



Oct 2011

### Chicxulub Food Bank Program

What a reminder this morning (Oct.14<sup>th</sup>) of how things work here when we went shopping. Dunosusa had all new staff working and they were not sure what they were doing. We needed things they ran out of and had to order from another branch. Instead of us going to pick them up the manager said she would have them brought over to her store. Well I assumed they would have a small truck to do this task but once again I was wrong and off went one of the new, young employees to the other two branches on foot with a dolly to bring the items back. Thirty minutes or so later, a search party went looking for him and there he was, coming back through the streets with his order. Next time we will pick them up ourselves.

Although next time I anticipate the service will be much better and faster....we shall see. Even with all this fuss, we were still short 8 bottles of oil. I have no idea where my math goes wrong but it does and it drives me quite crazy!

This has been a very wet week but the rain gods held off until we were done. It was a bit of a mixed up morning but we got through it okay. Rita was there along with 2 new volunteers, Lyn and Dorota who were very helpful.





## **Albergue de San Joaquin**

Well exercise group is back in swing and the residents missed us and were there front and centre on the first day. No encouragement needed. We are going to try something new next month so stay tuned for an update.



## **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](mailto: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!

## **Purpura Plastika**

I missed this weekend's workshop but hear it went well. There have been a few comments from some of the local residents saying there are changes within some of the kids and they are more settled. I wonder if this is the spin-off we are hoping for. The children learned how to mix their primary colours in preparation for painting on a canvas.

## **Familias Por Un Chicxulub Mejor (Families for a Better Chicxulub)**

Now you have a chance to meet some of the local people who are volunteering their time working with the Food Bank. They are keen to introduce us to their way of life and customs...how will they do that?

Under the banner of The Chicxulub Food Bank we will be holding a variety of sessions that will include things like traditional dancing, games, food and customs.

The first event will be held Saturday November 5<sup>th</sup> at 7PM and will be focused on **Hanal Pixan**. Hanal Pixan is a Mayan term for their celebration of the dead that begins October 31<sup>st</sup>. The 31<sup>st</sup> is for children while Nov. 1<sup>st</sup> is for adults and the 2<sup>nd</sup> for everyone who has left this life. Favourite food of the deceased and traditional food is placed on an altar for deceased family members.

There will be a presentation on how to create an altar and the significance of the various items you might see. There will be 4 altars on display so you can actually see what the finished presentation looks like and ask questions.

There will be an opportunity to purchase traditional food served during the month of November like mucbil pollo (pib), tamales, Xec (sheck) and various candies (dulces).

There will also be a short presentation of traditional dances from the Aztecs, Jalisco, Chiapas and Yucatan performed by a group of young women who call themselves "Las Ballerinas' del Food Bank."

The second event is planned for January 25<sup>th</sup> and will include dancing, games, food and more customs yet to be determined. Any suggestions?

### **Sport Camp**

The kids want to know when baseball starts again. They are anxious to get going and are hoping for a longer season. I have explained to them that it all depends on the snowbirds and when they arrive and who is available. Please let me know if you are interested.

I would also appreciate feedback on how the camp might change from last year so if there are any thoughts please send them on.

### **English**

English Class is another hot topic and whether or not we will be offering it again this year. Same answer as above so please let me know if interested. I would like to structure the classes at the schools with an ESL or retired

teacher as the lead person and her assistants would be interested volunteers.

I would like to have someone volunteer(s) to teach a class at Nakuk Pech in Chicxulub to interested adults and some older children who are interested.

### **Activity Group**

Again the English activity group would be linked with the classroom learning to further consolidate the learning experience. Please let me know if you are interested in both/one of these activities.

Items required:

- Wool;
- Toiletries;
- Knitted slippers
- Toner cartridge for an HP Laser Jet 4 92208A for Andres Quintana Roo elementary school
- Any leads on buying a Canon projector

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

### **Red Tide and Arrival of Octopus**

The red tide threatened the coast of Progreso/Chicxulub but did not develop into the expected threat but what it caused was a rare phenomenon called "la arribazón. Octopus arrived close to the shore in Chicxulub and for 2 days the local people were in the water as early as 6:30 catching octopus by hand, net or rake.



### **Explosive Norte**

This is happening right now and caused the cancellation of the cruise ship due today and the beaches are covered with waves and probably lots of shells once it settles down. However the temperature is warm so it is only the sound of the wind that makes it seem like a snowstorm in Canada.

### **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.

### **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 in a few short months.

### **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