



Feb 1 2012

Chicxulub Food Bank Program

The early part of the month has been busy getting ready for Carnival with many folks planning to attend. And once again the monthly despensa event ran smoothly and the 80 registered families received their food under sunny skies and with lots of laughter. The volunteers were out in full force practicing their Spanish and giving a smile or hug to many of the family members.

Everyone enjoyed a visit from Rita who helped begin the Food Bank!



Annual Bingo Fundraiser

On January 26th, the Food Bank had its' 3rd annual event and it was a lot of fun and raised some 8440 pesos which is enough to buy the groceries for one month for the 80 families with a bit left over for the school psychology program. Thanks to all of you for making this a reality.



Newborn Program

First new baby of the year (that I know of) is due in May and we have some great knitters making wee toques and sweaters for the new arrivals. Here are some of our vitamin babies this month...all looking very healthy.



Eric 7 months



Luis 3 years



Andrea 4 years



Check out the knitted dolls for the newborn packages made by Rose from Wisconsin!



These are the newborn fairies getting the packages ready for 2012.

And a big thank you to Ottawa based Wabi Sabi who donated yarn to Andrea and Alexis to knit items for the Food Bank families...just have a look at their



output

Albergue de San Joaquin

The work group, under Daniel's direction has grown to 8 members and has been busy working through the list of projects that Sister Conchita has given them. Last month it was the removal of the concrete beds in some of the rooms followed by cleaning the cistern and painting some rooms.



The guys had a chance to meet and work with a local volunteer who visits the home weekly.

Then it was on to pruning and trimming some of the jungle-like growth and a new challenge of topiary...check this out.



Now if only the paint would arrive!

Then there was the crowning of the king and queen for Carnival and here they are in all their splendor...



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! Deadline for recipes is June 30th 2012.

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's fiscal year is from November to October.

There were 4 families whose sponsors did not return and Andrea, a new volunteer this year, took it upon herself to raise funds to cover 3 out of the 4 families. Wherever I saw her she was knitting or crocheting up a storm! And lo and behold she did it in time for the families to receive their February despensas. These are the coasters/that Andrea sold 4 x \$50 and



raised enough for her 3 families.

Thanks so much Andrea from your families!

Sport Camp

Here is a photo from the early days this season and the team. Don't they all



look like winners? Every Saturday at 0930 the group is in the camp in Chicxulub ready to have fun and work a bit!

English

Susan has begun her class with the kids at AQR grade VI and reports a good time.

A second group has begun classes with the grade 5s under the direction of Marge.

English for Adults began this month at Nakuk Pech in Chicxulub and the first class had an attendance of 11 adults and teens. The course began on January 09, 2012 and will end on March 23. Ralph has had 2- 1½ hour classes each week. There has been a variety of students both in age and abilities. The challenge is developing a good language learning environment when attendance is inconsistent. Thanks Ralph for taking this on.



Activity Group

Sorry that I have no photo of this fun group but I hear the kids don't want to go home at the end of one hour...they are having a lot of fun.

Items required:

- Wool;
- Toiletries;
- Knitted slippers and toques
- Toner cartridge for an HP Laser Jet 4 92298A for Andres Quintana Roo elementary school. My eyes are failing me as this is now the correct number; I think it is as difficult to find as the previous number...sorry! Thanks for looking.

- Any leads on buying a Canon projector or microphone.

Cruise ship visits:

We have hosted 2 groups since the beginning of the year from the Carnival Elation representing the States of Missouri and Alabama. The folks arrived with school supplies and toured the school and village to gain a better understanding of the issues of the area.



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

- The Chix/Progreso bus route now has 2 air-conditioned buses to take us back and forth. Same price and much more comfortable.
- The Food Bank has received a lovely car seat to rent for a newborn to 6 months of age. It became law in June 2011 for all children to travel in a car seat. If you know someone in need this seat is available for 20 pesos a month.
- **Bamboo Beach**, the home of the Chix Food Bank has made some changes to their menu so drop in and check them out.
- **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 it is rented in February.

- Another new restaurant opening Feb. 19th on Calle 27 at 50 called **Pequena Mezcla/A Little Mix Restaurant** offering a mix of Mexican and Canadian food. Check it out.

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