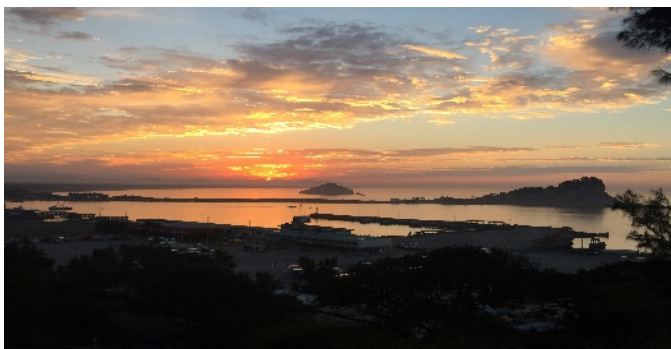


	<p><i>A refuge where children reach their full potential</i></p>	 Website: <a href="http://www.refugiosanpablo.org">www.refugiosanpablo.org</a>
		 Email: <a href="mailto:refugiomazatlandir@gmail.com">refugiomazatlandir@gmail.com</a>
		 Facebook: Refugio Mazatlán
		 Phone: +52 669 146 4173 (Eng) or +1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

## MARCH 2017 Newsletter



### REFUGIO MAZATLAN 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 first quarter of 2017 was a very successful one for Refugio Mazatlán. Thank you to the staff, donors and volunteers who are changing the lives of these young men.

As you may have noticed, we have recently changed the name of our “casa hogar” to Refugio Mazatlán. The previous name, Refugio San Pablo, was too similar to Hogar San Pablo, and caused confusion.



We are pleased to report that in January 2017 we were granted “donataria autorizada” status by SAT, the Mexican IRS. This permits us to receive tax-free donations from Mexican companies and individuals. We are therefore now able to issue tax-deductible receipts

to Mexicans. Huge thanks to our accountants for all the hard work they put into reaching this goal.

As a reminder, residents and citizens of the USA are also able to make tax-deductible donations via Un Futuro Mejor, Inc, a registered 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. [www.unfuturomejor.org](http://www.unfuturomejor.org)

### NINETEEN BOYS

Refugio Mazatlán is currently home for 19 young men. Six of them are in middle school, twelve are in high school and one is in university.

Our professional staff of seven remains committed to taking care of the wellbeing of the boys with a focus on education.



**Our very capable staff**

### EDUCATION AND LIFELONG SKILLS

Our boys continue to attend public schools or universities and we supplement education through tutoring programs at the home.

We are proud of the academic success of our boys. They are dedicated and hardworking and the majority of them improve their grades each semester.

We are currently in discussions with some private schools in Mazatlán regarding scholarships and tuition discounts. Some of the boys have successfully taken entrance exams at these schools. Ideally, we would like to be able to send those boys with the capability to private schools for the last 3 years of high school (Preparatoria). We feel that these years in a private school will better prepare the boys for university or trade school. Hopefully the schools will provide generous reductions, as the extra costs involved will be substantial for Refugio. Thanks for all the help Gaspar.

We plan to establish a sponsorship program that will provide donors with opportunities to sponsor the education of one or more of the boys. Please contact us

if this is something in which you might be interested.

Refugio supporter, “Pablo” Sullivan has started an incentive “Citizen of the Month” program. The boys are



**“Pablo’s” first citizen of the month**

evaluated based on the following criteria: grades, responsibility, punctuality, respect, discipline, participation, organization and cooperation. The “winner”

is presented with a certificate and a very generous prize.

### ST. PATRICK’S DAY FUNDRAISER

A big thank you from Refugio to all those who attended the very successful St. Patrick’s Day Dinner. The event was to honor O’Neil McGean who sadly passed away in 2016. O’Neil was one of Refugio’s first volunteers and the O’Neil McGean Scholarship Fund (OMSF) was established to memorialize this special friend, and to encourage the youths at Refugio to emulate the qualities that endeared O’Neil to so many in the Mazatlán community. We were blessed with a beautiful Spring evening on March 17, and close to 90 people attended the event. We are very grateful to Renee Domeier who led the charge, and to her committee of tireless volunteers. Greg Domeier, Tracy Laughlin, Gustavo Gama and their team created a delicious traditional Irish dinner of corned beef and cabbage. Our heartfelt thanks to everyone who made the evening possible. Almost \$100,000MXN was raised for the OMSF.



**St. Patrick’s Day Fund Raiser**

### BIRTHDAYS

Birthdays are important events in the Mexican culture and therefore to our boys. Several of them celebrated their birthdays in the last quarter and enjoyed Richard and Lawrence’s wonderful cakes that they have come to anticipate with much excitement.

In addition to having these delicious cakes, birthdays have now become even more special. Pablo generously takes the birthday boys on shopping sprees for gifts of their choosing.



**Birthday celebrations with “Pablo”**

### EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Our boys continue with extracurricular activities that suit their individual preferences including baseball, soccer and basketball.

English classes are still taught twice a week by our two volunteers, Karen Martin and Patty Hall, and Ana Belen offers a literature class.

We received a donation to purchase guitars for the boys and they are now enjoying guitar lessons at Refugio.

More recently, Pablo has arranged for martial arts lessons for the boys, three evenings a week. All the boys attend and they are thoroughly enjoying the classes, which are great for their mental and physical development. Thanks Pablo!



**“Pablo’s” martial arts lessons**



The kids also took part in a surfing, soccer and pizza afternoon hosted by Back2Back and several of their US visitors.



**Camaraderie at the Refugio**



**Surfing lessons with Back2Back**



**Las Labradas Petroglyphs**

In addition, they visited Las Labradas Petroglyphs north of Mazatlán.

### OUTINGS AND EVENTS

The boys need stimulation so they go on regular outings. Fortunately, some of Mazatlán’s beautiful beaches are within walking distance of Refugio and the boys love to boogie board and surf. If anyone has any boogie boards they aren’t using you know where to bring them! Occasionally the boys receive invitations from Refugio friends, like Jerry Wyshnowsky. The friends might take them out for lunch, to the movies, to their swimming pools, or for a bike ride.



**Boys having fun at Lucha Libre**

In March the boys attended an exciting “Lucha Libre” fundraising event that involved wrestling from local professionals.



**Lucha Libre Fundraiser**



**A beach outing**

In January, we were most fortunate to have a visit from golf professional, Steven, and his partner, Emily. They not only painted our homework room but they also organized a most entertaining putting competition. They brought along some very thoughtful prizes



**Putting competition with Steven and Emily**

### CANADIAN ENGLISH PROGRAM

In February, we were honored by a visit from the Trehas family and their friends. In 2014/2015 Rose and Jason hosted two boys in their home in Canada for almost a year. The boys enjoyed a life-changing experience and returned speaking wonderful English. We are thrilled that they will host two more of our boys starting in January 2018. Thank you Rose, Jason and your family



and friends in Saskatchewan for providing this opportunity for our young men!

## WORK

Some of our boys have been able to secure part time jobs in their free time including gardening, dog walking and restaurant work. We are most grateful to The Water's Edge, Looney Bean and El Fish Market for giving our boys these opportunities. It provides them a chance to develop new skills, manage their money, learn responsibility and balance their time.



**Some of our working boys**

## TRES ISLAS

Tres Islas is a special friend of our home, providing much needed support for food and other supplies. Several of their donors and board members visited Mazatlán in March for their Spring Mission Week. They held a barbecue for the six Mazatlán orphanages that they serve (including Refugio Mazatlán). The boys enjoyed the many activities that were organized for them, as well as the opportunity to socialize with kids from the other homes.



**Tres Islas BBQ**

In addition, several of the Tres Islas team visited Refugio and kindly painted the dormitory and TV room.

## MARCH 2017 Newsletter



**Tres Islas painting our casa hogar**

## FAMILY DAY

Families are an essential part of the success of the boys. They are encouraged to stay actively involved with their boys including visiting them regularly and applying the same rules and limits at home as we do at Refugio. We had a very successful family day in February that was well attended and enjoyed by all. Once again Tracy Laughlin, Barry Johnston and Sam Koester made a delicious lunch for all. Additionally, this team continues to make nutritious meals every Sunday (and often on other days too) for the boys – thank you!



**Family Day February 2017**

## DONORS AND VOLUNTEERS

A large amount of support is provided by several generous donors. Donations include cash for specified or general items, kitchen equipment, computers, games tables, bicycles, food, supplies, clothes, etc. We keep the list of Current Needs updated on our website.

In addition, many provide their time to support the boys with undertakings such as cooking, teaching, playing sport and games, and organizing fundraisers.

There are significant costs involved with caring for 19 teenagers, including staff salaries, education costs, utility bills, transportation costs, medical expenses and food. Refugio Mazatlán is most grateful to those who provide us with such great support.