

2019



President's Message

Henry Golas, President

This year has been another great year.

We were voted the "the best community charity" by the readers of the Vallarta Tribune.

The home tours had an exceptional season allowing the club to distribute in excess of \$400,000 pesos above and beyond our normal giving. We were also able to increase our monthly grants to each charity.

Because we were so fortunate this year we had the opportunity to include two new projects, the scholarship fund for indigenous students and the anti-venom serum program for Mayo. The scholarship program will help five local students to complete their post-secondary education and continue their studies. The anti-venom program will provide funds to purchase serum for scorpion bites. With these two projects, we were able to further extend a helping hand to our local community.

We continued the success of our English outreach program. The dedication of seventeen teachers holding classes twice a week for ten weeks resulted in the graduation of thirty-five students. These students can now go into the workforce with a basic knowledge of English. Many students come back year after year to strengthen their knowledge and gain more confidence.

Our dental outreach program in Boca de Tomatlan has over the years provided dental care to children and adults who might never have had a chance to visit a dentist. Because of this program proper dental hygiene has increased and cavities and sickness have been reduced.

Community services and the rice and beans program have allowed us to go into outlying community to help families supplement their food source and do minor repairs to their homes. Volunteers go out regularly to check on families and see if they have any special needs.

Our cleft palate clinic is held three to four times a year. Doctors and nurses for Guadalajara donate their time to access the children and perform the operations. CMQ offers, free of charge, their operating and recovery rooms. Over the years we have helped several hundred children regain their confidence and self-esteem.

There are many more charities and projects we support. None of this could be done without the help of our volunteers. Many of you have stepped up to fill a need: be it the education committee, the charity liaison committee, home tours, English outreach or the executive. None of this work could be done without you. Volunteers on the social side of the club have also added greatly to our success. Because of you we have bridge, a social hour, mid-week lectures and movies, yoga and meditation. These are all important features of our club. To all I say THANK YOU.

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 1-614-600-8853

Email: ifcvallarta@gmail.com

www.IFCVallarta.com



Medical

Susan Harrie-Davalos, RN

This year, our Reconstructive Medical/ Surgical/Dental and Follow up program continues to be the IFC's banner program.

We continue to have a dedicated team of Cranio-Facial Doctors and Nurses. They come to us from Guadalajara as a team, taking time off from their personal careers. Last year they performed 4 separate rounds of consultations and surgeries.

Volunteers are a must to make it all come together. IFC has an equally dedicated team of highly motivated volunteers. A BIG shout out of THANKS for a team, that time after time, pulls it together.

We have to give our appreciation to the Villanueva family and their years of service by providing CMQ hospital as our base of Operations. Anesthesia, the Wonderful NURSING STAFF, as well as the patient rooms...ALL-FREE of CHARGE. When it is program time, our volunteers and medical team receive SMILES-all around! It is an Honor to serve and work together with such a team of professionals.

"We are here for the children"



LEND A HAND AND KEEP THE IFC STRONG!

Dan Grippo, Vice President

2019 will be another lively year for educational, community, cultural, personal enrichment, and fundraising activities at the IFC. Please check the Activities Calendar online at ifcvallarta.com or our desk calendar at the office for the dates and times of all events. New activities are added all the time!

On the educational side, our popular Spanish classes continue apace, along with a new Spanish Book Club and Discussion Group on Saturday afternoons (ask Adriana, our Spanish teacher, for details). We have some interesting Friday lectures on tap this winter as well.

For your spiritual side, we have Contemplative Dialogue on some Wednesdays and Mindfulness Meditation and Gentle Yoga on Saturday mornings. Read your weekly e-newsletter from the president for all the details.

On the lighter side, the popular Monday night movie series continues this year (popcorn included!) and there are several opportunities a week to play (or learn!) Bridge. Friday night Social Hour and Dine Around as well as special event brunches and dinners bring folks together every week for a good time and lively conversation.

IFC Home Tours are more popular than ever, raising funds for cleft palate surgeries and all sorts of other good causes and local charities. As well, your membership dues help pay the overhead and keep the lights on, and IFC's great restaurant and merchant discounts rewards you for your membership in no time. All of our activities are designed to contribute fund to the larger cause, so join in and be an active member!

None of this can happen without the volunteer efforts of countless individuals. Can we count on you to be one of them? Please start or renew your membership and then step up and lend a hand so that the IFC can continue serving so many folks in so many ways in the years to come! Let a Board member know you'd like to make a contribution and we will help you find the right spot!



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
Col. Vallarta Villas
(322) 226 6500

Facilities Management

Fred Forbes, Director

Well here we are, starting off a new season at The International Friendship Club and I extend a warm welcome to all old and new members for the 2019 season.

I have been working since early November getting the Facilities in good order for the busy season ahead.

Lots of painting and plumbing repairs, fridge repairs, wall repairs, cleanup of both storage rooms, pickup supplies for the clubhouse and the bar all stocked and ready to go.

I would like to thank new members Lisa and Rick Calderazzo, and Ellen Harries for stepping up to take on the bar duties. They have been doing a great job so give them a big thank you the next time they serve you a refreshment.

I have for the last 15 or more years been dedicated to the operations of the club and the time has come (hard to admit) where I need HELP and want to share some of these responsibilities with other club members. If you have free time on your hands and want to be involved with the workings of a great organization doing wonderful things for the Charities of Vallarta, don't want to just sit around. Our Cleft Palate program is changing the lives of children of the area and has been my driving force to volunteering along with everyone at this great organization. We are all working to meet our members needs and benefits that the club offers. This is where your help is needed for the well being of this club; to keep working to meet the needs of the community we serve in this beautiful paradise we all love.

I will be still involved with the club and will help train anyone for any involvement they would like to help out with.

There are many opportunities that you can be involved with at the club so please contact the office to learn what help is needed. 222-5466.

I thank you all for the support and respect that I have received over the many wonderful years of my service to the club and may 2019 be another great year at the IFC.

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Community Service

Susan Harrie-Davalos, RN

Welcome back to our IFC members, ALL of whom have helped make a difference in the lives of so many in our community for many years.

Our IFC board and members will continue to combine ideas to provide new ways to serve and raise the bar this year for the services we provide.

While we focus on children, many adults are also served by our IFC programs. Last year community services provided books for children in poverty, gently used clothing for men, women and children and Shoes that grow! Food for families, as well as many donated school items were made available through your material donations and through the donations of your friends!

Our summer budget allows for an expenditure for school supplies. Over 500 kids received school supplies over the last year. The school year begins during the "LOW Season". During the low season, tourism is at a standstill. Many parents are laid off from their jobs. The need is great during this time. IFC also helps the community kitchens that feed those in need. We supply huge cans of tuna, rice, lentils, beans and pastas.

Working in Community Service since 2002, I have seen a shift in the last few years-although positive-still most families find it hard to manage. Students are assigned homework that must be done on a computer. Most families do not have a computer or a printer. Kids, often several in the family, go to their local internet shop. While computer research is so necessary, it is costly for the daily assignments. If parents haven't money in the home for food and rent, certainly homework is not supported. Imagine children not turning in their reports... day after day! The ability to excel, even in a highly motivated student can become quashed. A downward spiral of feeling like a failure can take hold. Supporting centers that assist children with homework, tutoring, English skills and building strong character in the midst of these circumstances are a priority for our Community Service.

Please continue to help us help others! We make a difference!

Home Tours

Henry Golas

Home Tours last season saw almost 2,800 guests visiting beautiful homes. Over the season we showed about 40 different homes.

Home Tours requires the help and support of many volunteers, 40 in all. The greeters and ticket sellers at the Sea Monkey and the guides and docents on the buses are the visible aspect of Home Tours. Behind the scenes there are people who solicit homes before the season begins and throughout the season, people who schedule and check that homes are available for showing and of course, someone to direct and manage all these activities and people.

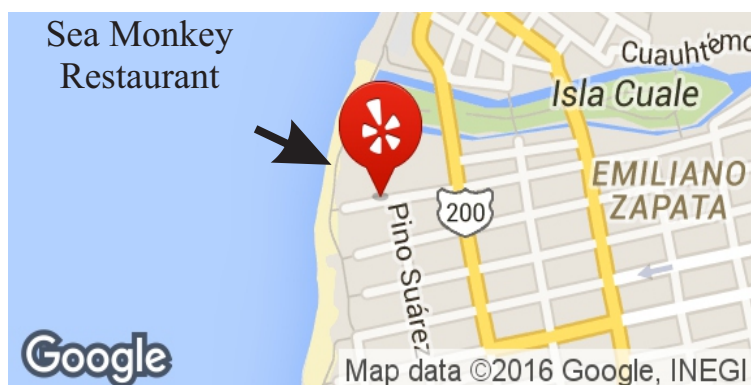
All these people are dedicated to one thing and that is to make Home Tours a success.

Money raised through Home Tours is used to support about 25 charities, plus our Cleft Palate program.

Because of Home Tours, we are able to support orphanages, youth orchestras, a dance school, rural schools in outlying areas and a home for handicapped children.

Thank you to all who have made Home Tours so successful.

We encourage you to take one of our tours and to tell your friends to also do so. You will enjoy yourself and at the same time help someone in need. Seating is limited and tours can sell out. Advance purchase is highly recommended. Buy online at ToursforVallarta.com or in the IFC office before the date of your Tour.



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.