

# *Niños de Baja*

*Ejido El Porvenir  
Baja California, Mexico*

Homes for Orphans of Mexican Extraction, Inc. (H.O.M.E.)  
dba Niños de Baja and Rancho de los Niños  
(E.I.N. #33-0119870)

## *2010 Annual Report*

Prepared for Annual U.S. Board of Directors Meeting  
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## **Mission Overview**

### **Jerry Carey, Chairman, U.S Board of Directors**

This past year has been exciting as we've watched God at work with and through Niños de Baja. The Mission Directors and Board of Directors have been actively advancing the Kingdom on many fronts. Hopefully, this brief narrative will provide some insight about our challenges and accomplishments during the past year (2010).

We began the year enmeshed in the process of creating a new Mexican corporation to hold our El Porvenir property titles. Thanks to our attorney, Antonio Maldonado, who provided thousands of dollars of legal work pro-bono (free), we finished the year being granted Mexican non-profit status for the new corporation. This status enables us to avoid Mexican taxes on property and income. We already enjoy tax free status in the U.S.

Early in the spring of 2010, we learned that our Mexico Mission Directors, Alison & Phil Drain, would be retiring in December, which meant we needed to find a new missionary couple. Alison and Phil were completing their fifth very productive year in Mexico.

A national Missionary search began. Multiple candidate couples emerged and were interviewed. Several made visits to Niños to see the Mission work first-hand. God lifted up a pair of couples, Steve and Millie Shold and Jerry and Robin Znetko, who have taken on the oversight responsibilities for managing Niños de Baja in Mexico. Late in the fall of the previous year (2009) another highly qualified couple, Darryl and Judy Lloyd, were moved by God to take on the newly created position of U.S. Mission Directors. They began getting into "the groove" early in the year by making extensive church visits and contacting supporters. Their efforts are bearing much "fruit."

In the fall of 2010 during the transition period, a young missionary couple, Jeff and Silvia Roddy, and their three children moved to Niños to help out. (They were on their way to plant Christian churches in Colombia and wanted to help us, and acclimate their children to the Spanish language and Latin culture.) We appreciate the Roddy's generous contributions and acknowledge another of God's gifts to us. We pray God's blessings on their journey to Columbia, South America.

God knew Niños had grown beyond the ability of one missionary couple to manage His work, so He sent us three exceptional couples (the Lloyds, the Sholds and the Znetkos). God supplies all our needs! We went from "losing" a wonderful couple (the Drains) to having three gifted couples step into the opportunity to serve God's kids at Niños de Baja. It's exciting to watch God work.

Several new people have been added to the Niños U.S. Board of Directors. We thank Betty Imboden, Dale Blankenship, Marilyn Jenkins and Andrew Althaus for joining our dedicated leadership team. Janet Penanhoat also joined the board as Treasurer, late in 2009, and has done an exceptional job of keeping track of finances here in the U.S., and producing and managing our financial reports.

Expansion continues through our newest property acquisition and construction on our existing property. A three-bedroom house, needing renovation and located next to our Casa Hinton, has just closed escrow. We will need mission teams to rehab this property. Come on down! Other structures have been erected during the year, by dedicated U.S. Mission Teams. Some need finish work. You can help!

We enjoyed our first board retreat, ably led by board members Dr. Larry Banta and Jose Rodriguez. A full day before our fall board meeting was invested in prayer and planning. This effort produced our new Mission Statement; "To share the love of Christ by serving children in Baja California, Mexico." All future mission planning and activity will be measured against this statement to ensure that our time and capital is invested toward this effort. A "Vision Statement" is being developed, as well as new long-term goals, to keep our focus on our priorities.

We also produced a new, more functional organizational structure. The new position of Executive Mission Director was created and will be filled by Steve Shold. This will enable Steve to guide all decisions and activities directly affecting operations in Mexico. Darryl and Judy Lloyd will function as U.S. Mission Directors. Millie Shold, and Robin and Jerry Znetko will fill the roles of Associate Mission Directors in Mexico. These changes will spread the work load and better define responsibilities on both sides of the border.

Board member Andrew Althaus, an architect, is surveying all of the Niños properties with the goal of recommending multiple and "best use" options for each property. Andrew is another talent sent by God, just as he was needed.

Each U.S. board member brings special gifts and a strong commitment to the Niños de Baja Mission. Their unselfish personal efforts, on behalf of God's Mission at Niños de Baja, demonstrate God's command to care for "orphans." Our mission could not exist without their efforts.

All U.S. Board members and all Mission Directors are volunteers. None of the U.S. leadership team receives any monetary compensation for their efforts. One-hundred percent of all support given to Niños goes to support our children and the mission.

We invite and recommend every Niños supporter to participate in a board meeting. Niños board meetings are productive and informative.

The Mission Director reports (below) provide additional insight into the activities, on both sides of the border, that affect Niños.

## **Our Mission in Mexico**

### **Steve Shold, Executive Director and Millie Shold, Associate Director**

“Niños de Baja is tops on our list of homes in the area,” stated Monica during a recent visit from DIF, Mexico’s equivalent to children’s services in the U.S. Niños has a good reputation in el Porvenir as well. The clean, well-kept grounds are almost like an oasis in a town that has few lawns. The bright murals on the walls of Casa Hinton attract attention. The nice playground equipment at the daycare, as well as at Casa Hinton, shows the love and concern people have for these children of Baja. Inside our children’s home and daycare center, our workers engage the children in activities to help them learn and mature, while keeping them safe and clean. It’s a pleasant atmosphere all around.

We first heard about Niños de Baja last April from Ray and Roberta Heaton, who have brought groups to Porvenir for several years now, and have volunteered to be the Northwest Ambassadors for Niños. They told us there was a need for people to visit Niños for extended periods to assist the directors, and they thought we might be interested in helping. However, before we had time to volunteer, Phil and Alison announced they were retiring at the end of the year to spend more time with their family.

Our first introduction to Porvenir came later during a week-long mission-team trip with the Heatons. We stayed at the “57 House” which was comfortably set up for visiting work groups. Compared to other mission experiences we’ve had, this was a delightful place to stay. With handicapped access, and bathrooms and bedrooms on the lower level, it even allowed group members who had physical disabilities to have a foreign mission experience and serve the Lord. Although the neighboring roosters kept many of us awake, they were a true mission experience and reminded us that we were not in urban U.S.A.

During the week, the team participated in three different projects, which included work for a community member as well as construction on two buildings for Niños de Baja. Most importantly, we were able to spend time each day interacting with the children at the orphanage and the community.

Although Niños has not established a congregation in Porvenir, their participation at the local Iglesia Cristiana allowed us another look into the culture of a different world. When we visited this church, we were duly impressed with this aspect of Niños’ cross-cultural outreach ministry to visiting members of churches from the U.S.

During our trip, we could see that God is being glorified by the multifaceted work at Niños: care for orphans, daycare for local children, community outreach and involvement, internships and short-term mission trips. We wanted to return to Porvenir as full-time missionaries.

However, our decision wasn’t brought to fruition until January 18, 2011. And, in the time between the Drains’ leaving and our arrival, a problem arose. As we finished our preparations to move from Oregon to Porvenir, the Roddys kept us informed by email. We had to make some difficult decisions before and immediately after we arrived. During this time, we often felt inadequate, but we needed to move forward.

The Mexican administrators became concerned about some of our older children who were having serious anger problems. With our approval, they informed DIF and asked for their assistance. DIF then informed us that we needed a Mexican administrator to live on or very near the orphanage facilities. (The former administrator had recently resigned, and the two women who assumed her responsibilities live, with their families, a distance from the home.)

DIF recommended a couple, Alma Rosa and Hector Najera. Since Alma Rosa had been a teacher at the Rancho when Don Hinton was there, this appeared to be a good solution. We hired them, and they are now in charge of keeping the legal papers current, attending school meetings, and general oversight of the orphanage. They are living in "Rosa's House", the rental house near the daycare. Although we felt frustrated that we had to hire more staff at a time when funds have diminished, we have been very pleased by the dedication and Christian example shown by the Najeras.

All of these transitions have been difficult, however. With so many changes, the children may have some fears and insecurities. And among the adults, there is some confusion as to roles and responsibilities. We don't want to make changes until we know the system better, so we sometimes hold back when we should be more aggressive and vice versa. It's been a learning process for all of us.

Having said that, we are blessed with a wonderful staff and we thank God for them all. We are coming to a deeper understanding of the needs which must be addressed, but also must be planned one step at a time. We need prayers from you and guidance from the Lord.

## **Mexico Mission Goals for 2010** **How Did We Do?**

### ***1. Niños de Baja (NdB) Children's Home (orphanage)***

- Add capacity so we can take more kids. (Space and staff)
  - "Intern dorm" completed.
  - New dorm/home began.
  - Property acquisition on "Miguel's" property began.
  - We also, installed a new swing set for older children at the orphanage.
- Find out what we need to do legally to take private placements and, at the same time, have reasonable options if a child presents a danger to other children.
  - Not accomplished yet.
- Increase the number of children we serve.
  - Actually down as several adoptions at the end of year and no replacements yet.
  - 31 children housed.
  - 14 children adopted during 2010, 59 since 2007.
  - Total number children served since the beginning = 76.

### ***2. Guardaria las Brisas (daycare)***

- Continue to serve up to 30 children per day.
  - Served up to 30 per day.
  - Actual daily attendance varied by circumstances (work schedules, illness, etc.).

### **3. Educational Support**

- Continue to provide high school, college and law-school tuition as funds allow.
  - Monetary help and encouragement given to two university students: a former “Rancho” girl graduated from college, a local student graduated from law school.
- Continue to donate school supplies as we receive them.
  - Donated supplies as available to schools that requested them.

### **4. Library Support**

- We have not supported the library this year.

### **5. Community Outreach**

- Continue to provide summer VBS/activities in the park.
  - Activities and VBS done throughout the summer in the park for local children.
- Continue to give Bibles and gifts to children as donations allow.
  - At Christmas 500+ shoebox gifts and 200 Bibles distributed, with four churches participating.
- Continue to offer clothing, food and household item distributions to community.
  - Distributions throughout year as available.
  - Gifts given to elderly as they came for government payments.
  - Helped nearby orphanages with clothing, supplies when available.
  - Also installed two playground sets at two elementary schools in Porvenir.
  - Began association with the local doctor for daycare parents to help clean his office and do laundry in exchange for free office visits and medicine for our children.

### **6. Cross-cultural impact**

- Increase number of churches, mission teams, families, couples and individuals who serve at Niños.
  - Number of churches increased to 17 - five more than previous year.
  - Number of mission teams increased to 32 - 11 over previous year.
  - Number of people who served was up by eight, totaling 408.
- Increase number of volunteer Interns.
  - Eight interns, from around the U.S., served from two weeks to three months.

### **7. New Construction**

- Complete new dorm facility behind Drain's house. Will provide housing for interns, couples and small families for now, and possibly serve as a children's home for 13- to 18-year olds in the future.
  - Completed. Currently used by interns and full-time volunteer.
- Build new dorm on lot that was recently acquired.
  - Completed except for bathrooms, kitchen, water and propane.
  - Wash house with additional bathrooms and showers built at front of property.
  - Storage shed and pump house built at back of property.

## 8. Administration

- Find a couple and/or individuals to live in Porvenir, full time, and assist Mexico Directors
  - Two couples found.
  
- Find people to temporarily live in Porvenir to assist as needed.
  - One volunteer served from mid September until present.
  - One volunteer continues to serve after two years.
  - A family of five (the Roddys) has lived in the 57-C guest house (back house) from September to present, and helped with childcare at our children's home during the transition between directors. (Will be moving to a mission in Columbia.)
  - At least two couples are willing to come during 2011 for short periods.

	2010	2009	2008
Number mission team visits	31	21	43
Total number people	408	400	675
Total number churches represented	17	12	Na
Children served @ Casa Hinton	31	34	29
Number children adopted	14	13	19

Total number of children served May 2006 through December 2010 = 76.

Number of children in Casa Hinton at end of 2010 was 17.

## **Our Mission in the U.S.**

### **Darryl and Judy Lloyd, U.S. Directors**

It has now been 16 months since we came on board as U.S. Mission Directors. We have enjoyed our new jobs, and have found it very challenging and very rewarding.

We enjoyed working with the Drains (Alison and Phil) during 2010. They were very helpful while we were learning our jobs, and we had some good times together. We wish them well as they retire and begin their new life north of the border.

We are excited about the Sholds coming to Niños in January and have already had some great experiences together. We are also looking forward to working with the Znetkos who will join the team in March.

Below is a list of accomplishments for the U.S. side of our mission during 2010. Many people helped us – some are specifically listed, some are not. We are extremely grateful for everyone who helped and encouraged us. And we thank God for the opportunity to serve him.

### **2010 Accomplishments in the U.S.**

#### ***A. National Missionary Convention***

The 2010 convention was attended by Nate and Stacy Banta, who allowed us to share booth space with another mission they represented. We are very appreciative of their offer to help. They live in the Lexington, KY area where the conference was held. The space was offered at no charge to Niños, so our only expense was \$150 to ship our exhibit to and from Lexington. The Bantas spoke to a variety of people who were interested in our mission, and several intern and mission team candidates may result.

#### ***B. Technology Changes***

- We set out to make our Facebook Group page a vehicle to get Niños news out on a weekly (sometimes daily) basis. (Dory Blankenship, a missionary at Niños, set up the page prior to our joining the team and did a great job.) In October 2009, Niños had 18 “Friends.” Now we are nearing the 540 mark. Facebook provides an opportunity to share so much more information with supporters, mission teams and others who are interested in our mission. We have added hundreds of photos as well as some videos. Facebook has become a very effective tool for us.
- The Niños website was rewritten and reorganized. New content was added including intern testimonials. New photos and videos were also added, and an easier online donation process was initiated with a home-page link. A link to the Facebook Group page was also added. However, late in 2010, we decided to design a brand new site which is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2011.
- One of our U.S. volunteers, Linda Punaro, implemented a new online database/email service (Constant Contact) this past year. It was a huge task and we are grateful for her initial work, and on-going maintenance and email coordination. Each month, she sends out the U.S. Directors’ report and our newsletter to more than 1,000 people.

#### ***C. Church and Organization Relations***

- We initiated a monthly U.S Director's Report to complement the monthly Niños newsletter. The report covers the U.S. and business side of our mission, and is sent to supporting and prospective churches, as well as interested individuals.
- We made significant progress in contacting prospective churches. As contact was made, information packages were sent to interested churches. We then made two major trips to visit supporting and prospect churches. In the spring, we went to Arizona where we met with four supporting churches and two prospects, as well as several individuals. In the fall, we went to Oregon, where we met with eight churches: one is a supporting church, another was a supporter and is interested in helping us again, and the others are prospects. One new church, Redwood CC in Grant's Pass, OR, booked a mission trip as a result of our trip. Several others expressed an interest in mission trips this year. We spoke to congregations, mission teams, senior groups, Sunday school classes and a variety of other groups.
- Ray and Berta Heaton agreed to be our Northwest Ambassadors, and were instrumental in contacting Oregon churches and helping us book appointments for our trip. (The Heatons have led church mission teams for many years, and have developed a planning guide for churches.) Our collective efforts resulted in a prospect list of about 40 churches (a large number are from OR) by year end. We are currently looking to recruit ambassadors to help in Arizona, Northern California, and Southern California. Several contacts have been made, but nothing has materialized yet.
- We attended a Mission Fair at Hope International and spoke at several local churches.
- A major donation (\$20,000) was received as a result of following up with an east-coast foundation that had previously made contact with Niños.
- The ANEW Foundation was contacted as a result of a referral by one of our long-time supporters. This resulted in trailer-loads of furniture, Disney clothes and toys, and stationery supplies. ANEW also has a "wish list" from us for future possible donations.
- Another faithful donor introduced us to Turning Point Ministries. Turning Point provided us with more than 50 boxes of clothing donated from J Crew. The Drains and a mission team (recruited to help) transported everything to Porvenir. So many people – our Niños, our workers and their families; two other orphanages (Niños and workers) in the area; and the town of Porvenir – benefitted from this ministry. It was amazing!
- We prepared information to apply for another major donation from an east-coast church that has not yet materialized.

#### ***D. Individual Contacts***

- We began a program to reach out to potential individual donors, and will continue it in 2011. This program is intended to increase the number of people who support Niños.

### ***E. Promotional Projects***

- A new logo was designed, and is being implemented. Currently, it is on the masthead for the emails we send out each month, and the new signs at our children's home.

### ***F. Recruiting of Volunteers for U.S. Communications Team***

- We began recruiting volunteers to help us do a more comprehensive job in reaching our supporters as well as prospects. A number of people have already volunteered, and we are grateful for what they are doing for Niños. We now have about seven volunteers and are looking for several more. These folks work on our Constant Contact emails, donor letters, organizing our office, managing our prospect database, and other assorted projects. We also recruited a grant writer who had to withdraw for health reasons. This is a high priority and we need to get a replacement for him.

### ***G. Miscellaneous Projects***

- We recruited several new board members, from supporting churches, who have been excellent additions. Another prospective board member was introduced at our October board meeting and we hope will become a board member at our Annual Board Meeting.
- We had the good fortune of stopping one day at a café in Barrett Junction, CA, just this side of the border. Judy told the owner about Niños de Baja, and he gave us a huge fort/playground set. Two mission teams were involved in transporting it to Porvenir and installing it at a small schoolhouse that has about 100 kids. Until they received this equipment, the school had nothing for their children to play with.
- A mission team transported and installed another very large jungle gym that was donated by a large construction firm in Camarillo, CA. It was placed at the main elementary school. The team even had help from some of the Porvenir parents. The team said it was a great experience working side-by-side with these dads.
- A Boy Scout, who had arranged his Eagle Scout project with Alison Drain in 2009, finished his project. He and his helpers put out 650 flyers in Thousand Oaks, and collected and boxed all types of donations for Niños and the Porvenir community. We arranged transportation to Porvenir for more than 150 boxes of new and used clothes, toys, art supplies, and miscellaneous items.
- Santa Clara CC, one of our Oregon supporting churches, shipped a container load of medical supplies and clothes down to Lighthouse CC, our supporting church in Oceanside. This donation was transported to Porvenir by various volunteers.
- Some friends in Carlsbad, CA, donated nice oak cabinets (taken out during a remodel) for the kitchen of the Intern house. They were reworked, installed and painted by the Heatons on one of their frequent trips to Niños. The cabinets look brand new.
- We received a large donation of Spanish-language educational supplies from the Moorpark School District in Southern California. This donation is sitting in the district warehouse until we find volunteers to transport it to Porvenir.
- A large pickup truck was donated to us by Christian Church of Thousand Oaks. Nicknamed "Big Red," it is now at the mission in Porvenir.

## **Status of 2010 U.S. Goals**

### **1. Increase awareness of Niños de Baja**

- Met goal in variety of ways including meetings with 10 churches that are non-supporting but interested.
- Met goal of renewing communications with supporting churches.
- Met goal of increasing the amount of communications with supporters.
- Met goal of producing regular U.S. Mission Directors' Reports.
- Met goal of bringing new supporters onboard mission teams.
- Met goal of increasing non-monetary donations.
- Did not meet goal of increasing gift card donations – they were off from 2009.
- With the Board of Directors, met goal of bringing in multiple missionary candidates for search team evaluation.

### **2. Develop a team to reach more people and churches with the message about Niños.**

- Met goal of recruiting first ambassadors. Our experience with the Heatons, as Northwest Ambassadors, was very successful and their work can be a model for other ambassadors we recruit. Talked to others in Arizona and California.
- Did not meet goal of visiting all supporting churches.

### **3. Set up a planned, expanded program to increase communications with supporters and prospects.**

- Met Goal of putting together a team to work on communications projects.
- Met goal of implementing Constant Contact, new email/database manager.
- Met goal of implementing new logo on mastheads for reports and newsletters, and beginning transition to other promotional materials.
- Met goal of improving current website and beginning new website design.
- Met goal of improving donor communications.
- Met goal of writing some informative handouts.

### **4. Improve financial and business procedures.**

- Janet Penanhoat, our Treasurer, met goal to create new financial procedures/policies.
- Met goal of creating budget to guide Mission Directors.
- Met goal of assessing and implementing insurance needed to protect Niños.

### **5. Assist the missionaries at Niños as needed.**

- Met goal of visiting Porvenir at least quarterly.
- Met goal of working with the Drains to identify needs and solutions.