

TO SERVE PARASERVIR

News from Xela Aid

March 2008

 Forward to a Friend

Greetings!

It's just three months into 2008, and already we have lots of good news to report. But first, as we say goodbye to winter, the Directors of Xela Aid wish to thank all those who contributed during our winter fund drive which is critical to the operation of our year-round clinic. Each person who contributed to the clinic and other important programs November-February has been listed here, and will soon be recognized on the website pages of the projects he or she supports. (Learn more about our various projects at right, and visit our [website](#) for additional information.)

Thank you:

- Barbara Andryjowicz · Leslie Baer · Jack Baldelli · Gloria Baldwin
- Helen and Maury Basile · Beth Boardman · Roger & Sandra Case
- Ellen Caldwell · Margaret Carlberg · Elena de la Cruz
- Carlos de la Rosa · Helen & Milton Dinkel · Mel Dinkel
- Colleen Dodds · Ronald & Barbara Douth · Karen Edwards
- RJ & JK Ehmsen · Peter and Cami Elbow · Cora G. Elliott
- Gabriella Escobar-Uolla · Steve Escoto · Debi Esquivel
- Elizabeth Fontaine · Richard Fontaine · Sheryl Fontaine
- Edward V. Glennon · Christine Green · Marisa Grimes
- Mary E. Marvin & Paul Gronseth · Toby Guebert · Diana Guerin
- Clifford Hague · William & Joan Herdrich · Alana Jolley · Judi Jorge
- Don Kiger · Mike and Jamie Kiger · Jordan, Justin, Val Klarenbeck · Constance Lambert · Frank Long · Judy Miles · Mayne Cole Miller
- Mila Moraga-Holz · Kathy Morales · Ann Muscat · Claudia Nocke
- Daniel & Lissa Petersen · Sandra Peterson · Jean Platt
- John & Sue Prange · George Prior · Kathleen A.Pryor
- Peter Reeve-Newson · Susan Rikalo · June Russel-Glennon
- Martha Saatjian · Katherine & David Sanchez · Glenn Stewart
- Margaret Struzzi · Janet Taylor · Arnold Tchira · Gail Warner
- Carolyn Winters-Hazelton · Margaret Wixted
- Where There Be Dragons/Liz, Ellie, Chris Yager
- Barnes & Noble · GoodSearch · Lion's Club of Avalon
- Mills-Lominska Family Trust (Jack & Susan)
- Third World Hand Crafts

Xela Aid USA is staffed entirely by volunteers. It receives no government funding, but is able to carry out its work due to the generosity of supporters like you. Many thanks to these and others who will contribute this year for making it possible for Xela Aid to operate for the benefit of the underserved people of San Martín Chiquito, Quetzaltenango, and the many communities beyond.

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SAVE THE DATE!

"Faces of San Martin"
The Art of Katherine Sanchez



A Benefit for Xela Aid USA/Int'l Year-Round Clinic Operations

Saturday, May 31, 2008
7 pm -9:30 pm

*Silent auction including artist prints,
authentic weavings, Catalina vacation &
more*

\$25/\$35 - Single/Couple
Includes host wine/cheese

RSVP - 951-733-2588

The Claremont Forum
586 W. First Street
Claremont, California

North of the 10 fwy/West of Indian Hill Blvd. in the
New Claremont Village Packing House

ONGOING PROJECTS

With most sincere appreciation,

The Directors

Carlos de la Rosa, Luis Enrique de León, Mel Dinkel, Colleen Dodds, Karen Edwards, Debi Esquivel, Patricia Florez, Sheryl Fontaine, Amalia Vasquez, Leslie Baer

A Mid-Year Trip to San Martín



By Sheryl I. Fontaine

With the open arms of **Amalia Vasquez**, San Martín welcomed **Debi Lyn Esquivel**, **Katherine Sanchez**, and me when we traveled to Guatemala in January. Debi and I wanted to visit the newly-minted El Centro de Estudios (Study Center), and Katherine joined

us to make the bi-annual distribution of PEX funds to sponsored students. With the gracious help and undying good humor of **Luis Enrique de León**, Director of Xela Aid's Clinic and Community Center and administrative supervisor of El Centro de Estudios, we rode daily to and from Hotel Modelo and the village, bought supplies, saw parts of San Martin that were new to us, and enjoyed good conversation and good company.

In June, using funds awarded to us by California State University, Fullerton, Debi and I had purchased a bookcase and storage cabinet for the Study Center and had begun to stock it with books, paper, pens, and pencils and other supplies that we often take for granted in the U.S. but that are sorely needed in San Martin. Thanks to donations from generous Xela Aid supporters (named above and on the [El Centro de Estudios page](#) of the Xela Aid website), in October we hired **Juana Gomez Lopez** to work as the instructor for the Center. Juana recently completed her teaching preparation with tuition assistance from Sandra Petersen and the PEX program. A dedicated and gifted teacher, Juana has established a rich curriculum for the 30-plus youngsters whom she has tutored.

Even though January is still the official school break, 10-15 children from San Martin who had been identified by their teachers as being in great academic need, eagerly joined Juana each morning to work on their math and writing skills. Debi and I had the pleasure of watching the children work and interact with Juana and one another. Juana worked individually with each child and also with the group as a whole.



Of course, the real fun happened during the mid-morning break when Juana pulled out the educational games that we had purchased for the Center. Little did the children know that while playing these games, they were building cognitive skills that can be applied to their school learning. Each time they beat me at the matching game (though I lost count of my losses, Debi captured most of them on



Xela Aid Summer Trips

June 7-20, 2008 - "El Centro de Estudios"/Children's Educational Assistance Program - Volunteer group will work with children in a preschool, elementary school, or study center setting developing children's games, activities, or study programs, helping with elementary through high school reading, writing, mathematics work; tutoring students who are studying English, helping children develop basic computer skills, organizing sports activities and participating in construction and repair, and will have the opportunity to study Spanish one-on-one. [Day Calendar and Application](#)

August 3-16, 2008 - Clinics and Construction - A volunteer group will travel to Guatemala to conduct an optometry and/or dental clinic, construction, repairs, deliver aid to children for educational study, Spanish study for those who would like to, and other projects which we will plan as our volunteer group takes shapes. [Day Calendar and Application](#)

June Russel-Glennon Clinic & Community Center

The June Russel-Glennon Clinic and Community Center is open weekday mornings and afternoons. During 2007, Clinic staff served more than 2400 people -- most of whom otherwise would not have been able to see a doctor.

An ultrasound kindly provided through [Direct Relief International \(DRI\)](#) was delivered mid-2007 and is now serving patients weekly. (Read about DRI's most recent generous contributions next issue.)

camera!) the children were also honing skills that help in the processes of critical thinking and reading.



During our visit, we were able to take inventory of the supplies that had been used since our summer visit. We then purchased an array of needed items, including kid-sized stools, notebooks, pencils, pens, paper, markers, crayons, erasers, small paint sets,

and scissors. These supplies, added to the textbooks and story books that we had carried down with us (several of which were purchased thanks to the Barnes and Noble fund raiser [Pat Florez](#) and Katherine hosted in the fall), left Juana and the children with renewed resources.

We also worked with Juana to make a list of additional books and supplies that the children need, much of which we will bring with us this summer when we return in June with the first Xela Aid volunteer trip to focus solely on children's education. We are also excited to announce that we will be bringing with us two lap top computers from the One Laptop Per Child Foundation (OLPC). Xela Aid Directors [Colleen Dodds](#) and [Karen Edwards](#) found this wonderful organization and graciously donated the first computer to the Center.

We loved the idea of OLPC so much that we used our grant funds to purchase a second laptop for the children. With the Center established, Debi, Juana, Luis, and I would like, once again, to thank the donors who continue to help us to pay Juana's salary, supply the Center with school supplies, and add to the (growing) library of text and reference books.

Maria Joins Xela Aid Team



[Maria Jose Reyna](#) began work as the resident nurse at Xela Aid's June Russel-Glennon Clinic and Community Center in February.

During her first few weeks at the clinic, she saw 56 patients. In her first monthly report, she noted that she "takes vital signs prior to the doctors visit."

Afterwards, she "fills perscriptions and councils patients on sickness prevention,

hygiene, child care, family planning and other related issues as they arise."

Those who travel to Guatemala on either of Xela Aid's June or August trips this summer will get to see Maria at work first-hand. Join Xela Aid's directors and

We welcome your support as a KCO Club member (for "Keep the Clinic Open") to help us continue to provide health services to those who need them most. All contributions are wisely administered and greatly appreciated.

[Learn more about the Clinic and KCO](#)

Sponsor Children & Young Adults in School (PEX)

Nearly 70 children are currently sponsored for school through Xela Aid's PEX program (Proyecto Educativo de Xela Aid, PEX).

Sponsor support makes it possible for these children and young adults to register in school and to buy books, supplies and clothing required to attend school.

Sponsored children also received a yearly medical exam and parasite treatment paid for with sponsor contributions.

Learn more about the [PEX Program](#), or email PEX Director Patricia Florez for additional information or to sponsor a child: pat.florez@theecomonkey.com

San Martín Tots Preschool

The preschool, or "guardaria," opened in 2007 serving an average of 34 children aged 3 to 6 each school day. The facility was built through the generosity of June Russel-Glennon.

A teacher and several assistants tutor the mostly mám- speaking children in Spanish, reading, writing and local history, and serve breakfast foods and a hot meal for lunch. The preschool is a joint effort with the Guatemalan government.

Thanks to several generous donors, Xela Aid has been able to augment the salaries of teachers and provide for hot meals, learning materials, and repairs to keep the facility safe and comfortable.

For additional information, see [San Martín Tots](#) or write us at

the Community of San Martín in welcoming Maria to the Clinic team.



A Facelift for San Martín Tots Preschool



Xela Aid's San Martín Tots Preschool began welcoming students in January 2007. Since that time, it has served an average of 34 children each week--children who enjoyed recess just as much as kids stateside. The resulting wear and tear created erosion and low spots that filled with water and made for a muddy

playground. But that has changed thanks to additional funding secured for 2008 which augments government funding and is allowing for needed improvements, school supplies, a living wage for teachers, and wholesome, hot meals for children.

A joint project between Xela Aid and the Guatemalan Government, in its first year, Xela Aid provided just the facility while the Government paid teacher salaries and supplies and snacks for the children. The project was insufficiently funded, however, and wouldn't have been able to continue.

Several Xela Aid donors have made it possible for the preschool to continue, and to thrive. With additional funding, teachers are earning a living wage, children have appropriate school supplies and are enjoying hot meals daily, and maintenance and upgrades like the paving of the playground (above) are being completed monthly.



Heartfelt thanks to [Marisa Grimes](#), [Roger and Sandra Case](#), [Christine Green](#), [Gloria Baldwin](#) and [Martha Saatjian](#) for their generosity providing the monthly funding for the preschool; and to [June Russel-Glennon](#) who fund for the classroom, and [Mel Dinkel](#), the kitchen facility.

Welcoming New PEX Children and Sponsors

xela_aid@earthlink.net

San Martín CLEAN!

The program to install 30 permanent trash cans around town got off to a great start with the first one being cemented in front of Xela Aid's clinic to much fanfare. Many thanks to those who have sponsored trash cans so far.

[San Martín CLEAN!](#)

"El Centro de Estudios" (Xela Aid Study Center)

The new "Centro de Estudios" welcomes children from the PEX program and all others who wish to participate in peer tutoring and afterschool activities. Xela Aid is proud that the tutor employed is a graduate of our own PEX program.

To learn more, visit [Centro de Estudios](#), or email Sheryl Fontaine or Debi Esquivel:

sfontaine@Exchange.FULLERTON.EDU or desquivel@fullerton.edu

[Support one of these Projects Now](#)

Quick Links

[Summer Trip Applications](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

[Web Homepage](#)

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In recent months, three children have been sponsored for school through Proyecto Educativo de Xela Aid (PEX).

Long-time PEX donor [Gabriela Escobar-Ulloa](#) is now sponsoring [Claudia Dionicia Lopez Vasquez](#).

[Chris Yager](#), [Liz](#) and [Ellie](#) from [Where There Be Dragons](#) is sponsoring [Santos Rivera Lopez](#).

[Sandra Petersen](#), another long-time PEX sponsor, is now sponsoring [Ingrid Maritza Lopez Son](#).

These children join the nearly 70 who are currently sponsored through PEX and can be seen on our [PEX Brag pages](#). Heartfelt thanks to these generous sponsors!

To learn more about the PEX program, visit [PEX](#) on the web. To sponsor a child, or for additional information, contact PEX Director Pat Florez at: pat.florez@theecomonkey.com

NEWS AND UPDATES NEXT EDITION

[Rotary Club of Avalon will Support Xela Aid Clean Water Project for San Martin](#)

[Ultrasound: 8 Months Later](#)

[Fruit Trees for San Martin](#)

[Direct Relief International Visits Xela Aid Clinic as New Shipment Arrives](#)

[Summer Trips Update](#)

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