



## FUNDACION PARA EL EMPODERAMIENTO PERSONAL

### Holidays 2014-15 Newsletter

We hope this message finds all you well during this beautiful holiday season. This month's newsletter I have asked Kerny Korchinski to reflect on his experiences with FEP since returning to Puerto Vallarta and once again becoming actively involved with programing at The Foundation. Enjoy his contribution;

*I was asked to make a contribution to this version of the Newsletter and I was promised there would be no editing, just copy and paste so here goes. I will contain these thoughts to be mine and mine alone. Firstly I have to say that this journey has far exceeded any expectation that I ever had. Last April when we were returning to Canada, I was not sure what would be waiting us when we returned, you of little faith.*

*This summer when Corinne returned to Mexico she and Hugo had a very successful summer camp for the niños. That translated to free time for their mom and dad as well as expanding the horizons for the kids. When we returned here to Mexico in October, Hugo generously invited me to participate in a couple of the women's activities that was hosted by our incredible Tere.*

*The first session I was able to share my own personal life's journey so that these ladies could see that immaterial to where we appear to be today, we all have had the opportunity to experience some days in the Desert, and that life was not always relaxing in the sun at the Oasis. Actually I think some of these ladies were either in disbelief or could relate to my story. It was very well received and that established some credibility with these people. I was now one of them.*

*The second session was based on Spirituality. I was asked to share my Faith Journey, and that was an incredible experience. Again, Tere set the table and after my presentation, Tere initiated the process for her and I to mimic the re inaction of Washing of the Feet. You had to have been there to fully appreciate the effect it had on these ladies. Probably that was the first time in their lives that they were served at any level, let alone at that level of spirituality and intimacy.*

*We had two groups that day and I can honestly say I have never been so emotionally drained and inspired at the same time, as I was that day. The drive home that evening seemed to take a lifetime.*



*Hugo and I have had the opportunity to engage the men in one on one conversation. These men are the spouses or partners of the women who participate in the programs. We were not sure how that was going to be received as there appeared to be some push back from them based on their lack of understanding of what their spouses were engaged in doing. Lots of speculation, very little facts.*

*There were some inferences that there may have been some hostility towards us if we attempted to formalize such a program. To say the least, it was awkward in the beginning as there was a lot of posturing going on. Is that politically correct? After the second session with these men, there seemed to be sense of trust develop and a more open and honest dialogue resulted.*

*Some of the stories that started to evolve from these discussions with these men confirmed to us the need for these programs in this beautiful community of Cañadas. When a male Mexican can sit and share his life with you and feel comfortable that he can express his emotions and not be embarrassed to ask for a tissue, you know that life is good.*

*When one of the men shared with us that he didn't believe his life was worth continuing, and that suicide was a first option, but because he observed how peaceful his wife and children were when they were engaged in the therapy sessions or the reading programs, that is what motivated him to talk with us rather than his previous option.*



*We had a Christmas party for the Community and the attendance and participation was overwhelming. To listen to the children laugh and have fun and the ladies all pitching in as they have taken ownership of the facility was incredible. Not to mention the food that was brought by the ladies the day was a tremendous success. The highlight for me was when the mother of one of the ladies came over to me and shared that she had not seen her daughter so happy in 25 years. The daughter had experienced the ultimate in rejection all of her life, and trusted no one. She was so over protective of her children, she was smothering them. My observation after the Washing of the Feet for her was the turning point in her life to give her problems to God. The look of Peace and total submission was one I will never forget.*

*This process has been amazing and I thank God everyday for bringing the people into my life that He has. It could not be possible without the support of all the participants. What are the chances of meeting a*

*Hugo; half a world away, the groundwork he created is amazing. Watching the growth in this young man and his family is unbelievable. How can you recruit the gifts that a Tere brings to the table, when her work is the major key to success of this project, and are not based purely on her training or intelligence, but her deep desire to serve.*

*Then there is our family, Pat and I have dreamt about this journey for many years not really understanding how it will really unfold. Our daughter Corinne has been amazing in utilizing the many skills she possesses such as her creativity, tenacity and also that passion to serve. Thank God she had a mother.*

*We were blessed with a lot of support from our faith community. Sr Callista Arnold connected us to Fr Les Paquin and what mentors the both have been. Fr Les's experiences in Brazil were invaluable as it was confirmation we were going down the right path. We thank you both for your contributions.*

*We also have the community's at large support with constant encouragement and input from the many volunteers that shared their gifts and talents.*

*We hope to be able to purchase some land this winter to begin to create a Community Center so we can expand the programs for these people to allow them to build a life of self sustainability and hope not only for the adults, but for the children as well so we can break that cycle of poverty and hopelessness.*

*God bless all of you who have contributed to this project in any way, none are less valuable than others. We all bring something to the table and we thank God for the things you bring.*

*Thanks*

*Kerny Korchinski*


Naturally at this time of year we reflect on the year that has passed, and look towards the year ahead. This year has been an incredible one for The Foundation. We began our journey as a foundation with the people of Cañadas, and it has enriched all the lives involved. We have learned so much through the process of establishing the Foundation, and we look forward to continue to grow and evolve with the support all of you generously give. This year we hope to be able to serve as many people as we can in Cañadas to see their true potential, and delight in the beautiful results from the fruits of their labor.

God Bless you and your family during this Christmas season. May 2015 bring to you a fulfilled spirit and joy in your lives.

Corinne Korchinski-Fisher

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