

	<p><i>A refuge where children reach their full potential</i></p>	 Website: www.refugiomazatlan.org
		 Email: refugiomazatlan@gmail.com
		 Facebook: Refugio Mazatlán
		 Phone: +52 669 146 4173 (Eng.) or +1 303-770-4749 (Eng.) +52 669 193 23 01 (Esp.)
		Address: Calle Rosales #1105. Col. Centro, Mazatlán

DECEMBER 2017 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 fourth quarter of 2017 was another successful one for Refugio Mazatlán. Thank you to our staff, donors and volunteers. You are changing the lives of these young men.



The Refugio family before leaving for Pablo's service

IN MEMORY OF "PABLO" SULLIVAN

Paul (Pablo) Sullivan was a strong supporter of the boys at Refugio. He took each of them out shopping for gifts on their birthdays and also gave them lovely Christmas gifts. He started the "Joven del Mes" (Youth of the Month) program, which encouraged the boys to excel both at school and at Refugio. Each winner received a generous prize, which included a tablet to help him with his homework. Pablo also sponsored the martial arts program, something that the young men really enjoyed.

It was with great sadness that we learned of Pablo's passing on 27 November 2017. He was a role model for the boys as he too had had a humble beginning. He taught the boys to be confident and to help those less fortunate than themselves. To honor this great man, our homework room will be named after him.

Pablo, we will so miss your presence, as well as your sense of humor and huge heart!

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.

December marked the end of the first semester of the school year. The boys who attend Instituto Pedagógico Hispanoamericano (IHP) all did so well that they will start the second half of the year later than their colleagues, who did not obtain such good grades. Thank you to the sponsors who make it possible for the boys to attend this school. We can all be very proud of them. And of course, new sponsors to assist with education costs are always welcome.



Some of the IHP boys who participated in a race

The rest of our boys attend four other public schools, and most received very good grades. There are some who still need our extra tutoring and effort in order to attain the standard that we have set for them.

Departure day (January 24) is coming soon for the two lucky boys who are going to Canada for six months. The

goal is to learn English, as well as to experience a new culture. We were most disappointed that their USA visa applications were denied, but nonetheless they will still have the opportunity to live in Canada, thanks to their hosts in Regina, Saskatchewan: Rose, Jason and family. Eduardo and Alberto are so excited!

Many of the older boys have part-time restaurant jobs. Thank you Topolo, Looney Bean, Water's Edge, Pizza al Taglio da Venzi and El Fish Market for providing these opportunities.

BIRTHDAYS

Several of our boys celebrated their birthdays in the last quarter, with five of them in December. Richard and Lawrence continue to bake creative and delicious cakes for each birthday.



Cakes for José, Eduardo, Christopher and Raymundo

December also happened to be the month of Lawrence's birthday. His selfless wish was to have a birthday meal at La Mona with all the boys. Of course, the wish was granted – what a special friend! Thank you, Lorenzo.



Lawrence's birthday celebration with the boys

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Although the young men are quite busy with academic work, extra-curricular activities are also important. They all attend martial arts classes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Cooking classes and music lessons are on Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. Tracy's classes are very popular, and the boys are enjoying learning about nutrition and kitchen skills, and of course they delight in consuming the fruits of their labors.



Tracy teaching cooking



Music lessons underway

OUTINGS

Our growing teenagers are full of energy and it is important that they are kept busy with healthy activities. Our staff designs weekly programs that include excursions whenever possible. This quarter the boys went to Mazagua water park and to a baseball game. In addition, Jerry and his friend, Von, took one of the boys to see a Venado's game. Thank you, Jerry!



The boys enjoying an outing to Mazagua



The boys watching a Venado's game with Jerry & Von

HALLOWEEN

Halloween was a fun evening for the Refugio boys. They all donned costumes and did some trick-or-treating at Plazuela Machado, followed by a fabulous Halloween party hosted by Pat and Merle and Laurie and John.



A scary group!

Pat & Merle's treats

DIA DE MUERTOS



Shrine for Dia De Muertos

Dia De Muertos is a time for all of us, including the boys, to celebrate the lives of loved ones who have passed. We had an altar at Refugio that honored three special people who died last year: two grandmothers and O'Neal McGeen.

CHRISTMAS

Although many of the boys went to spend Christmas with family members, we did have some celebrations at Refugio before they left. Rosie from Gaby's Beauty Shop, together with her friends and clients, generously hosted a Posada at Refugio, providing pizzas and drinks. They also gave the kids Christmas gifts that contained much-needed clothing. Gracias Rosie!



Posada kindly hosted by Rosie and friends

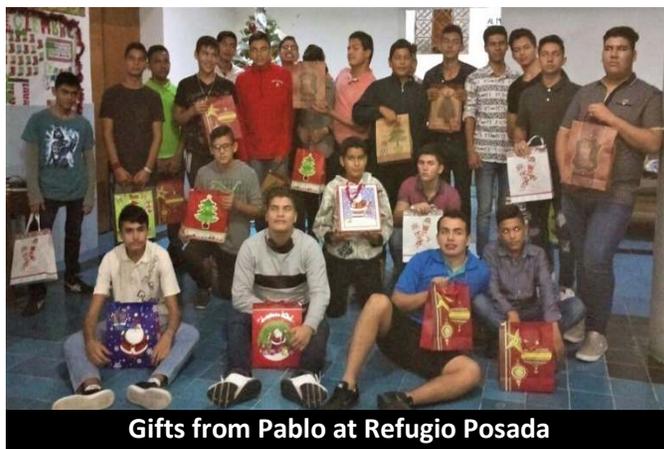
Many thanks to Tres Islas Orphanage Fund who provided funds for gifts of clothing for each boy.



Gifts from Tres Islas

DECEMBER 2017 Newsletter

Refugio held a Posada for the boys as well. It included a taquiza, gifts from Pablo, several piñatas and a juke box. The juke box was very popular, and the boys had a fun evening!



Gifts from Pablo at Refugio Posada

Debbie had an "Angel Tree" at her salon, Tippy Toes. She and her customers generously donated gifts of enough money for us to purchase quality new sneakers for all the boys. We are very grateful for this kindness.

DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS



Jan & Chris with José

Thank you, Jan and Chris, for so kindly sponsoring the cost of braces for José. His smile is getting bigger and brighter every day, as is his confidence.

Many community members regularly donate food and other items, and we thank you all for your kindness. Not only did Greg and Renee bring in lots of meat for our (previously) bare freezer, but they also asked all their guests at their holiday party to bring along donations for Refugio. We greatly appreciate this generosity.

We keep our list of "Current Needs" updated on our webpage.

Thank you also to our kitchen volunteers and English teachers. We value the gift of your time and energy.

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. Thank you from all of us at Refugio Mazatlán – your generosity is truly making a difference for these young men!