



Hi Everyone,

So much has been happening, and I've gotten behind on reporting again, so here's some of the latest news that I can get quickly out to you. More in-depth reports coming soon on specific events and activities shortly.

COTA Receives 4-Star Rating...Again



Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most utilized online evaluator of non-profit charities has again awarded COTA its highest rating--4 stars.

Charity Navigator analyzes and evaluates the IRS returns of thousands of charities every year and publishes their reports and ratings on their website, giving donors a way to determine where their dollars are going. An excerpt from their letter to us:

"We are proud to announce Children of The Americas has earned our second consecutive 4-star rating for its ability to efficiently manage and grow its finances. Only 19% of the charities we rate have received at least 2 consecutive 4-star evaluations, indicating that Children of The Americas consistently executes its mission in a fiscally responsible way and outperforms most other charities in America. This 'exceptional' designation from Charity Navigator differentiates Children of The Americas from its peers and demonstrates to the public it is worth of their trust."

We're grateful to Charity Navigator for granting us this rating and happy to let you know through them how seriously we take your donations for our kids. If you'd like to view COTA's page on Charity Navigator, just [click here](#) or the Charity Navigator logo above. A link to our Charity Navigator page is also available in the Finances section of our website.

Someone Cares Soup Kitchen and COTA



The Someone Cares Soup Kitchen in Costa Mesa, CA has been serving 250-300 meals per day for over 20 years to those who are in need. It's a wonderful ministry with which we are proud to partner. Someone Cares donated a great amount of food, toys, and school supplies to us recently for the kids. We'll be continuing to work with them to

get needed materials to our children in the future--and we'll be donating toys and other materials to them that don't work for our kids in Mexico but have great value here in Southern CA. For more on Someone Cares, [click here](#) or on their logo. For more on our pickup, take a look below.



That's our Tony Salas, Frank Billman, and Norm with Someone Cares folks loading up.



Tony "shopping" through storage area for the right stuff for our kids.



Norm and a festive Someone Cares volunteer loading up our vehicle. (04.08.09)

Foster Care Auxiliary and COTA



Foster Care Auxiliary in Anaheim, CA exists

to enhance the lives of all Orange County foster children by helping to support and retain Orange County licensed foster families and those who are providing a permanent home for minors from the Orange County foster care system.

It's a proactive group of foster parents, social workers, and community members who work together to provide high quality care to dependent children, and support to foster parents. Part of their own support comes from their thrift store in Anaheim, and it was from that store that they donated a great deal of hygiene care materials to COTA for our kids. We were able to pick up toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, shampoo, soap, and all sorts of important materials that have been distributed to our kids both in northern and central Baja. For more on the Auxiliary, [click here](#) or their logo above, and here's a couple of their smiling faces below.



Kathy Harvey and JR Prophet (don't you love that name?) in front of stacks of hygiene materials to be donated to COTA kids. (02.05.09)

New Grills for COTA Kitchens

A teppan restaurant in Laguna Hills, CA didn't make it and had to fire-sale all of its furnishings and especially its grills...you know, those huge Benihana-type grills everyone sits around while the chef twirls knives and cooks the food. We were able to buy three of the grills at a great, low price to install in our kitchens where we desperately needed more cooking real estate for pancakes and tortillas and all the other breakfast specialties the women prepare for the kids. Take a look at our crew trying to get those huge things out of the restaurant...



The grills in their natural habitat--the center cooking surface is what we're after.



You wouldn't believe how heavy those things are...an inch of solid metal.



Gene Spann undoing the support frames as we work to disassemble and take out of the restaurant.



Norm and friend trying to figure how to get that monster into the van--we did do it...three times.

Coming Soon...

We just had a crew come back from 5 days in central Baja helping build out a home for a family of 10, we've adopted an orphanage in northern Baja, our dining room in the ejido celebrated its second anniversary, and lots more coming soon.

Thanks again to all of you who make all this possible. We love you and blessings always,

Dave

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