

# **2006 Update of the Mexican Schools Project in Cabo Corrientes, Mexico**

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We had a great 3 months in Mexico this past year. The project momentum keeps picking up which is exciting for us, but also a little labor intensive. All the donations and contributions help us do the work in the Mexican communities to help improve the conditions and futures for these Mexican children. Schools supplies, bright colors and murals, sports equipment, building materials/supplies, and safe water and bathroom conditions all have made a huge impact in the area of Cabo Corrientes.

We are so happy to report that the school bus/ambulance made it safely to Cabo Corrientes, and a huge thanks to Bob and Glenda who donated, repaired, collected supplies, and drove the bus down all the way from Montreal to Cabo Corrientes. The bus is now able to transport the students from these remote villages to the nearest high school, which is quite a long way away. Bob Lister also fitted the bus to enable a stretcher to be secured in the middle of the bus so that community members in Cabo Corrientes will be able to be safely and quickly transported to the nearest medical centre (also very far away).

When we returned to the area we were so pleased to see the progress and the bathroom projects were completely finished. They were some of the only working bathrooms and water facilities of all Cabo Corrientes as bathrooms and water are a major challenge in the community schools. It is a great start and the community members, students and teachers are very happy about their working bathrooms and sinks. We were also very happy to see all the work that the local government of Cabo Corrientes has done during this past year. They put in more than 40 bridges to enable communities to get out during the rainy season, which was almost impossible in past years. The dangerous roads have been improved for much safer and quicker travel from one community to another, and to enable people to get to larger city centres when necessary. The local government also brought electricity and water to many of the villages so that almost everyone has electricity and water now. The local high schools have also put in new computers and computer education programs to improve the levels of education and opportunities for these children. Also, the University of Guadalajara has adopted the area and provided an on line facility for those who would like to pursue a career.

Other projects we were busy with this year include collecting blankets, pillows, sheets and towels for the elderly in CC(Cabo Corrientes) as it was unseasonably cold there this year and many seniors and babies did not survive.

We had fun painting many schools and special needs centres both in PV and CC, and had a lot of help from the local community. It is so rewarding to see the children be involved in painting their learning centres/schools with bright happy colours and murals. We have included some photos until the website is updated.

An exciting new project that has just been started up this year is a scholarship fund for children who want to extend their studies. The cost is the biggest deterrent for children from families who cannot afford it. We will have more information available about this when the web site update is complete. It is exciting to think that the students who are motivated and have the grades to continue their education will be gaining opportunities that were not accessible for these families in these remote and poor areas.

It is also exciting to keep some of the projects going even though we are in Canada through our Mexican and local community member contacts in PV and CC. It will mean that more bathrooms and water systems get repaired in the community schools. Our goal is to have every school bathroom and sink in working order and a cleaning and maintenance program is put in place by the community members themselves to enable the students to have a clean and healthy future.

Next year we are planning to drive down to Mexico to enable us to have a van and a small work trailer as it was very difficult to access vehicles to get into these remote areas. Our plan is to paint as many of the community schools as we possibly can. There are about 50 schools in the area. The key to this success is that the community members themselves are taking pride in coming up with and participating in improvement projects to help their children's future, and doing the labour themselves for free. We have noticed an improved sense of hope and self esteem in these remote villages.

You can help the Mexican Schools Project and these communities by providing them with the resources, supplies and materials needed for

***Thank you for helping us help the wonderful children of Mexico!!***