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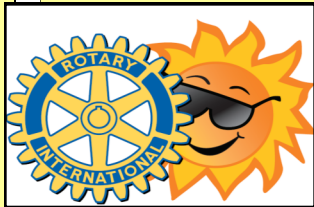
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# Boulder City Sunrise Rotary

*Service Above Self™ - He Profits Most Who Serves Best!*

**The Rotary Wheel** February 18, 2010

## **Casa Hogar Update** Roving reporter Donna Draney

Starting this month we will introduce you to the young men that call Casa Hogar in Cabo San Lucas their home. I wish you all could meet each one in person but since that isn't possible, I thought I would bring a different one to life on the pages of this newsletter each month. Casa Hogar is struggling with fund raising just like every other organization, especially those that exist only at the kindness and generosity of others. Our club has been very generous with helping this organization continue its important work. Casa Hogar has several fund raising activities planned for later this year but their need is greatest NOW! So Boulder City Sunrise Rotarians and the BCSR Foundation came together to send them funds now, when they are needed the most. Casa Hogar is very grateful for the \$10,250 that our club was able to send this month. With an annual budget of \$150,000 (\$500 per month per child) this will help them with their immediate needs.

This gift to help support the orphans' daily living expenses was made possible by several of our members who have set up their club's quarterly billing to include a donation to the orphanage as well as a share of the pot that flows to the club from our weekly raffle and funds that were donated to the Club's Foundation for this purpose.

**If you join in the weekly raffle, you are helping. Thank you!**

**If you are donating to Casa Hogar on a quarterly basis,**

**Thank you so much!**

**It all adds up. Thank you from all the boys!**

Today we will meet Jose Alfredo. He joined Casa Hogar on October 8, 2008, 8 months after it opened. Like so many boys at Casa Hogar, they have no records of birth or legal paperwork. Jose has chosen to celebrate his birthday in March each year and is 12 years old now. He has two sisters and three brothers.



Jose Alfredo arrived at the orphanage with a cleft palate which is fairly common in Mexico. The luxury to have this type of elective surgery is rare in Mexico unless you are very lucky. Last month a donation was made to Casa Hogar, specifically to give Jose Alfredo the gift of this life changing operation. The management of Casa Hogar arranged for plastic surgeon Dr. Michelangelo (no joke) to donate his services and the donation paid for the hospital and the aftercare that will be necessary to teach him to talk again.

As you can see from this photo the surgery was a great success and he is now *muy guapo* (very handsome). He was on a liquid diet for two weeks, now he is enjoying soft foods. Next week he will start to eat normally and begin learning to talk again. The total process may take one year. He received a lot of counseling prior to this operation to be sure he was ready for the long process but he was eager to enter his teens looking "normal."

Jose Alfredo's favorite color is red, he loves cheeseburgers and playing American Football. In fact, he is very good at American football and aspires like so many American youngsters to be a professional football player when he grows up. Jose Alfredo loves vanilla ice cream and Spider Man is his favorite super hero. He enjoys arithmetic in school and dislikes learning Spanish (I think it is hard too). On video games, he likes to play Wii Marzo Brothers. He doesn't like to dance but does like listening to his favorite musical group, Tigres de Norte. I also found him to be very creative in the craft projects I have done with the boys.

Visit our website [www.bcsr.org](http://www.bcsr.org) Make-Up [www.rotaryEclubone.org](http://www.rotaryEclubone.org)

## The Casa Hogar project in Cabo San Lucas



The Casa Hogar orphanage project was built through a joint effort between the Rotary Clubs of Cabo San Lucas and Boulder City Sunrise Rotary as an international service project during the term of President Donna Draney. It was completed, dedicated and received its first residents in February 2008. This month we celebrate two years of service to the community of Cabo.

Casa Hogar (meaning House that is a Home) is a non-profit organization providing a home for up to 60 boys that have been abandoned, orphaned or removed from their homes for various humanitarian reasons. Some of the boys are there because they were abused, some are there because both parents or the custodial parent is in prison, each boy has an ugly story in his life. Currently there are 24 boys calling Casa Hogar home. At this point, Casa Hogar cannot accept more children due to budget constraints. Female orphans, including the sisters of Casa Hogar residents, are housed at Casa Cuna, an orphanage for girls that is about 3 hours away in La Paz. Every other week the brothers are taken to see their sisters in an effort to keep the family bond in tack.

The boys at Casa Hogar range in age from 6-15. So far, 4 boys have been returned to their families during the last 2 years. Some boys will never be returned.

The management team of Casa Hogar are all volunteers. They oversee the paid and volunteer staff that provides 24 hour supervision, cooking, laundry, tutoring, etc. It really does take a village to take care of 24 active, growing boys.

Casa Hogar is operated solely on private donations. They have several fund raising projects throughout the year that help, but it is the donation of individuals that keep the orphanage thriving, as previously mentioned. It costs approximately \$500 per child per month to care for these children. Several Rotary Clubs recently assisted by obtaining a matching grant from Rotary International but the rules of Rotary International as it pertains to Matching Grants dictates that this money cannot be used for the daily living expenses of the boys, it can only go towards physical improvements. Casa Hogar will use their matching grant money to put in a play ground and buy dresser with drawers for the boys' clothes which are currently kept in piles on shelves.

If you are interested in helping Casa Hogar, your tax deductible donations may be made to our Rotary Club's Foundation or through the International Community Foundation in San Diego.

## The Mission of Casa Hogar

Our mission is to show a path to success for the young boys in need in Baja California Sur. We are dedicated to providing active care and personal well being to as many boys as our building will accommodate. Building future productive citizens by giving sustenance, leadership and life skills by example is the mandate of Casa Hogar. At Casa Hogar, we strive to Educate and Elevate: Educate in academics, life skills, moral values, religious values and social values. Elevate to levels beyond the norm within this society.