



Dec 2011

Chicxulub Food Bank Program

I was asked about the logo that is always present on the newsletter banner and anything else to do with the Chix Food Bank Program and seeing it has been six years since I last talked about it, here it is again! The ***Assumption of the Virgin Mary*** or ***Virgen de Asunción*** is the patron saint of Chix and we chose her as the representative of the Food Bank. Her celebration is in August of every year.

The logo is the design of Janet Rowley, an American artist who sometimes winters here in Chicxulub.

The logo represents the Virgin and child and both are appropriate symbols for the focus of the work done by the Food Bank.

Chicxulub Christmas tree in the parque decorated with handmade sea items like octopus, shells, mermaids etc.



This month's despensa was a bit of a challenge and took the work of everyone involved to make it happen and get it done! But get it done we did!

These folks worked hard on the 14th to shop and package in record time. Then on the 15th these folks and a few more worked to get the despensas out, as well as the Christmas hampers and vitamins for the kids. It took us about 1 ½ hours but we got it done!

Santa came out of the mothballs and again was the star of the show for young and old alike.



As we started off we were all excited and full of energy.





Yahir from the newborn program is a year old now and although he sat (laid) on Santa's knee last year, this year he is busier. Here you see him wanting to grab Santa's beard and we only hope he doesn't get a hold of it on Sunday.



Check out the smile on this young fellow who

could not stop looking at Santa.

No-one was shy asking for a picture with Santa. Cristina wanted her picture with Santa and she gave us a lovely smile.



Senie was also intrigued with Santa and was seriously checking him out.



These kids seemed to be asking Santa "have I been good this year?"

This next one seems to answer the question; "I think we were good."



Even the Vitamin lady was busy and enjoying herself...



Christmas Party

I could upload tons more photos for you to enjoy but I need a bit of room for the photos from the kids Christmas party...suffice it to say the day was a success and everyone went home tired and satisfied!

The kids' Christmas party was another hugs success and thanks to Bamboo beach and their staff along with the volunteers everything went off well.

Santa and his elves were prepared to receive 150 children when in actuality there were over 200 in attendance and we ran out of everything. Some of the kids went home with chocolates or cake or a candy cane but still seemed happy.

The dilemma for next year is how to do it without running out of toys. I am asking all of you to check your closets and basements for left over toys from

your grandkids. Remember the ones we would get from McDonalds or Wendy's? That assortment would be a perfect solution for the toy box. Nothing big or costly, just simple toys from Santa.



Look at the face!

In case you don't recognize Santa here is a photo of him relaxing the day



before, practicing his smile...
let's see him at work!

Now

Newborn Program

The funding for this program was once again received from the International Women's Club in Merida. The funding allows for the mom and babe to receive a carton of formula and vitamins for the first six months of their new life. The remainder of the package received by mom contains donated baby clothes, a baby quilt donated by a woman in Winnipeg and warm blankets for the winter months. Please think about donating gently used baby clothing you might have in your closet. The moms are most appreciative. Our families average 4 new babies a year.

On the 15th we saw the babes that you have helped over the years since this part of the began with the oldest being 3 years and the youngest one Ernesto 3 months.



Albergue de San Joaquin

The Albergue now has 3 students from the UADY University who are coming to do their practicum and senior experience with the residents and staff. The supervising professor lives here in Progreso which is a bonus.

Christmas Week with their chocolates



Cookbook Project

Have you sent in your favourite recipe for the cookbook project? If not, please send your recipes, biographies, and interesting information to: chixcookbook@gmail.com. The idea is to create a cookbook with recipes tried here in the area so long as the ingredients are available and the sky is the limit!

Adopt-A-Family Program

As you know the success of the food despensas relies on your donations of \$75 to cover the cost for one year. As your donation comes in you are assigned a family. If there is anyone who wants to know about your adopted family please feel free to ask the question and I will send you a photo and summary.

FYI: the program year runs from November to October.

Purpura Plastika

We hit YouTube! I am sending you the link from the report done on the last day of the workshop when Oscar from Progreso hoy came to interview the instructors and kids. He did a great job with the kids, I am so proud of them and all they have absorbed over the 12 week project. The plan is to have more workshops and develop some of the kids who are demonstrating leadership abilities. Anyway have a look at the video and don't worry if you can't understand much. Just watch the smiles and enthusiasm each kid has for what they have learned and the pride in their voices.

http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=JAO5N5B869Y

Sport Camp

It was suggested that we make a list of common baseball terms in both Spanish and English so the volunteers and kids can relate better. One of the boys, Matias will be working with a volunteer, Dennis to develop the list.

English

Planning is in the wind for English classes at Andreas Quintana Roo, afternoon session to begin sooner rather than later.

English for Adults will be offered from January to March at Nakuk Pech in Chicxulub. So encourage anyone you know who is interested in learning.

Activity Group

Planning is in the works for the activity group to start up again but with a stronger connection to the classroom setting. Many kids are interested.

Items required:

- Wool;
- Toiletries;
- Knitted slippers
- Toner cartridge for an HP Laser Jet 4 92208A for Andres Quintana Roo elementary school. Yes this is the correct number and if it cannot be found I guess the printer is passé. Thanks for looking.

- Any leads on buying a Canon projector

Here is some local news to keep you up to date:

More on Local Yoga Classes

Sol Y Luna Yoga is a community of blossoming yogis with Hatha Yoga classes to increase your flexibility, balance and strength; Restorative Yoga Classes for a gentle and relaxing practice; Meditation and Breathing Classes if you are looking for a way to relieve stress, enhance health and well-being, and promote a good night's sleep.

Your instructor, Tamara Stojadinovic is a Yoga Alliance Certified Instructor and received her training at Namah Shivaya Yoga in Dallas and has studied Thai Yoga Applied Therapy with world renowned Kam Thy Chow of Lotus Palm in Montreal.

Tamara has taught yoga in Progreso for over a year and volunteers once a week at the Albergue de Ancianos where she teaches a Chair Yoga Class.

Please feel free to contact her by phone at 999 322 2457 or Tamara Stojadinovic at mail@solylunayoga.org or connect with Tamara Stojadinovic through Face book!

Slow Market in Progreso

This is open every Sunday and from what I have heard it is fast becoming a favourite place to include on shopping day for many of the ex-pats.

After Christmas the market will be open on Mondays at the same location. All comments thus far have been positive so plan to visit. Apparently this is the place to go for lamb.

Progreso Pastas

A new eat-in/take out/delivery service located close to the nursing home that offers delicious food with ravioli and lasagna being favourites. Owned by Clay and Jonathon who are committed to giving back to the community have hosted 2 fundraisers for the programs in Chuburna and Chelem. Soon to come is the fundraiser for the Chix Food Bank in early January so watch for more information.

House for Rent

A large house on the beach is available to rent. If you are interested let me know and I can send you photos and information.

Condo for Rent

There is a new condo on the market at Neek Kan. It is a 2BR with den and if you are interested let me know. So far is rented in February.

Electric Scooters for sale or rent

This is good information if you require one or have a visitor who has mobility issues and needs help getting around. There is someone who will either sell or rent by the day a Travel Pal electric scooter. Information available on request.



Travel Pal

See you soon.

Tax Donation Process

The process for making donations to the Canadian Food for Children organization who will send you a tax receipt has been working very well. Comments to me indicate they are efficient and prompt. I receive notification from their office when funds are transferred to the Food Bank account.

Here is how you do it.

All you need to do is write the cheque to:

Canadian Food for Children

40 King George's Road

TO Ontario

M8X 1L3

Attention Mary Reid.

Include my name and Chix Food Bank project and they will issue the receipt and deposit the money into the Food Bank account here in Mexico.

Ensure you add your email address on the back of the cheque so you can receive the monthly newsletter.

Please advise me if you are making your donation in this manner so I can keep the records straight for the Adopt A Family program.

The families of Chicxulub thank you for your caring and warm support.

Sharon Helgason