



It is possible to create a world in which fewer innocent children suffer. Camus

30 years of loving children.

1st Quarter 2008

Computers to Baja Kids!

COTA Builds Needed Computer Workstations at Home for Severely Handicapped Children

A COTA crew went down to Vicente Guerrero and Gabriel House February 23 to bring needed supplies, clothing, and toys to the children and was able to see first hand the application of the computer workstations and other audio visual electronic gear that COTA had supplied to Gabriel House--a home for severely handicapped children in Manadearo, near Ensenada.

COTA has received scores of computers, monitors, and peripherals that our electronics wiz, Tim Beck has refurbished and outfitted for use by the children. Tim has set up computer

networks and many individual workstations in schools where we have set up computer labs--as well as in individual homes--and now Gabriel House. The computers

are a great aid for the children at Gabriel

House: it gives them the opportunity to work

with their contracted hands and practice

hand to eye coordination.

They love the

computers so much, that Angel, the home's director, can even use

computer time as a reward for good behavior. Tim has done a

great job over the last few months getting

these workstations in shape and installed for the

kids.

In addition to the computers, on this day in February, the crew brought books, toys, and needed supplies both to Gabriel House and to families in and around

Vicente Guerrero, in central Baja. The crew was also able to see the progress made on a new project at Gabriel House--birdhouses. Norm had found several large boxes of high quality scrap wood



Two boys celebrating new computers.



In front of one of the new COTA workstations, a handicapped boy is thrilled.



Look at the smiles on these faces--the colors and interaction is great therapy for these children.

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Charity Navigator & Starfish

COTA Picks Up Two Important Third Party Endorsements

In early March '08, Children of The Americas was awarded 4 stars--the highest rating given to a charitable organization by Charity Navigator, an online third-party evaluator of national charities. Then just a few days

later, COTA was

picked up to be

presented on the new Starfish

Television

Network, an internet and satellite charitable TV network.

Charity Navigator

Charity Navigator, the nation's largest and most utilized online evaluator of non-profit charities 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.

Charity Navigator

rates charities based on two broad areas of financial health: organizational efficiency and organizational capacity. By rating these two

areas, donors can better understand how

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Computers and Books to Baja

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that was being discarded and brought it to Angel who cut out the parts for the birdhouses, which the children will assemble and hopefully sell as part of a cottage industry that could help support the home.

We want to thank everyone who has generously donated computers and other materials to us for the kids. And especially we'd like to thank Dan Sasso of Laguna Beach, CA and Bryan Broussard of Masra Tech in Lake Forest, CA for bringing us

so many computers and peripherals--it's really made a difference. ■



New books.



Birdhouse parts, a new cottage industry at Gabriel House.



Some really important supplies here.



New bikes.



New toys--if Richard Gorman can figure them out.

Charity Navigator and Starfish TV Network

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efficiently their dollars are being used today, and how a charity's programs will grow over time.

We're grateful to Charity Navigator for granting us this rating, which only about a quarter of all non-profits have received through their system. A link to our Charity Navigator page is available in the Finances section of our website.

Starfish Network

Also in March, Children of The Americas connected with the Starfish television network, a new TV network dedicated to non-profit and charitable organizations. Starfish broadcasts on Dish Network and streams on the internet, and we're thrilled to be a part of their programming.

Starfish will be airing our promotional video, a 9 minute production that tells our story with the children in spoken word, music, video, and still images. Our video is available in DVD format (just ask us if you'd like a copy) and can also be viewed on our website. But thanks to Starfish, this video, produced by our own Mike Morgan, will be broadcast worldwide. We certainly

hope this opportunity will bring more people into our family for the kids.

If you'd like to see the broadcast, there are 2 ways to view Starfish Television Network:

- 1) Dish Network 1000 platform, channel 9408--or
- 2) Visit www.starfishtv.org, click "Watch Live" to go to a live streaming of the broadcast or to get the air dates of our video.

The mission and vision of the Starfish Network is really remarkable--their name comes from the story of a small boy throwing starfish stranded on a beach back into the water. When a man tells him he can't possibly make a difference when there are so many stranded starfish, the boy, undaunted, replies that it makes a difference to *this* one, as he throws

it back to sea. Sounds a lot like loving children one child at a time...

Again, we're all grateful that such an organization exists and that they have agreed to include us in their programming. Our thanks to Starfish and Charity Navigator for helping us help the kids. ■

Children of The Americas

Over 30 years of loving children... one child at a time



A panel from Charity Navigator's site at www.charitynavigator.org.

School Desks from Santa Barbara to Baja

500 Mile Journey of Needed Desks for Kids

Another great story here--through Terre Sanitate, our board member up in Santa Barbara, CA, a classroom full of school desks, plus kid-sized chairs, tables, and even a basketball backboard and hoop were donated to our kids. Terre, her husband Frank, and friends picked up the furniture and stored it at a local storage facility until our crew was able to go up and pick it all up, which we did 2/21/08.

It's a great chain of thank yous we've got here. We want to thank Santa Barbara Charter School and Dave Weisman, the school administrator for the desks; Grace Lutheran Church and Lynn Bruer, pastor, for the chairs and other furninshings; Goleta Valley Mini Storage for free use of a storage unit; Afaf Turjoman, Lawrence Spann, and Giovanni and Susan Sanitate (Frank's brother and sister in law visiting from Michigan) for helping with manual labor of all sorts.

After bringing the furniture down and storing it in our own warehouse, another COTA crew transported the desks to Vicente Guerrero in central Baja on 2/23/08. The chairs and other furniture will be going to the colonias shortly. Here's the saga in pics... ■



Frank and Terre Sanitate and Afaf Turjoman ready to unload the desks and furniture into storage.



Dave, Terre, Frank, Susan and Giovanni, and Norm with the truck door finally closed--ready to head south.



Norm, Tim Beck, and Richard Gorman in front of all those desks in Baja, almost at the end of their 500 mile journey.

Lots of chairs, tables, and other materials.

Toys to Vicente Guerrero

Even with Christmas now a distant memory, there's still more toy news. Though most of our toys were distributed on December 29, 2007, we had held back up to two thousand that we donated to DIF (Mexican social services), Spectrum Ministries (that also works with families in northern Baja), and Lighthouse Ministries in San Juan Capistrano, CA (that works with families in Orange County, CA). All these toys were distributed to children in Mexico and the U.S. shortly after Christmas.

But we still had hundreds of toys left that filled Norm's camper--along with stores of food (rice, beans, cooking oil, flour, etc.) and other necessities--all bound for Vicente Guerrero and Gabriel House. A crew of 7 left San Clemente, CA at the dark hour of 5AM to drive the 300 miles down and back in just one day--a long 18 hour day--packing many memories in that space. Most of

the toys and supplies were loaded into the storehouse of the Erma Fennel Foundation in Vicente Guerrero, but the crew also visited a family for whom we built out the interior of their home a few months ago and then on to



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Toys to VG

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Gabriel House before heading home.

It was another amazing day in the driving rain for our group, and I'll let the pictures tell the rest of the story. ■



Robb Forby of Chino Hills, CA and a new friend.



Robb Forby's back is barely visible way back there stacking boxes in the store.



Patty Torres unloading big toys and keeping them dry in the rain that fell off and on all day long.



We Need Your Help!

Construction Projects

From refurbishing classrooms, repairing rain, wind, or fire damage to schools, to building out new storage facilities for our dining rooms, to upgrading and repairing individual family homes, there are many construction projects that we need your help to complete.

If you can help with construction materials or labor, please consider a special donation or calling us to work on projects for our kids. Thanks so much for your help!



Car Donation Program

You can click on this icon on our website or call the toll-free number, and a tow-truck will be there before you can say Food for Kids!



Credit Card Gift Authorization

Card Type Visa MasterCard Amex

Card Number _____

Gift Amount \$ _____ Expiration _____ ID Code _____

Name (Please Print) _____

Signed: _____

For greater security, we now need the 3-digit ID code from the back of your card. Thanks!



No credit card fees are deducted for Visa and MasterCard gifts.

Please join us at 7AM every morning for two minutes of prayer for all children.

Give a man a fish, and you feed him for a day. Teach him to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime. With your help, we've been teaching children to fish for 30 years. That's a lot of fish!



Our work began in Santa Teresita Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico on March 31, 1974. Paul Weiss and his friends founded an interfaith organization, Los Niños, to help the work and the dream grew and by January, 1984, a new structure was needed. Children of The Americas was created to match the work with the expanding dream to reach children throughout our hemisphere, but especially kids in the US and Mexico. Help us continue to create hope, one child at a time.

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