



Operation Feed currently provides food weekly to 109 families. The food package helps them make it through a week and enables them to spend some funds on educational needs and health care.

March 2019

30
Years!

<http://www.operationfeedsjc.org/>

Operation *feed*

Make a note of what's coming ...

Mark your calendar and join us for dinner, fun, and dancing. Agustin is preparing a marvelous buffet dinner and great auction items are being collected. More information will be coming about this event. Tickets go on sale April 1st. You won't want to miss this very special evening.

Please join us for a...

Spirit
Filled Evening
FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2019
to benefit Operation Feed

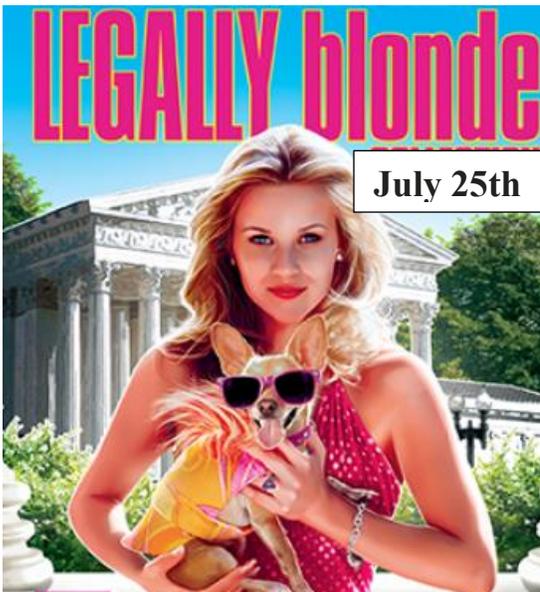
Viva Mexico - San Juan Cosala
• Dinner Buffet • Entertainment • Spirit Raffle
• Silent & Live Auctions

CLOTHING
DRIVE

Set Up is May 15th and the Clothing Give Away is May 16th. We can use lots of help on both days.

If you have items for the Give Away, let us know and we can arrange to pick them up.

operationfeedsjc@gmail.com



The second annual Ladies Luncheon is going to be spectacular. Nueva Posada is the setting for a fun afternoon with a delicious luncheon, fun contests, and a gifted guest speaker. Last year's event was sold out within a week, so stay tuned for ticket information.

GET
ON
BOARD

Operation Feed is looking for a few more Board members to help guide this outstanding charity for the next two years. Let us know if you are ready to put your talents and time to work.



Many helping hands are needed to bag the food and eggs, sort clothing, collect items donated from around the lake, teach English, work with the crochet team, and more. We believe we have the best volunteers Lakeside! Join us.



What is Operation Feed all about?

The village of San Juan Cosala sits only twenty minutes from Ajijic and Jocotepec. But without a large expat population or a multitude of businesses, jobs are scarce. Experiences are limited. Therefore, a living wage is difficult to obtain. The people work very hard and care deeply about their families but having the funds to adequately provide food and take care of educational costs and health needs is very difficult.

For 30 years, in one form or another, Operation Feed has worked to provide food to the neediest families. When Agustin joined and Viva Mexico became the “home” of Operation Feed, the program expanded to more families, clothing giveaways, English classes and microbusinesses.

Our primary focus is still to ensure that families have enough to eat. Hungry people cannot work well, study hard, or focus on a future.



ENGLISH CLASSES

Many, many people in San Juan Cosala want to learn English. We could offer English classes 7 days a week and 12 hours a day and fill each class. Right now, Operation Feed supports 8 hours of English classes each week and due to the 30+ volunteers who come to teach, we are able to help 130+ students of all ages. From children, to high school and college students, to housekeepers and gardeners. When possible, we even are able to provide 1:1 specialized learning time.



Operation Feed will be starting new English classes in May, so if you are interested, let us know. We have found a terrific “text” for our beginning students and one for those headed to Prepa. Lots of games, flashcards, and materials are ready for your use. We will be able to have a greater variety of times and days available for your volunteer efforts. And if you want to work on your Spanish, there is no better way than to let the students help you as you help them with their English!

What is Operation Feed doing now?

MICRO BUSINESSES

The people of San Juan Cosala are talented and hardworking, but often don't have the capital to start a business. We have discovered that with a guiding team who can help with procuring materials, organizing transportation, aid when talking with expat customers, and assisting with the design of products that will sell, our recipients can create and maintain a business. The Crochet Team is a wonderful example of this process. Under Janine Kirkland's direction, we provide the women with yarn and beads. Janine also surveys expats to find out what they need. All of this work ends up with wonderful products – from dog sweaters ... to wine bottle covers ... to scarves with pockets for keys and phones. All the money from a sale goes directly to the woman who made that item.



We are starting two more micro businesses. One will be a sewing team (using sewing machines). They will use fabric from some of the donated clothing items to repurpose it into sellable items. The first project will be to make some creative and fun shopping bags to replace the need for plastic ones. Justine Bertram will be the lead for this project.

Another new venture is for the men of Operation Feed. They will be turning wine bottle corks into sellable items, such as hot pads, coasters, and bulletin boards. We are looking for some volunteers to help lead this project.



We are working on a Guide to Shopping in San Juan Cosala, too. As soon as it is done, you can buy the guide and hire one of our bilingual shoppers to take you on a specialized tour.

Still in the exploration phase, the gardeners taking English lessons are providing input into microbusinesses related to making and selling compost, raising worms, recycling tires and plastic bottles into garden items, and more. We have learned the hard way, that you need to talk with the villagers about whether or not the "great idea" really is practical and that the interest in making the items will be long lasting. We'll let you know about garden businesses in the near future.



SPECIAL CLASSES

Lynn Sim leads the cooking classes. She offers classes once a month to the Operation Feed families showing them new ways to use what is in their despensa bags along with additional easy to find and inexpensive items. Orange, soy salad and no bake chocolate, oatmeal treats are examples of how the families can add to their dietary choices.



EYE GLASSES

We are gearing up for another eye testing time. Many donors have given us reading glasses of various strengths, so we can test and provide reading glasses to our family members. Plus, if their eyesight is more seriously compromised, we have contacts who provide further testing. Given the frames donors have given us, we can help villagers get prescription glasses at a very reasonable cost.

HEALTH INFORMATION

Original Article

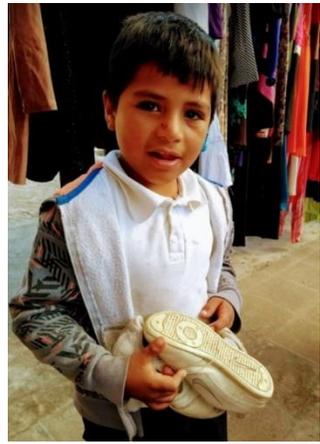
Enteroparasitism and Risk Factors Associated with Clinical Manifestations in Children and Adults of Jalisco State in Western Mexico

María de la Luz Galván-Ramírez ^{a,*}, Ana Luisa Madriz-Elisondo ^b, Cynthia Guadalupe Temores Ramírez ^c, Jorge de Jesús Romero Rameño ^b, Dania Araceli de la O Carrasco ^b, Marco Antonio Cardona López ^b

A very important study was conducted to find out about the intestinal parasite levels in San Juan Cosala. It turns out that this is a very serious problem. This summer, we will be sponsoring a presentation about a number of local health issues, including this one. The entire article can be found on Operation Feed's website. A brief summary is below:

San Juan Cosala, as well as San Pedro Itzicán, has a population located on the shores of Lake Chapala where there is a lack of sanitation facilities, thus increasing the risk of infection with intestinal parasites. The population lives in an overcrowded environment with poor hygiene and lack of sanitation. There are 1,325 houses; 1.3% of these have no sanitary facilities, 0.8% do not have electric lights, 5.5% have no potable water, 5.9% have dirty floors, 29% have one bedroom and 13% do not have a refrigerator. All of the study participants were beneficiaries of the Operation Feed Project, which is a civil association that helps poor people with food pantries, health information, some schooling and cultural programs for the community of San Juan Cosala, Jalisco. The highest prevalence of intestinal parasites was in individuals whose house did not have a concrete ceiling or cement floor. **Sanitary education in the population needs to be implemented.**

HOW CAN YOU HELP?



CLOTHING ...

The team is collecting, sorting, and storing clothes every week. The donations are awesome, especially for women's shoes and clothes. We are really in need of children's and teens clothing and shoes. If friends are coming down to visit, ask them to pack a few items in their suitcases. Often grandchildren are more than willing to send down some items they no longer wear. If you see a sidewalk sale, check out the clothing. Usually you can buy children's clothing for 10-20 pesos at the "yard sales" or the tianguis in Chapala on Mondays.

Let us know if you need help getting the items to us. Our team will arrange to pick them up.

CONSIDER CONTRIBUTING ON A CONSISTENT BASIS

Operation Feed goes out of its way to keep fund raising to a minimum and mostly during "low season". This way we are not in competition with all the other wonderful charities here at Lakeside. But we, of course, do need money. How can you help?

1. PayPal donations via our webpage. One time or a monthly donation is easily made through PayPal. \$25.00 US a month pays for a family's food despensa.
2. Envelop donations. Some of our donors take a year's worth of envelopes and each month drop off a donation in pesos.
3. Leave a donation at Viva Mexico. Come have breakfast, lunch, or dinner at the best restaurant around and support Agustin. Leaving a donation after your meal helps Operation Feed.
4. Collect your small coins and get them to us for the School Shoe Drive.
5. Leave sellable items at Todo Bueno or at Viva Mexico or email us. Funds raised from the sales goes toward our microbusinesses and English classes.

What makes the Operation Feed volunteers smile?

- When the widows came to us and say that we should reduce the amount of food they are getting, since there is only one person to feed. This meant that we could add 9 more families for the same cost as before.
- When our English students hug us as they leave class.
- When our crochet team earns money that permits their daughters to stay in school.
- When we see the smiles on the faces of the recipients receiving an extra food item due to the donations from St. Andrews Church.
- When the Thursday morning volunteers celebrate the 96th birthday of John Wester, who with Cleo, is always at his station by 8:00 a.m.
- When a little girl dances in her new kindergarten school shoes.
- When Linda, a new volunteer, uses her training and talents to provide in-service training for the masseuses of San Juan.

