



“Volcanes Community Education Project”

Newsletter January 2012

2nd Shift English Classes

This is the second year that Volcanes Primary School has a second shift. The morning shift has about 250 students which is the maximum enrollment possible. With the increase of children in the area, a second shift was begun and now has over 100 students enrolled. We have arranged with the teacher of the combined 5th and 6th grades in the second shift to have all 20 students attend English classes in the afternoons during their regular school hours. Each afternoon we bring the 20 students to our own English classroom beside the primary school and teach them for one hour. These new students will attend computer classes on Saturday mornings from 10 to 1 pm.. In total our program now has 170 students enrolled in English and computer classes.



Kenya's Party

Kim Kieler lives in Serra Del Mar, south of town and every year around Christmas her family visits her, including her granddaughter Kenya. For the past two years Kenya has asked her grandmother if she could give up her Christmas and birthday presents and instead give a party for some of the poor children in Puerto Vallarta. This year she invited 50 children from Volcanes to a party at her grandmother's house on December 29. We loaded the Volcanes kids on a



chartered bus for the long trip to Serra del Mar. The party was fantastic. The children enjoyed the beautiful home, the incredible food and games, and the wonderful presents.

Each child was given a large bag filled with presents. All of this because Kenya wanted to help the children less fortunate than her. Thank you Kenya. What a wonderful lesson for all of us.



ANGEL THREADS

Last week we distributed new clothing from Angel Threads to the last of the 100 families from Volcanes who had signed up for the program. Every member in the families received a complete set of new clothes. This incredible project was conceived and implemented by Roberta Groff of Calgary Canada with the help of her family and friends who generously brought the clothes to Vallarta, one suitcase at a time. Most of the people came on WestJet who allowed each person to bring a suitcase of donated clothing free of charge. As each family picked up the clothing at the Volcanes Primary School, they signed a form pledging two hours of volunteer work at the school. Roberta and her family purchased all of the clothing and some friends and neighbours packed them.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

SUPPORT A TEACHER

Our major operating expense in the Volcanes after school Project is funding the teachers. We offer a small stipend to each teacher of \$3,000 pesos per month to teach at one of our sessions; 10 to 12 in the morning or 3:30 to 5:30 in the afternoon. In order to ensure that we have the funds available to continue with the program and to continue to have the best teachers available, we need help to pay for the teachers. We are asking individuals or groups to sponsor a teacher, \$3,000 pesos per month for 10 months. Teachers are by far the most important part of our program. Without the enthusiasm and professionalism of our teachers, the program fails. We need to continue to be able to attract the best teachers available in Vallarta. Your involvement in supporting a teacher can make all of the difference in the world. The children in Volcanes need our program in order to break the cycle of poverty and move into the main stream of Puerto Vallarta life. In order to accomplish that goal we need the very best teachers.



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