



Graduates of Colegio La Esperanza Earn Top Honors in Junior High!

Highest honors at three different Junior High Schools in Tijuana went to three Colegio La Esperanza graduates this July (2002). **Karen Yvonne Cervantes Flores, Maria Elena Reyes Gonzalez and Josue Corvera Medina** who graduated from the La Esperanza elementary school in July, 2000, were recognized this year as number one in their classes at the Secundaria Numero 99, Secundaria Numero 82 and the Instituto Libertad Junior High Schools.

All three honored students had attended Colegio La Esperanza on Full scholarships that they earned through competitive tests offered each June by the La Esperanza schools. During their last three years at the Colegio, they were also awarded fellowships as Rotary Junior Fellows in the program started by the La Jolla Rotary Club and the Club Rotario de Tijuana La Mesa. Karen, Maria Elena and Josue also actively participated in the dance program at Colegio La Esperanza, and had danced featured roles in the 2000 productions of Don Quixote Comes to Tijuana.



Kindergartners recreate campfire during Gran Kermesse Presentation November 2002

In Memoriam

Helen Elizabeth Ison

November 11, 1917 – November 8, 2002

Delia Ravelo Reyes

September 14, 1952 – November 26, 2002

Two great volunteers and supporters of the Americas Foundation passed away in November, 2002.

Helen Ison, the wife of the Rev. Luther Ison sponsored two students for ten years and lead the Women of St. Michael's Episcopal Church of Carlsbad in their support of the La Esperanza Schools. Her many years of experience with Church politics made her a wise advisor and good friend to the Foundation.

Delia Ravelo Reyes was the Saturday Volunteer coordinator for ten years. She always arrived in the Colonia with collected items to distribute and ready to teach art to the community. She helped some children with special medical needs, near blindness, etc. receive medical attention.

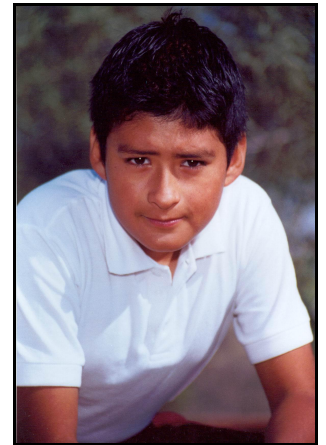
Both Helen and Delia will be sorely missed. Addresses for closest family members are:

Michael Reyes
3753 Coleman Ave.
San Diego, CA 92154
619-423-1063

Tawnya Ison
The Rev. Luther Ison
2318 Cambridge Ave.
Cardiff by the Sea, CA 92007

No More Zoo Trips for Baja California Schools

Every October the San Diego Zoo offers free admission to children. Every year up until September 11th, the La Esperanza schools organized multiple trips for the students to visit the zoo in small groups. It was an arduous process that grew more bureaucratic as the years went on, but was always justified by the interest and pleasure of the children visiting the animals, especially the kindergartners.



New rules by the INS have now made school trips to the US (nine miles away) impossible. Fifteen percent of our students and the population of Tijuana are American citizens. However most of the families of our students on economic scholarships do not qualify for US visas.

The La Esperanza schools have been organizing school trips to the Tijuana Cultural Center and Fox Studios Baja to take the place of the San Diego Zoo trips.