

Niños del Lago

Panajachel-Lake Atitlan-Guatemala



Winter 2008



Welcome our new corporate sponsor: CAPGEMINI

— Joni Daidone and Arlaine Cervantes

The 11th of December 2008 is a date that will be remembered as a milestone in the history of Niños del Lago. It is the day when we officially began our alliance with Capgemini, a global corporate sponsor with a deep commitment and community ties to Guatemala.

After months of discussions, e-mail and meetings, on that Thursday morning we realized that one of our deepest held wishes had just come true! Our very ambitious Niños del Lago project had been discovered! The long road we've traveled over the past four years had finally led us to the point where we were ready to align with a global benefactor such as Capgemini.

Capgemini is an international company involved with business consulting, technology and business process outsourcing services throughout the world. They have recently expanded their operations in Guatemala. As part of their business initiative, they also conducted an intensive search for a local charitable organization that was aligned with their corporate mission of community service and support.

To our great surprise and overwhelming sense of pride, after many months of discussions, a site visit and tour of the construction in progress by their executives, a meeting at the Guatemala headquarters in Guatemala City, and countless correspondence back and forth, Niños del Lago has found a true partner in the Capgemini team. We've been chosen by one of Capgemini's top executives and we will be supported and publicized as (possibly) one of their largest

charitable interests within the Western Hemisphere.

After four years of nagging doubts, disappointments and ups and downs, we cannot begin to express our excitement and our gratitude to all of the friends, supporters and donors of Niños del Lago during this long journey. We have traveled a long and rocky road together.

But now, Capgemini has agreed to not only promote Niños del Lago as their official charity to both employees and clients, they have also offered to help us acquire many of the resources needed for construction. In addition, during the 11th of December teleconference meeting with Robert Brillhart (Vice President – Capgemini Americas), Chad King — Guatemala Operations Manager), Joni Daidone, and Arlaine Cervantes, Capgemini has offered to channel monies directly to Niños del Lago as "Awards of Excellence" in recognition of outstanding accomplishments of employees within their organization, and they have already begun by making the commitment to support the complete in-ground electrical system throughout our project site!

Capgemini also plans to involve many of their clients in this cycle of award/gift-giving and they have already begun publicizing us throughout their international network of employees and clients on their website and in upcoming newsletters. Additionally, Capgemini will be adding a link to the Niños del Lago website from their own website so that employees and others can easily make direct donations to Niños del Lago in the future.



Claire Coulson, Capgemini
Executive in the Guatemala office



Arlaine, Claire, Stephanie at
dinner in Panajachel

As they informed us during our December 11th conference, they wish to help support us as full partners in development. Although they will not become involved in our camp operations or any of our children's program plans, they will work continually to support charitable involvement with Niños del Lago by their international clients and their employees in Guatemala.

As our partner, Capgemini have asked very little of Niños del Lago. Primarily they wish to be kept informed of our work, projects, and progress, with photos and updates. They would like us to look for ways to involve their Guatemala employees on work crews and/or as volunteers, to acknowledge all donations and gifts that we receive from their efforts, and to maintain a



strong line-of-communication between Niños del Lago and Capgemini.

One might venture to say: the dream of Niños del Lago has come true! As you know, we've always believed that if we just kept moving forward taking small steps, doing our best with the gifts we received, remembered to laugh at our doubts and fears, the day would come when we would be discovered by an organization, a foundation or a corporation who understands the importance of our mission and would want to partner with us, support us, and lighten our burden.

Well, our friends and generous donors, that day has finally come! (And as founder of Niños del Lago, Arlaine cannot express how excited she is and grateful to all of you who have helped make this dream possible.)

Of course, there is still a lot of work to be done, and a lot more money to be raised to reach the dream of opening day when we welcome our children to the camp and see their beautiful, bright-eyed, awestruck little faces.

But that day is now within sight. We know you all share the happiness with us, just as you've shared all the hard work and the dreaming.

We've taken this amazing journey together and we'll arrive there together soon. Thank you for your never-ending support and faith in our cause. Without all of you, this day would have never been possible.



Meet Architect Nuño Jimènez — Arlaine Cervantes

How does one find an architect in remote Panajachel (Lake Atitlan, Guatemala) who is highly creative, talented, energetic, flexible, eco-friendly, socially responsible, compassionate — and willing to join us as a volunteer in our mission?

The task was daunting but I only needed to remember that all along the way, small and large miracles have occurred when our need was greatest.

But we needed more than just a licensed architect, we needed one of the best in Guatemala, one with a fine sense of esthetics and passion for their work. We needed an architect who could interpret our special needs and mission, develop the working plans and drawings, put together a team of subcontractors and craftsman and ultimately bring our project from concept through to completion.

When Jaime Zaccagnini (a Niños del Lago supporter in Panajachel) offered to introduce me to Nuño Jimènez, I cautiously began to imagine the possibility that the most popular (and costly) architect in the region might

consider joining us in our work. Within a few days I had the opportunity to present our project to Nuño Jimènez. I explained the depth and breadth of our Niños del Lago program and how it could positively-impact the lives of thousands of children in Guatemala for long into the future. At that meeting, I finally found the courage to simply ask Nuño for his help; then I held my breath until he answered, "yes".

Another miracle had happened for us. The following morning Nuño began working on the final design of our formal camp entrance (begun by the Dutch architect, Maarten van der Breggen), and within two more weeks, Nuño put his highly-skilled craftspeople to work on our project.

The beautiful and functional design of our children's cabins includes two large rooms (for six children each) and incorporates two smaller cubicles for the camp counselors.

Each room will be furnished with tables, bunk beds, foot lockers as well as dry toilets (for urgent night use). A sliding window-wall at the end

cont'. on page 3



Nuño Jimenez was born in the Spanish Canary Islands. At the age of 12, he immigrated with his family to Guatemala. By 15, Nuño entered the university to study fine arts and later received a degree in architecture.

Nuño lives with his wife Andrea and their two children who attend the non-profit Robert Muller Life School, where approximately 40% of the students come from the local Maya population; many students receive full scholarships to this unique multi-lingual/multi-cultural school. Over the past five years, Andrea has been the guiding member of the board and recently Nuño accepted the position as board vice president.

Andrea and Nuño are passionate about supporting the growth of The Life School and they invite you to check out the official school website: www.lifeschoolweb.com

Become a Niños del Lago Ambassador!

Would you like to become an ambassador in your area? There are many ways to make connections and to help us grow. Slowly, we are building a network of Ambassadors – people who have accomplished much in their lives but want to do more. We would love hearing from you, contact Arlaine directly via email:

ArlaineC@ninossdellago.org

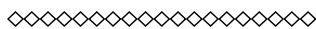


of either room provides wide access for passage while many windows with filtered skylights permit the light and beauty of the forest to enter.

It has been a genuine pleasure working with Nuño and I look forward to spending more creative time with him in the future; we've become good friends, and he has earned my respect.

The day will soon arrive when we will have achieved our vision to create a place that will astonish every child who comes to camp. A place that will help to imbue each child with a sense of self-worth, encourage their dreams and give them respite from their daily struggles.

On behalf of our team, I would like to thank Nuño for his vision and his commitment to building Niños del Lago while leaving the softest footprint possible. I would also like to thank him for his conscientious use of inexpensive-yet-beautiful local materials and for sharing his close relationships with some of the most talented craftspeople in the area. Because of these gifts, Niños del Lago will be known as one of the most beautiful sanctuaries for children in the area. I know that Nuño would not accept anything less for the children of Niños del Lago. Thank you Nuño!



NEWS from Niños del Lago Netherlands — Karin Baaiman

We are thrilled to have the opportunity to share our Niños del Lago news from the Netherlands with all of you living in the Americas. In spite of the great physical distance between us, the language and cultural differences and the different approaches to our work, we are all one family working to realize the dream of Niños del Lago. We also have something else in common we've all been inspired by Arlaine Cervantes, and have Niños del Lago Fever!

Just over two years ago, our small group in Oudewater, Netherlands began our fundraising efforts. We took baby steps, and with each step our organization has achieved success and we have continued to grow. In May 2008, we produced the first annual Oudewater Children's Festival in support of Niños del Lago Guatemala.

What a great day for a celebration: beautiful and the temperature was 'just right' for the event. Parents and children loved the activities that included pancakes, professional photographs, a five-piece band, Guatemalan arts and crafts for sale, a flea-



top to bottom: participants in the Oudewater Children's Festival

market, and so much more! Madelon, Jan Willem, Koen and I, along with many volunteers, produced a first-class event. Donation bins were set out throughout the village, banners were hung across the streets, flyers were distributed, posters were pasted on windows, and brochures and T-shirts were printed with our new Niños del Lago logo. We not only covered the initial cost of event production, but profits from the event were astounding!

In September, the very active Oudewater Rotary International Club made a decision to donate all proceeds from



their annual Tug-of-War event in support of Niños del Lago. Each year this event earns up to 4,000 euros, and so imagine our surprise when we were awarded 6,500 euros from the Oudewater Rotary in proceeds of their one-day village event!



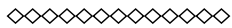
On October 4th, 18 Nordic Walkers, 27 Hikers and 4 runners joined up in Oudewater and embarked on a great hike through the countryside. Each participant sought sponsors from family, friends, and businesses in support of their distance goals and over 5,500 euros were donated to Niños del Lago as a result of all the efforts of the Oudewater community.

Throughout the year 2008, many new friends have joined our growing Niños del Lago family in the Netherlands, and they have found a variety of ways to



donate and share their gifts with us. Mrs. Verseveld donated 200 euros from gifts she received from family and friends at her April birthday party, and from a local dentist in Oudewater, we received a donation of 1,000 euros!

Before the year 2008 draws to an end, we will have more fund-raising events to include wine sales by subscription for the holidays (to be distributed during the Oudewater Christmas Fair). It is true that the Dutch love to party and socialize, but we especially enjoy matching up our fun with meaningful work in support of a great idea. All of us involved with Niños del Lago Netherlands are proud of our hard work and accomplishments, knowing that our dedication continues to support progress in Guatemala in large ways.



Impulsis is an organization which supports private non-profit initiatives in developing countries throughout the world. In addition to providing 'matching grant' programs, Impulsis offers program support and consultation.

Although Impulsis does not normally provide funds for construction, through the persistent efforts of Karin Baaiman (in Holland), her contact at Impulsis made a rare exception to help with construction, he told Karin they were willing to help in the case of Niños del Lago because they like our vision and believed in our program.

While working at her regular job and taking care of her family, Karin found the time to complete a very extensive grant proposal to Impulsis. Her hard work paid off and we continue to benefit from the Impulsis grant.

See our newly launched Facebook page. Become a fan today! Search: "Niños del Lago for Guatemalan Children"

Camp Site Development

WORK COMPLETED – Sponsored by Impulsis – Nederlands. Thanks to a generous grant from IMPULSIS – Nederlands, we've been able to complete several projects on-site during spring and summer - 2008.

Camp Entrance (designed by Architect Nuño Jimenez)

Completion of interior of Guardian's/Security building containing full bathroom, office counters, kitchenette, single sleeping area, electric installation, ventilation, tile installation, smooth plaster finish, and paint.

Installation of large entrance roofing complex (see photos) with custom crafted iron joists and supports, and custom wood supports for heavy-duty galvanized iron roofing material.

Installation of hand-crafted heavy-duty iron entrance doors and gates, completed with custom made tongue and groove boards, bolted to frame.

Exterior earth sculpting, grading, and removal for back-filling (for retaining wall) and construction of retaining wall interior at entrance (10 meters long), covered with local river rock.

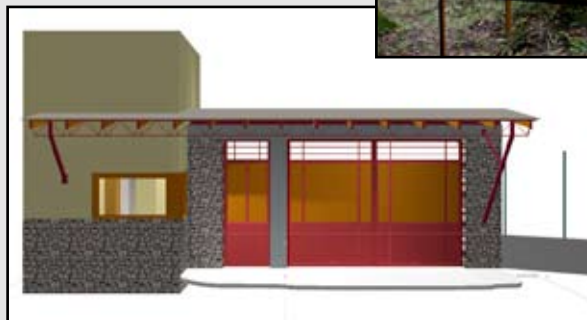
Completion of exterior of Guardian building including final plastering, painting, construction of cement steps/landing, and installation of heavy-duty shatter-proof glass windows.

Completion of roof top water-tank installation, including exterior iron, locking ladder, iron access door, roof top and perimeter sealing and coating, and installation of rain-water drain.

CURRENT WORK: Completion January 2009

Construction of 575' long north perimeter block wall and galvanized fence.

(more on page 5)



top to bottom: Nuño Jimenez with construction worker, children's cabana, camp entrance.



WORK Planned - Beginning February 2009

Construction of exposed-aggregate/cement/iron vehicle landing exterior to camp entrance (IMPULSIS)

Clearing of camp roads (Capgemini employees')

Building site plan development (Architect Nuño Jimenez)

Installation of in-ground electric service/system throughout camp (Capgemini)

Construction of first children's cabin, to accommodate 12 children and 2 counselors) with second cabin to soon follow (Niños del Lago — Nederlands)

Design of the El Rincon complex housing the dining hall, multi-use art/media room, entire kitchen complex, camp laundry, storage rooms, and separate shower/toilet complex for children and counselors/visitors. El Rincon will connect by a covered bridge to the Administration Building (housing general office/reception, bathroom, and 2-bed camp medical station). (Architect Nuño Jimenez)



Children Helping Children



Last Spring, the 4th grade students at St. Edmunds Academy (Pittsburg, PA) raised money for Niños del Lago through various community activities, and their instructor James Sciulli tells us that they enjoyed the experience so much they will be doing it again early 2009! Thank you all on behalf of the children in Guatemala!

Mr. Sciulli also reported that three special young people at St. Edmunds took the decision to ask their parents and friends to donate the cost of their birthday gifts to Niños del Lago! News of their courage and sacrifice has warmed our hearts and a very special thank you goes to Peter, Sabrina and Chloe at St. Edmunds for taking the personal decision to help impoverished

children in Guatemala. We are all proud of you!

More Young People Helping!

Mindy Gonzales, the 6th grade Humanities teacher at Locke School in NW Chicago, recently sent us a message to let us know that her entire 6th grade team decided to take up fund-raising efforts to collect money to donate to Niños del Lago! Soon, Ms. Gonzales reported that the news spread throughout the school, and that the entire student body will have the opportunity to participate with the 6th grade during the second semester of school. Now this is the kind of fever we want to see going around and catching on!



To help us with our work in Guatemala:
Visit www.ninosdellago.org and click on donate to make your tax-deductible contribution.
Or
Mail your Donation by check to
Niños del Lago
5021 Settlers Drive NE
Salem, Oregon 97305 USA

You will receive a receipt for your donation.

Niños del Lagos Travel Guatemala
Offers group insight tours to the stunning Guatemala Highlands.
Travel Guatemala with compassion and purpose. All profit from tour converts to your tax-deductible charitable donation to Niños del Lago!

Visit the World of the Ancient Maya - 17th Century Spanish-Colonial Antigua - Mayan Villages around Lake Atitlan

Market Hop the Beautiful Guatemalan Highlands -Folkloric Art - Archaeological Treasures - Mayan Festivals - Marketplaces

Experience the Beauty
Colonial Antigua – ancient volcanoes
Chichicastenango – Lake Villages of Panajachel - Santiago Atitlan - San Antonio Palopo - Santa Catarina – Solola – Indigenous markets – 17th Century ruins – Convents – cathedrals – art galleries and more

Add-on Adventure and Learning
La Antigua Cooking School - Volcano and & cycling treks -Weekly Spanish Language Study Programs - All-inclusive guest houses for extended stays Archaeological adventures to Tikal, Copan, Rio Dulce



Our People



L to R: Chris Tickner, Joni Daidone, Arlaine Cervantes, Andrea Stark and three board members in Antigua: Luis Pereira (left), Ana-Maria Ackermans, and Tony Barnes

Welcome to Luis Enrique Pereira Flores who joined our Guatemala Board of Directors in October 2008. Sr. Pereira practices law in La Antigua, he created our original incorporation documents, and he has advised us on several occasions. We look forward to benefiting from his vast experience as a member of the Antigua community.

New US Board President – We are happy to announce that Chris Tickner, a long-time member of our US governing board, has accepted the position of Board President as of August 2008. Andrea Stark continues as Secretary, and other board members include Joni Daidone, Bill Conlon (treasurer), and Arlaine Cervantes.

Those Who Help – Many have helped us by sharing their talent, education and experience. We wish to extend our special ‘thank you’ to the following creative, talented, and generous people who have helped us in a variety of ways:

Emese Szorenyi
Christine Erickson
Claire Coulson
Marie Caiazzo
Nuño Jimenez
Tony Barnes
Consuelo Walker
Sylvia Wheeler
Joni Daidone
Lisa Cooper
Ana-Maria Ackermans
Tim McNitt

Lisa Bloomfield
Stephanie Hanley
Virginie Roussel
Lynda Roy
Jaime Zaccagnini
Karolina Thompson
Hedy Schoonover
Viviane Moos
Laurie Sager
Gustavo Adolfo Azmitia
Susan Whitney



niños del lago

Ambassador Hosts Event in Santa Fe, NM

In mid-October, Sylvia and Chuck Wheeler of Santa Fe, NM and La Paz, Mexico, sponsored a fund-raising visit to Santa Fe by Niños del Lago Founder, Arlaine Cervantes .



The whirlwind of activity began with a lovely reception at the Wheeler’s home for their interested friends, and another event

was held in their home a few days later for a group of Spanish language students.

During the five days Arlaine stayed in Santa Fe with the Wheelers she was interviewed on talk show radio and she was delighted to have the opportunity to offer two separate presentations at Santa Fe Community College (sponsored by Sra. Consuelo Walker and Sylvia Wheeler).

Preparation and planning for the events took weeks of work, but Sylvia (an official Niños del Lago Ambassador) left no stone unturned in her mission to help make every event a success.

Arlaine writes: Thank you Sylvia! You are a wonderful Ambassador and representative of Niños del Lago. Your warm hospitality throughout my stay was simply the best! Muchas gracias.

