

# GENESIS™

*Learning Experiences for Orphanage and Migrant Children*



March 2008

## Genesis International Orphanage Foundation GIOF

P.O. Box 6458  
Chula Vista, Ca. 91909  
U.S.A.  
Tel.: 619-977-7072  
Office@GIOF.org

www.GIOF.org

## Genesis Diez, A.C.

C. Atenas #45  
Col. Ampl. Moderna  
Ensenada, B.C. 22879  
MX  
Tel.: 011-52-646-174-5257

## Greg Amstutz

Co-Founder  
RanchoGenesis@GenesisDiez.org

## Gabriela Velazquez

Executive Director  
Ejecutiva@GenesisDiez.org

www.GenesisDiez.org

*"...care for orphans and widows in their distress..."*

*James 1:27*

## Contents

- Happenings
- 2008 Gala
- Margarita
- Note from Patti
- Spring Groups
- Wish list
- Traveling in Baja

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## Happenings ...

- Outreach to the poorest of the poor ~ April 20th, Migrant Families Celebration Event
- Foxploration Event coming up **June 7th** ~ Join us to celebrate Detrás de las Escenas "Behind the Scenes" ~ we expect over 800 orphanage and migrant children
- Margarita is under the care of Genesis Diez, A.C. ~ help support her needs [see pg 2]
- Genesis Diez, A.C. 2008 Migrant support includes obtaining birth certificates for niños and adults with the help of a local governmental organization
- April 30th, "The Day of the Children" will kick-off the presentation of birth certificates to migrant children at a celebration in El Zorillo
- 2008 Rancho Genesis spring camps held again at the Aqua Viva Rehabilitation site
- Bajamar home will be for sale this summer to raise funds for Genesis Diez, A.C.
- We believe it is safe to travel into Baja California ~ [see pg 4]
- GIOF tax deductible donations can be made online ~ use PayPal at [www.giof.org](http://www.giof.org)



## GIOF Fiesta Gala 2008...

The 2nd Annual GIOF Fiesta Gala fundraiser held on Feb 23rd to benefit Genesis Diez, A.C. of Mexico, was another wonderful experience and \$29,000 was raised. Our 115 guests enjoyed a sit down dinner and excellent entertainment. The Mariachis from Montgomery High School, San Diego were sensational. The folkloric dancers, from Tijuana were wonderful. C. Gresham Bayne, M.D. was our MC and Auctioneer. In addition to the cash raised, a beautiful motor home was donated and a full soccer field was pledged

for Rancho Genesis once Genesis Diez, A.C. has a permanent land site. We were blessed to have many friends from south of the border attend including *Sra. Lorena Gutierrez de Lopez*, First Lady of Ensenada and president of DIF; other DIF officials, Tijuana and Ensenada Cultural Center Directors, Red Cross Director of Ensenada and the Director of the Foundation of the Protection of the Children. There were two orphanage Directors in attendance and other friends from Ensenada and Tijuana.

Special thanks to Dr. Bayne; Emmanuelle Martin who donated all the printing of invitations and related Gala materials (she is also donating the supplies and printing of the Genesis newsletters); Don Enck who coordinated with Tom Ham's Lighthouse; David Zedaker for the sound system; Terri Enck flowers; the Genesis Diez A.C. staff and GIOF board members, advisors and friends who helped put everything together and worked throughout the evening. What a fun celebration!! Thank you all for joining us.



**MOTHER TERESA ON LEARNING FROM THE POOR:**

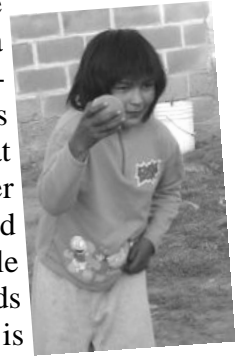
*The poor give us much more than we give them. They're such strong people, living day to day with no food. And they never curse, never complain. We don't have to give them pity or sympathy. We have so much to learn from them.*

April 2007



**Margarita Librado Lopez**

We're Foster Parents! We last shared about Margarita in Sept. 2007 when she was in a temporary orphanage and doing well. She began to regress after a couple of good months and is now not sleeping, having some depression, her balance is worse and she must now be assisted walking at all times. She turned 15 in Dec, is a little taller and thinner, and having difficulty eating and swallowing. She still has the same shy smile and looks down most of the time. She responds to direction and definitely wants her way...she is



a smart cookie. Her meds have been changed yet again, still being treated for Parkinson's symptoms. We put out a plea to San Diego friends looking for a Doctor who would be willing to perform diagnostics on Margarita. Our wonderful Dr. Bayne connected us with a quality medical group in Tijuana who agreed to run a series of tests, including a CAT-scan. (We don't have to apply for a Medical Visa!) We are very excited at the possibility of Margarita having a better quality of life. The CAT-scan was performed March 22nd with more testing to be done. Loy, who was the caregiver for Maria, Margarita's sister who passed away last Sept, has also agreed to take in Margarita. With the blessing of DIF and Margarita's mother, Genesis Diez, A.C. will oversee Margarita's care. Basically Genesis Diez, A.C. has a "foster child". Anyone wanting to help us with Margarita's basic personal needs and medications can donate to GIOF orphanage and shelter program for Margarita's care. Make your checks payable to GIOF and in the memo put "O/S Margarita". With a proper diagnosis, one-on-one care, proper meds and a lot of love, we hope and pray to report in a few months that Margarita has improved in all areas.



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**A Note from Patti... Reality: the state or quality of being real; a real thing or fact; the external world that exists independently of perception.**

Doctors say that the brain does not fully develop until a person is in their middle to later 20's ~ I really had no clue about 'reality' back then. Maybe at 37 the light bulb came on...by then there were 17 years of decisions made by an under developed brain! Bible Study Fellowship opened my eyes to "reality" and I began learning about the 'real' me and what that meant. I finally became comfortable in my own skin and quit comparing myself to everyone else...I accepted that God gave me certain gifts and that was who I am. Of course being married doesn't mean I can only think of myself [one of those consequences]...and once Greg also began a relationship with the Lord, we became a team in life walking with Him. Funny how God gave 'me' messages to encourage 'Greg' in his convictions. The direction he was going was not what I had in mind; and yet I was certain that was what 'we' were meant to do. So long story short...Greg became a 'keeper' and was brave enough to ask for the Lord's Will

in his life and here 'I' am in Mexico. God has a sense of humor! The 'external world' as I know it now includes children and families living in unimaginable conditions. Pictures do not do poverty justice...you have to see it in person; you have to be in it; touch it; and feel it. One thing I can do is tell you about what I see...there is a huge need here and resources for the poor are very limited compared to the US. I invite you to come visit...see it and feel it...it's real and real people are living it...your perception will possibly change. It's what we do with our knowledge and our convictions. Having a relationship with Christ definitely changes your perception of the world and everything and everyone around you...where He can take your reality changes it even more. I personally still have a lot of work to do with the lessons of the reality before me and seeing and hearing about what is going on in the greater external world...tells me time is running out. Your Will in my life Lord!





### Spring Amigo/Niño Programs have begun:

It is green and beautiful at Rancho Genesis with warm days and cold nights. March brought the Copper Canyon Academy girls again and they worked with the local school



teacher and her 18 students. Point Loma Pres Church [PLCPC] Sr. High served migrant children from the El Pipila and El Zorrillo area along with the children of Aqua Viva Rehabilitation Centre. A special ceremony took place as Pastor Marcos

presented the keys to PLCPC of the now open Casa Hogar on site that houses the children of the ladies in the Rehabilitation Centre...yes they are an approved and open orphanage now. PLCPC over the years has donated the most hours in building this facility. Melba Friends Sr. High from Melba ID also came to serve, working with the Aqua Viva and local migrant children. The Spring team's construction projects included working on the area school, the orphanage and Rancho Genesis. The end of the day is delivery of food baskets and prayer to the local poor. The groups working with migrant children were able to see where the children lived and meet family members. Bethany Church Long Beach Sr. High, 45 strong, joined the same Tijuana orphanage, Lily of the Valley, 41 strong, at Rancho Genesis for the third year in a row. It is a joy to watch the children run to "their Amigo" who they have gotten to know over time.



### Quotes from American Students who came to serve:

- Amazing establishing good memories...not about me—letting go
- I loved giving food to the families living in the apts. I have been blessed by so much joy on this mission and I have grown in self and in faith!
- My mission trip was AMAZING and I will be back...believe me! This trip has opened my eyes to some of the best and worst things that this world has to offer. I have learned many things about myself, my life, the world and many things. I have met people who have changed my life and I will never be the same because of these people. They are a blessing and have changed my life and truly had an impact on my heart...thank you so much Genesis!
- Once again it was amazing, the staff went above and beyond to fill our needs. They all do exciting work and I can hope to maybe do what they do one day.
- I loved the way VBS was set up. It was very organized and really fun and educational. It was so awesome to get to see the building we've been helping to build the last several years up and running filled with kids that are being loved and cared for. It is so neat to be a part of this ongoing dream that God is constantly molding and forming into His. Keep up the good work!
- My trip was amazing! Genesis is an awesome place and everyone here is truly special. The food was completely amazing every meal and everyone was so welcoming. Genesis is so inspiring to everyone who comes no matter how long their stay is. Thank You!
- Sweetest thing ever of all time!



***Genesis Diez, A.C. Needs and Wishes for Summer Camps ....***

- 120 Pairs of tube socks any color for making puppets
- 10 packs of 20 #600 Polaroid Film
- Kites
- Flashlights
- Batteries [AA,C,D]
- Sharpie Markers
- Duct Tape
- Masking Tape
- Hula Hoops
- Large Roll of White Mural Paper
- Non-parishable foods for our food distribution program
- Donated translating services for Website—English to Spanish

To financially support the Genesis Diez, A.C. Missionaries, Amanda DeVries and Greg and Patti Amstutz, give to the Helping Hands program. For further information call Patti at 619-977-7072. [no personal names on the checks]

*Make all checks payable to GIOF or pay online through PayPal on our web-site  
www.GIOF.org*



***“More Than Memories,  
Changing Lives”***

Genesis needs your help in providing the many materials we use for our programs. Materials include items for VBS, literacy, science, recreational, and other educational learning activities for the children (as well as feeding, housing, and caring for them when at Rancho Genesis). The programs change with the season and while some needs are consistent, others are different depending on the time of year.

**MUCHAS GRACIAS!!!**

***Traveling in Baja California.*** Come May, we will have lived in Mexico 4 years. Things have changed and people who have been traveling into Baja California for years are now hesitant to come due to the increasing violence over the last two years. Greg and I still travel back and forth to San Diego together and/or alone to take care of banking, post office and other errands and shopping for supplies that we can't afford at Mexico's prices :). We both believe it is as safe living here as in San Diego or Los Angeles. We all need to be aware of our surroundings and be smart about when and where to be out and about. We believe it is safe for volunteers and groups to come down at this time. We do not travel late at night and groups are in caravans. We do not go into the Tijuana or Rosarito areas where most of the violence has been happening. Note that Genesis Diez, A.C. escorts our groups into and out of Mexico for two reasons: [1] to make it easy on the group leaders to find the correct site and not get lost in a bad area; [2] if there are any problems with vehicles or safety we are able to call for help from police and our many friends between TJ and Ensenada who will drop all things to help in an emergency. We and all the wonderful Mexican folks around us are so very saddened at these tragic events. We do not take this issue lightly and will be the first to warn anyone if and when it is not safe to come.

To clarify the violence as we know it: The violence has been targeted to specific profiles of which we, our groups, volunteers and the niños we serve, do not fit. Drug Lords are targeting the police specifically, yet there have been innocent bystanders killed, just as with gang related shootings in the states. Kidnappings have been mainly Mexican-American families who own businesses in Mexico. Tourist kidnappings have been by those who observe the larger more expensive shopping areas in TJ and just north of the border and target those people driving expensive vehicles. It is suggested to not dress expensively and/or drive luxurious vehicles.

Genesis Diez, A.C. is located in Ensenada and Rancho Genesis is in a safe rural area just south of Ensenada. There has been very little of this type of violence here. We are very conscientious of these things for our groups, volunteers as well as ourselves, our staff and the orphanage and migrant children who join us. No matter if living in San Diego, Los Angeles or traveling into Mexico one always has the possibility of getting hurt, robbed or being near violence. Most importantly we pray for Gods protection! Greg and Patti Amstutz

**GIOF**  
GENESIS INTERNATIONAL ORPHANAGE FOUNDATION

P.O. Box 6458  
Chula Vista, CA 91909-6458

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