



New girls in town - Madre Maria de Jesus comforts new girls, sisters Isabel (age 1) and Aranza (age 3).

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Contact Information:

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How to Donate:

U.S. tax-deductible donations are made out to San Miguel Community Foundation, noting Santa Julia on the memo line.

Other financial donations may be made to Casa Hogar Santa Julia Don Bosco, A.C.

Financial donations may be mailed to either of these addresses:

US: 5802 Bob Bullock Loop, C1B84/165;
 Laredo, Texas 78041

SMA: Recreo 11, Box 165, San Miguel de Allende, GTO, Mexico 37700

Welcome to the first issue of our newly-designed newsletter. We hope you like the new look and enjoy the stories we have to tell about the Santa Julia girls, Madres, volunteers, and donors. Santa Julia would not exist if it weren't for all of you out there quietly helping with your time, talents and treasures! We thank you so much. If you have comments to make about the newsletter or have ideas, please email Denise Galipeau, volunteer Marketing Manager, at heartquest1@yahoo.ca

Santa Julia Slates Volunteer Fair

July marks the fifth year of organized support at Santa Julia, and the beginning of a new support organization. The Santa Julia Advisory Council and Volunteer Corps is brimming with new involvement opportunities described here and soon to be debuted at Santa Julia's first volunteer fair.

Different from other organizations locally, the Advisory Council has three directors to represent the citizens of the three countries most represented in San Miguel - Mexico, the US, and Canada. Directing Mexican efforts is Jesus Gutierrez, who has a 20-year history of leading women's and children's organizations in Mexico. Directing American efforts is Robin Loving Rowland, who has 30 years of experience with nonprofit organizations. Along with Madre Maria de Jesus, who is superiora and directora of Santa Julia, they are seeking a Canadian representative to direct Canadian volunteers and donors.

Jesus will direct volunteer and donor involvement in Education, Facilities and Health. He is seeking managers for each of these three areas. Those managers will oversee the following areas. Please contact him at jesusyw@gmail.com if you are interested in any of these volunteer positions, or in advising in any of these areas. Jesus is functionally bilingual.

Education

Public School Education, Private School Education, Higher Education, English, Literacy, Mentors, Computer Education

Facilities

General Maintenance, Transitional Housing, Grounds Maintenance, Transportation, Capital Improvements

Health

Nutrition, Medical, Madre Health, Optometry, Dental Health, Psychology



Volunteer Fair, continued

Robin and the Canadian Director will oversee volunteer and donor involvement in Administration, Finance, Marketing, and Volunteer management. Robin is seeking a manager for Administration, who will oversee the following areas. Please contact her at robin@robinloving.com if you are interested in any of these volunteer positions or in advising on any area. Robin is functionally bilingual.

Administration

Secretarial, Record Keeping, Planning

Finance

Rod Dye has joined the Casa Hogar Santa Julia team as Finance Manager. Rod completed a successful 36 year career in Finance and Administration at Xerox Corporation. He possesses a B.S. Degree in Accounting from Southern Illinois University and a Masters of Business Administration from the University of Rochester. He is seeking volunteers in the following areas. Please contact him at rdye81701@earthlink.net if you are interested in participating or advising in any of these areas.

Grants, Tax Deductibility, Fundraising, Capital Improvements

Marketing

In charge of Marketing is Canadian, Denise Galipeau, who has 40+ years experience in marketing, communications, event planning and desktop publishing. She is seeking volunteers in the following areas. Please contact her at heartsquest1@yahoo.ca if you are interested in any of these positions, or in advising on any of these areas. Denise is functionally bilingual.

Photography, Graphic Design, Product Marketing, Sister School Program, Madre's Memoir Project

Volunteers

Taking the lead on Volunteers is Sheila Byrns, who has 14 years experience as a social worker and 35 years as a psychologist, specializing in trauma and family unification. She is seeking volunteer coordinators in the following areas. Please contact Sheilabyrns@gmail.com if you have interest in participating or advising in any of these roles. Sheila is bilingual.

On-Site Activities, Off-Site Activities, Recognition Programs, Enrichment Programs

"Special thanks go to Bobbie Fries, Denise Galipeau, Jesus Gutierrez, Judy Howe, Robin Loving Rowland, and Sheila Byrns for helping to identify the myriad aspects of Santa Julia's volunteer, donor, and girl activities in order to design positions that clearly delineate volunteer opportunities," said Madre Maria de Jesus, superiora and directora of Casa Hogar Santa Julia.

A volunteer fair is scheduled for Saturday, July 17th from 3 to 5pm at Hotel La Aldea on the Ancha San Antonio. Please make plans to attend. There, you will meet others involved in the Santa Julia Advisory Council and Volunteer Corps, see position descriptions, ask questions, and enjoy refreshments.

"Folks are always asking how they can help," said Robin. "Now we have identified all the ways from directing to managing to coordinating to advising, and we're eager to connect all those who love Santa Julia with the volunteer opportunity that is right for them. Some like to work with the girls, some enjoy administration, others will work with the physical plant, and some on events, either long-term or short-term. We have something to appeal to everyone."

For more information, contact Jesus at jesusyw@gmail.com or Robin at robin@robinloving.com. Hope to see you at Santa Julia's first volunteer fair!





Support a Santa Julia girl

It's amazing how very little is required for one of the girls to have her basic needs met. We thought you might like to see a breakdown of where your money would go if you chose to sponsor one of our niñas.

Monthly costs for basic needs

Psychology	16
Education	18
Medical	21
Food	33
Clothing	12
Total	\$100

Saints Alive



The owner of MIXTA, the great store on Pila Seca (near Zacateros) has kindly donated a wonderful selection of items for the girls at Santa Julia. The photo shows Guille surrounded by the treasure trove. Thank you Mixta!

Welcome Amparo to the Santa Julia family!

The Santa Julia girls call her "Tia," which translates into "Aunt."

We call her Amparo, the name given to her by her godmother the day she was christened by her parents as Maria de Jesus.



Amparo feels the love of Lupita, Ximena, Aurora, and Mago at Santa Julia

You'll call her a miracle worker!

"Tia" Amparo is Santa Julia's new full-time social worker. She is the community's inside link to Santa Julia, and she is the Madres' and girls' link to the outside world. As such, she is invaluable! Specifically, she guides the girls with life issues and computer homework, works on reunification with their parents, registers all visitors, runs the adolescent life skills program, and helps the new Santa Julia Advisory Council support the Madres.

She came tailor-made for her position after working in academic, adolescent, agricultural, census, construction, and nutrition programs. Her academic background includes special coursework in nutrition, reproductive health, drug prevention, life planning, hygiene, adult education, adolescent violence, computers, values, human rights, family violence, art therapy, children's games, and rural health on top of her university degree at UNAM in social work.

"I love working with the girls, imagining their future development, imparting life lessons rather than advice," said Amparo. "They are so sweet, creative, and curious. It will be fun to see them ascend into careers," she concluded.

Born in Mexico City, Amparo recently moved here from Michoacan. She is a Spanish speaker who is rapidly learning English thanks to a volunteer teacher. She lives here with her elementary-aged son, Jesus Daniel, the love of her life.

Welcome Amparo to the Santa Julia family!

I don't know what your destiny will be, but one thing I know: the only ones among you who will be really happy are those who will have sought and found how to serve.

Albert Schweitzer



A mural in the making

Unveiling the Santa Julia girls' Mural

During the Easter break, the girls at Santa Julia had an opportunity to work with Marsha Stonehouse, a Toronto artist who spends the winter months in San Miguel. One aspect of Marsha's work is teaching children to paint murals. Why a mural? According to Marsha, "The scale allows people to stretch their perceptions of what they can do. In this case it allowed the girls to paint life size self portraits - important for building self esteem and self empowerment. Murals are permanent. Their lasting effect has ongoing positive impact on the environment they're in. And, the history of Mexico is painted and expressed in murals."

When asked about her expected outcome, she said, "An inspiring, positive, expressive image reflecting the Santa Julia experience. A community project that gave children and adults an opportunity to work together to create something larger than life through the artistic process - older girls helping younger ones, volunteers helping all the girls, bringing the foreign and Mexican communities together in their process."

The photo collage tells it all. It was definitely a very positive experience for all!



Thanks to donor Lisa Gray, artist Marsha Stonehouse (see her work at www.marshastonehouse.com), and all of the volunteers who led the Santa Julia girls in self portraits in this new mural at Santa Julia. (Photo courtesy of George Shagawat. See his work at www.shagawatphoto.com).

Events Calendar

Saturday, June 12 at Noon

Suzuki Violin Concert featuring Ernestina in a solo and six other Santa Julia girls. Enjoy this free concert at **Bellas Artes** on Hernandez Macias near Canal.

Sunday, June 20 from 4 to 6pm

Spring into Summer at **Mi Vida** - an Italian restaurant with a Mexican accent at Hernandez Macias 97, salutes Santa Julia with a special spring into summer menu for the first 60 people who make reservations at info@santajulia.org.

For only \$250 pesos, Mi Vida will serve a three-course meal complete with live entertainment and service. And, there will be a special presentation by the Santa Julia Girls Choir. Proceeds will provide support for one girl for an entire year! Make reservations now!

Saturday, June 26 at Noon

Santa Julia Quarterly birthday party. Come join in the fun. Contact Volunteer Manager Sheila Byrns to help at SheilaByrns@gmail.com

Saturday, July 17 from 3 to 5pm

Volunteer Fair at the Hotel la Aldea restaurant on Ancha San Antonio. Santa Julia has more than 200 volunteer positions in the areas of administration, finance, health, volunteerism, marketing, education, and facilities. Come see what your options are for short-term, long-term, part-time and full-time volunteer opportunities!



Santa Julia Seeks Transition Homes

The time has come to begin looking for transition homes for some of our older girls. For instance, 19-year-old Berenice is eager to transition from Santa Julia into a private home environment, and the Madres, psychologists, and social workers all agree it is developmentally appropriate for her to do so. Bere has a private scholarship for her 11th grade year at Fray Pedro next year where she is a good student with ambition to become a child care professional. She is a hard working, pleasant young lady who would be a good housemate. The Madres want to see her continue in school, and they are concerned that if she doesn't transition into a home now she could become discouraged and leave without educational prospects. Might you be able to offer a deserving girl a shared living environment? Please contact info@santajulia.org. Thank you!



Santa Julia Matters

June/July 2010

Wish List

* There are always necessary items that the girls or the Madres need and cannot afford to buy. We count on our community's generosity to supply them. If you can help with any of the items listed below, please contact info@santajulia.org Thank you! *

Speech Therapy - Dulce needs speech therapy twice a week, two hours each time for about 14 weeks. A psychologist is prepared to help. Her rate is only about \$5USD/\$50pesos/hour. The total needed is about \$20USD/\$200pesos/week, or \$280USD/\$2800pesos. *

Car Registration and Repairs - might you help with these annual and ongoing projects? *

Curtains - The beds are so close to the windows that the girls sometimes get tangled up in the curtains. Might you help re-hang these?

Drain Registers - It used to flood a lot at Santa Julia, but donors installed drains. Problem is, the drain covers have disappeared. Might you be able to help? *

Hoses - All of those cuttings that Madre Maria de Jesus has brought in and Don Jose has planted are thirsty. Water's available, but we need three long hoses. *

Kitchen and Dressing Room Cabinets - They're barely hanging on. If you have carpentry skills, might you apply them here? *

Madre Respite - Our Madres work relentlessly and would love to have a place where they could actually take a day off now and then. Do you have a spare casita they might use on occasion? *

Mother's Little Helpers - The Madres would feel able to take a day off if we had volunteers who could be at the house each day to help in their absence. If you speak Spanish and might like to help around the house one day a week, please contact us. *

New Girl Support - Isabel and Aranza (see photo on front page) need formula and diapers. *

Paint Inside and Out - The paint's peeling and fading, and the girls' atmosphere makes a big difference in their self-esteem. Might you be able to help with paint and/or labor?

Plumbing Challenges - Seems there's always a leaky sink or a clogged something or other. If you have plumbing skills, please let us know. *

Screens - With summer here, fresh air is essential, but no one wants the flies that come with it nor the mosquitoes that come with the rainy season. If you can fix a few screens, please let us know. *

Window Panes - With the advent of summer play outside, several windows have been broken. Could you help with new panes?

Window Security - Several poles and rods that lay in the window tracks for security have disappeared. *

Workout Clothes - The girls are all interested in physical activity, but uncomfortable in jeans. They'd appreciate lycra shorts. Sizes 6 to 16. The greatest need is for the adolescents.

Craft Supplies - The Santa Julia adolescents want to produce a variety of crafts to sell in order to earn their own money as a way of learning life skills. If you can donate textile paint for cloth or embroidery thread, please contact us. *

Interpreters/Translators - The Santa Julia Advisory Council is going to begin meeting the first Saturday of each month from 3 to 5pm. We are seeking volunteer interpreters/translators to assist in the meetings and with document translation. *