Friendship Club's many worthwhile charities. Our guests also brought back a large bag of small toiletries to be distributed where needed.

Beyond Vallarta tours will be offering these tours again next season to Guadalajara and Copper Canyon, as well as two new tours to Mexico City, and a visit to Oaxaca. It is a

OFFICERS OF THE CLUB

PRESIDENT

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TREASURER

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COMMUNITY SERVICES

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FUNDRAISING

Position open

HOME TOURS

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MEDICAL

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BAR

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pleasure to offer to IFC members a chance to experience other parts of Mexico and give back to our community. Hope to see you along!

If you would like to be on our direct mailing list write or contact the IFC office and leave your email.

We wish you an enjoyable summer and we look forward to seeing you in the Fall!

Current Income & Expenses - As of 2/28/2009

| | |
|---|------------|
| INCOME | |
| Bazaar (Net) | 900.00 |
| Club House Income | 17,310.68 |
| Commissions-book sales (NET) . . . | 3,778.75 |
| Donations (NET) | 1,790.00 |
| Donations – Medical | 142,985.00 |
| Donations – Education | 55,350.00 |
| TOTAL Donations (NET) | 200,125.00 |
| | |
| Home Tour South (NET) | 549,319.38 |
| Interest Income Bank | 725.52 |
| Membership dues (NET) | 76,080.12 |
| T-Shirts (NET) | 600.00 |
| Tour Sales (NET) | 5,000.00 |
| TOTAL INCOME | 853,839.45 |
| | |
| EXPENSES | |
| ADMINISTRATIVE | |
| Accounting Fees | 52,127.13 |
| Bank Fee | 5,342.93 |
| Cleaning Clubhouse | 6,400.00 |
| Clubhouse Expenses | 7,157.17 |
| Clubhouse Rent (Net) | 76,360.00 |
| Electricity | 2,297.00 |
| Internet Website | 1,423.80 |
| Newsletters | 4,674.75 |
| Office Administrative Costs | 21,511.30 |
| Office Equipment | 9,973.80 |
| Office Supply ,Services, Copies . . . | 8,455.12 |
| Public Relations | 2,459.80 |
| Salaries & Benefits | 70,261.19 |
| Taxes Hacienda | 15,075.00 |
| Telephone | 11,161.61 |
| TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE | 294,680.60 |
| | |
| COMMUNITY AID PROGRAMS | |
| Arturo y los Hijos | 23,000.00 |
| Clinica de Rehabilitation | 15,000.00 |
| Food Program Rice & Beans | 25,300.00 |
| Pacitos de Luz | 41,000.00 |
| R.I.S.E. | 20,300.00 |
| Salvation Army | 8,000.00 |
| Special Community Service | 16,500.00 |
| TOTAL COMMUNITY AID PROGRAMS . . . | 149,100.00 |
| | |
| EDUCATION PROGRAMS | |
| Library Annual | 33,330.00 |
| School Projects | 12,691.00 |
| TOTAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS | 46,021.00 |
| | |
| MEDICAL PROGRAMS | |
| Cleft Palate Program | 82,967.62 |
| Patrocinio | 20,000.00 |
| TOTAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS | 102,967.62 |
| | |
| TOTAL EXPENSES | 592,769.22 |
| OVERALL TOTAL (Income minus Expenses) . . | 261,070.23 |

Current Balance Sheet - As of 2/28/2009

| Account | Balance |
|--|--------------|
| ASSETS | |
| Cash and Bank Accounts | |
| Daily Interest Account HSBC | 291,994.58 |
| HSBC | 136,091.43 |
| Scotia Checking | 475,973.78 |
| Petty Cash-Pesos | 1,198.70 |
| TOTAL Cash and Bank Accounts | 905,258.49 |
| | |
| Other Assets | |
| CAFIN Receivable | 66,169.98 |
| Clubhouse Furniture | 10,000.00 |
| Office Equipment | 25,000.00 |
| T-Shirts Inventory | 0.00 |
| TOTAL Other Assets | 101,169.98 |
| TOTAL ASSETS | 1,006,428.47 |
| | |
| LIABILITIES & EQUITY | |
| LIABILITIES | |
| Other Liabilities | |
| Accounting Fees Liability | 0.00 |
| Prepaid | 0.00 |
| Taxes Due Hacienda | 0.00 |
| TOTAL Other Liabilities | 0.00 |
| | |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES | 0.00 |
| | |
| EQUITY | 1,006,428.47 |
| TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY | 1,006,428.47 |

Special Thanks

With all the events held at the clubhouse this past winter I wish to thank **Fred Forbes** for all the time and hard work he has given to the club. His help has been invaluable.

My thanks to **Dale Hanson** for taking some great pictures to promote our events, also **Murray Beer** for his Bridge lessons and Opera lectures, and **Dan Grippo** for his great lecture series on the History of Mexico, and **Beyond Vallarta** for their out of town tours.

My thanks also to **Mike McGee** and all the **Home Tour volunteers** for their contribution to the success of this important fundraiser.

Mandy MacLeay, President

CLUBHOUSE FOR RENT

Thinking of having a seminar, offering lessons or holding a meeting?

The IFC has a great meeting room you may rent at a very reasonable price. Availability and reservation must be confirmed with our front desk secretary For more details please call: 322-222-5466 or email: ifcvallarta@gmail.com

Cleft Palate Program

Thank you all for being so supportive of our Cleft Palate Program. The program makes an enormous difference in the lives of the kids and their families. We had our last program on Feb 4-6 at which we had 12 kids for surgery. Two of them were babies for their first surgery, closing the lip. Three of them were about 18 months old for the second surgery, closing the palate. Two girls age 3 and 6 were surgeries of the soft palate. Oscar, at 11 yrs, was having his 3rd surgery in the series to form an ear. Four of the kids were older - trying to get the nose symmetrical and in the center of the face. For any of you that are interested in getting to know the program and the patients, please call me and we can make a place for you to work in the next program, which will be May 6.

We have a new volunteer, Ma del Carmen Bernal Ruiz, acting as social worker - networking with the patients and their families, and the dentist / speech therapist / pediatrician. This is a very important aspect of the program, making sure the patients are able to make the most of the related therapies we can offer them. We need one more Spanish speaking person to help with this job. You can count on meeting some very interesting people and spending 3 days of program with us and roughly 10 hrs each month between programs.

The new list of orthodontic supplies is on the IFC website. If you have any connection to the dental world please consider our need for brackets, bands and arch wires. Our next Cleft Palate Clinic and Surgeries will be held on April 29, 30 and May 1st.

If you wish to participate please contact Patricia Mendez.

We have several ongoing needs:

- Beanie Babies - not necessarily the Ty brand
- Childrens and young adult books in Spanish
- Sport strollers having a capacity of 70-80 lbs
- TV monitor with DVD player
- Health and hygiene related DVDs in Spanish

PATROCINIO

This last month we were able to help a 13 yr old boy, Erik, who was hit by a car, suffering a broken arm and a broken femur. The arm wasn't much problem especially since he wasn't going anywhere anytime soon with a broken femur. He required a plate and screws for roughly \$5,000 pesos, which may as well have been 5 gazillion as far as his family was concerned. His father supports the family of 5 by collecting scrap metals and stripping wires for the copper to sell. April Miton just happened to be at the hospital with me when I went to see him and meet his family. She went home and told her family about Erik and they decided they would loan him their small DVD player and several movies for the duration of his confinement. That will make it much easier for him to comply with the doctor's orders, now won't it? Bless you, April!

April and her husband, Bill, work for Coldwell Banker in Nuevo Vallarta and have committed to finding housing for the medical team for each program. Thank you, Coldwell Banker!

This will be the last newsletter of the season, and my last chance to thank you for your support and to let you know what we are doing and how you can help. If you are thinking of collecting donations and need any further information while you are up in the north country for the summer, please write us at casatranquila@gmail.com

Community Services

SUSAN HARRIE DAVALOS RN

What a busy season! We are winding down at the IFC. We who stay need your prayers, bright and peaceful thoughts while you are gone. Please remember us.

This summer, I am saddened to think, will be a particularly tough one, as many are already losing their jobs. I find more need than ever.

My passion is keeping students in school and being a nurse consultant to babies. I love babies! I also love kids that like to study. Unfortunately, there are more teen pregnancies happening. I am seeing 13 year olds. The Regional Hospital seems to have many young girls birthing babies. I would like to take this moment to thank the ladies who have helped make layettes and soaps and shampoo packs for the Regional. I have a good amount to get through a few months.

I will repeat from a few years ago; when admitted to the Regional Hospital - you are lucky to get a bed. Sometimes you will be admitted to a hallway and a gurney. There is no admission pack and bath basin full of supplies. No toilet paper or soap in the bathroom and equally as awful - there may not be the life saving meds you need. A family member must stay with you to give you care. They are informed when and what type of medications they need to buy for you (I once met a man who needed a chest tube and he said someone had to buy it and bring it to the hospital). This story brings it back home to us how important it is to come to Mexico with your travel insurance in hand. Please do not come thinking all will be ok. People get sick, the body falls apart and accidents happen. The prices are getting steep in the health care sector. Be smart! Be prepared!

I am already starting to buy school supplies. School will begin in August for the school year. Most kids need a few things right now but I believe the need will be great in August.

Please buy some supplies and leave them at the IFC, I will pick them up. I need colored pencils for all students. Only kindergarteners use crayons. Each child needs a backpack and 7 notebooks (5 lined, for subjects and 2 with squares, for math) and a glue stick. If you can deliver, I will pass it on! Thank you for all that you do for the kids!

Give a big applause to all those hard workers on the home tours! Another very successful season. I really appreciate all their work!

Sincerely, Susan



Kelly Trainor de O, the USA Consular agent, will be in the IFC Clubhouse the first Thursday of the month (9:00 am to 11:00 am) to assist you with all your passport needs or any other information you may require. The last Thursday will be May 7 from 9 to 11 and will be back in October. (day and date to be confirmed at a later time) For further information: consularagentpvr@prodigy.net.mx.