

2017



President's Message

Dear IFC Members and Friends,

Several years ago a group of expats from Canada and the United States formed the International Friendship Club for the purpose of helping underprivileged children with a cleft palate. Well thirty-two years later we are still pursuing the same goal and much more. We not only raise funds for over twenty charities, we also interact with the local community in various ways.

Our Cleft Palate clinic, which is held three to four times a year, allows our members to interact with the parents and children as they wait for their turn to see the doctor. We play with the children, we colour pictures with them and in some cases we comfort them as they come out of surgery.

Christina Martell, one of our members, heads the Boca de Tomatlan dental clinic. She spends many hours each month driving children from Boca to Puerto Vallarta to see the dentist. All of this is done free of charge. Christina also heads a group that has built a dental clinic in Boca de Tomatlan so that now the children do not have to travel to Puerto Vallarta for dental work.

Fred Forbes, our facilities director scours his neighbourhood looking for families that might have special needs. He also travels to Casa Hogar Maximo Cornejo children's home where he brings toys, clothing and other necessities. While there he also spends time with the children playing with them and sharing his love with them.

Bob McKean spends many of his Mondays during the year with a group that assembles meals and then distributes them to needy families in the area.

Another one of our members, Betty Hibbs, has aligned herself with Corazon de Nina, another children's shelter. Betty spends her Saturdays staffing the Corazon de Nina store at Three Hens and a Roaster. Through this store, funds are raised to help feed and educate the children. Betty also spends time at the shelter interacting with the children.

Susan Davalos is our social service representative. Susan travels many miles per month through the different colonias in our area. She visits different families in the area that are in need and seeks help for them. One of her duties is to distribute nutritious food to the families and the different charities in the area. During the summer, Susan also gathers books and school supplies and distributes them to the local orphanages.

Ginger Carpenter and Arturo Ayala are deeply involved in Pasitos de Luz, a daycare centre for handicapped children. They both spend many hours with the children during

INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIP CLUB

Edificio Parian del Puente # 13 (upstairs)

Libertad corner of Miramar, El Centro,

Puerto Vallarta

Office Hours:

Oct-Apr: 9 am - 1:30 pm M-F

May-July: 9 am - 1:30 pm M-Th

Aug-Sept: 9 am - 1:30 pm M-W

Tel: (322)-222-5466

from the US/Canada 1-514-418-2123

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Email: info@ifcvallarta.com

ADMINISTRATOR - Josué Santiago



therapy playing with them and making them comfortable. Besides spending time at the clinic, they also work vigorously to help raise funds for the home.

Dennis Dzubay volunteers at RISE, a home for children from dysfunctional families. Dennis works in the kitchen, tirelessly cutting vegetables and helping prepare meals. Dennis also helps mopping floors, cleanup and playing with the children. He donates three or four days a week to this cause.

The English Outreach Program of IFC has fourteen dedicated teachers. Each teacher donates three hours per week for ten weeks teaching children and adults basic English skills. Pupils are taught in groups of five or six for a more intimate interaction.

These are just a few of the ways that our members interact with our local community building bridges of friendship. There are many more nameless volunteers out there finding a need and meeting it.



Take Note!

We have consolidated our printed newsletters. We will be publishing only one annual edition which will be available in early January, 2017. Look for it at the IFC office and at January IFC events.

Other important IFC information such as the Preferred Merchants List, Home Tours and regularly scheduled activities will still be available in the office and at IFC special events.

Update from the Vice President

Personal Enrichment Activities

The IFC offers a number of interesting cultural and educational opportunities for members and friends this season. For current details, check our convenient online calendar by going to ifcvallarta.com and selecting "Activities Calendar" from the menu options. There you will find the latest update on all our regularly scheduled activities. Among the many enrichment offerings this winter, you can enjoy: **Lectures on Mexican History** on many Friday mornings at 10:30 am; **Cultural Enrichment lectures** from a variety of speakers on many Thursday evenings at 7:00 pm; **Mindfulness Meditation class** on Saturday mornings at 9:15 am; a special **Urban Meditation Retreat** Feb. 9-11; **Contemplative Dialogue** on some Wednesdays at 10 am.

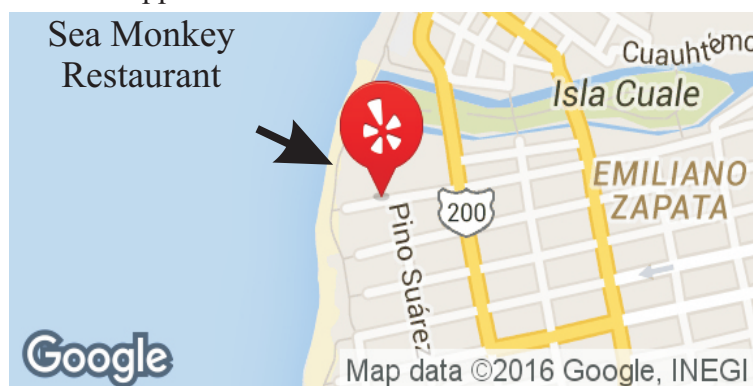
Details also are being worked out to offer **Restorative Yoga** on Saturdays.

Please feel free to contact me at dangrippo@yahoo.com with any questions on these offerings.

Charitable Oversight

I will be working with others this winter to set up a Charitable Oversight committee that will review our relationship with the many local charities that we support on an ongoing basis. This effort will involve forming a committee of volunteers willing to liaison with local charities we support: making site visits, collecting current legal and financial paperwork from the charities, and making recommendations to the committee concerning future levels of financial support to the charities. More details will follow in our e-newsletters soon, but current IFC members who would be willing and able to serve on such a committee meeting every two weeks from late January to the end of March, please contact me at dangrippo@yahoo.com.

Daniel Grippo



We would like to thank the Sea Monkey Restaurant for hosting the IFC Home Tours. Tours depart PROMPTLY at 10:30 AM every Tuesday and Wednesday. Tickets go on sale at 9 AM.

IFC MEMBERSHIP

This is the time of year to renew your IFC membership for 2017. We are making it easy for you to renew this year, as there are a number of places to purchase your membership or renew.

1. Stop in our Clubhouse at the corner of Libertad and Miramar. 9-1:30 M-F
2. Pay online at www.IFCVallarta.com under Membership. Link with PayPal and use your credit card. You will still need to come to the Clubhouse to pick up your card.
3. Saturday at the Old Towne Farmers Market on Olas Altas,.
4. Friday's Social Bridge and Social Hour

Each year, you will need to fill out a new application and receive a new membership card. The price is 350 pesos per person each year. There are many benefits to being a member and using your card. With your card you will receive discounts at a number of great restaurants and businesses in town through our Preferred Merchant program. You will find an up-to-date list of merchants on our website.

There is also a discount for members for Spanish classes, bridge classes, Friday lectures, and other activities.

Your membership donation helps to underwrite Clubhouse expenses, which frees up more funds for charitable giving. If you have any questions or problems with memberships please stop by the office.



EVENTS CALENDAR

Regularly scheduled activities such as Spanish classes, bridge classes, movies, lectures and talks, meditation classes, yoga classes, social hours and more can be found on the IFC web site (www.IFCvallarta.com), by clicking on "activities calendar" in the left column.



We would like to thank CMQ Hospitals for generously donating hospital rooms and services to the IFC Cleft Palate Program



CMQ Downtown Hospital
Basilio Badillo 365
Col. Emiliano Zapata
(322) 223 1919

CMQ Premiere Hospital
Av. Francisco Villa 1749
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ifctoursforvallarta@yahoo.com

Open 7 days a week
Mid-December thru Mid-April

Vallarta Botanical Gardens

9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.

- Palm Gardens • Rose Garden
- Tree Fern Grotto • Orchid House
- Jungle Trails • Tropical Bird Watching
- Agave Gardens • Mexican Wildflowers
- Carnivorous Plants • Restaurant

24 Km South of town (on Hwy 200)

www.vbgardens.org

Emergency Medical Evacuation

The Air Rescue Card

40% Discount for IFC Members

Contact: Mike Altman

MikeAltman@PV-Health.com

US: (949) 720-1663

Mexico Toll Free 01-800-681-6742

Beyond Vallarta

tours beyond the ordinary

www.beyondvallartatours.com

MX: 322.222.6726 | beyondvallarta@live.com

2016 Tours:

Historic Hacienda Tour – Feb 16-18

Two Cities/Puebla & Mexico City – March 21-28

Chiapas for Semana Santa – March 22-28

HOME TOUR NEWS

We are proud to share our 2015-16 Home Tour net income of over \$1 million pesos. More than 2,400 guests toured with us, a more than 20% increase from our 2014-15 tours. They helped contribute to our net proceeds of \$804,222 pesos, a 16% increase over the previous year, to the IFC's more than 20 great community programs.

Our 2016-17 tour season is off to a great start with a 37% increase for comparable weeks for the previous season. Tours resume in January 2017 each Tuesday and Wednesday through March 28th and 29th. We again thank the Sea Monkey Restaurant for sharing their great malecon location as the starting point for our tours.

We are also very thankful to all our 35+ returning and new volunteers that give their time each week to help the tours run smoothly. We are also very proud of our 4th annual Trip Advisor Certificate of Excellence award reflecting all the great work they do. Please check out some of our reviews online at TripAdvisor/International Friendship Club Tours.

With hopes of another great season we will work hard to deliver even better results in 2017.

We ask all of our members to join us on the tours, a pleasant way to enjoy a few hours, see some great homes and contribute to the club. We also ask you to please "talk up" the tours to family, friends and every tourist you meet on the street. There are IFC Home Tour business cards available at the office. Pick some up and share them around.

Information and details about the tours are easy to find on our website www.ifctoursforvallarta.com.

You can also ask us questions directly by emailing us at ifctourspv@yahoo.com. We are also always in need of new homes to show on the tours.

Keep us in mind if you know or hear of someone who might like to donate their home once or twice a season to the IFC for our great causes. We are of course always grateful for all your support.

Sincerely,

Ann Boughn

Conrad Kostelecky

Hank Muffett

Co-Directors IFC Home Tours



EVENTS

I would like to report that our Christmas dinner/ dance at Coco Tropical was a success and generated \$5,175.00 pesos for our charity fund. I want to thank Coco Tropical and our members for their participation to the event.

Please note that our popular Friday Hosted dinner after our Social Hour will start again on Friday January 6 with 2 or 3 venues depending on demands.

Looking forward to see many of you at the club.

Mandy MacLeay,

Assistant Event coordinator

IFC members also enjoy social events



Hank Muffett, Ann Boughn, Conrad Kostelecky,
Co-Directors IFC Home Tours