

Highlights from SWC's "Following Freedom" Volunteer Trip to Mexico, April 19-27, 2008



10 volunteers from the states of Washington, Ohio, Mississippi, Michigan, and California gathered in Los Barriles, Baja California Sur, Mexico, during the days of Apr. 19-27, 2008. With their help, hundreds of pounds of much needed sports equipment was transported and delivered to over 1,700 children in 17 different leagues, schools, and sports clubs in the communities of Caduano, Miraflores, El Cardonal, Buena Vista, Los Barriles, La Ribera, Las Cuevas (El Campamento), El Triunfo, Santa Cruz, San Bartolo, La Paz, Agua Escondida and Marquez de Leon (both on the outskirts of La Paz), and Insurgentes (approx. 3 hours north of La Paz).



Sunday, April 20, 2008
(Los Barriles, BCS, Mexico)

The day after the volunteers' arrival, work begins to organize and divide donations into bags for delivery to the schools and communities where we'll work during the week.



THANKS
to all our
donors for
the great
equipment!



Monday, April 21, 2008
(Caduano, BCS, Mexico)

(Above) Clinics and equipment presentation at the elementary school.



(Above) Howard entertains a couple of kids on the "disabled list," and Ray and Hob run a hitting clinic while a crowd of spectators gathers outside the school fence.



(Above) Alison plays 1st base, and keeps an eye on the little base runner, who just got a hit!



(Miraflores, BCS, Mexico)

(Above) Clinics and equipment presentation at the elementary school. Baseball cards and candy were handed out to all students afterwards.



(Los Barriles, BCS, Mexico)

(Above) Our volunteers were invited to participate in a local beach volleyball game after our first day of work in the schools.



Tuesday, April 22, 2008 (El Cardonal, BCS, Mexico)

(Above) Clinics and equipment presentation at the elementary school.



(Buena Vista, BCS, Mexico)

Clinics and equipment presentation at the elementary school (74 students).



Volunteers Carolyn and Jeff brought Beanie Babies to give to the kids at a couple schools. The kids LOVED them!





(Los Barriles, BCS, Mexico)

Later that afternoon we'd donate some soccer balls to a local "kindergarten" soccer program.



(Right) We'd also donate balls and uniforms to a local jr. high school's girls' basketball and soccer teams. We beat them in our basketball scrimmage, and they beat us in our soccer scrimmage!



Wednesday, April 23, 2008
(La Ribera, BCS, Mexico)

(Below) Games and equipment presentation at the elementary school (284 students).



(Above) Each individual "grade" at this school treated our volunteers to a variety of activities, including songs, games, sack and other relay races, and dances.



Then all the teachers got involved, and taught us a game where you had to "sweep" your team's colored balloons to the other side of a rope, where your teammate then collects them in a bag. The team with the most balloons in their bag after time expires, wins!



(Right) KIDS LOVE BASEBALL CARDS!



Thursday, April 24, 2008 (Los Barriles, BCS, Mexico)

(Above) This morning we would pack up and trek to La Paz for more work. But before arriving in La Paz (approx. 1.5 hr. drive), we'd stop for more clinics, games, and an equipment presentation at the elementary school in El Triunfo.



Friday, April 25, 2008 (Agua Escondida, BCS, Mexico)

(Above) Soccer games and clinic presentation at the elementary school.



(Laguna Azul, BCS, Mexico)

After our morning work at the school in Agua Escondida, our volunteers would participate in an afterschool hot lunch program in the community of Laguna Azul, one of the poorest neighborhoods located on the outskirts of La Paz. Working with the "civil association" Fundacion Ayuda Ninos La Paz, the organization that provides the program, our volunteers helped serve approximately 150 children their afterschool lunch. For many of them, this is the only full meal they will eat during the day. Our volunteers also helped bus tables and wash dishes, as well as sweep and mop.



(La Paz, BCS, Mexico)

Baseball little league equipment presentation and friendship game. Since 2001, SWC has provided equipment for this growing little league almost every year. Since then, their league has grown from a small group of under 30 kids to a multi-team league that is currently over 450 strong!



Saturday,
April 26,
2008
(Buena Vista,
BCS, Mexico)



(Above) Our last night's appreciation and farewell dinner. After introducing local guests that provided services and support to our group, including transportation, hotel, and meal discounts, SWC volunteers shared with them their experiences and favorite moments with the children during the past week. Some tears of emotion were shared, along with lots of laughter and smiles.

Many thanks to all our volunteers, who worked so hard collecting, packing, transporting, sorting, and delivering equipment to the children: Jeff and Carolyn (WA), Alison (MS), Ray (WA)...



Hob and Claire (OH), Keith (OH), "Ronbo" (MI), Fred (WA), and Howard (CA)!

And many thanks to all our local supporters...



Chris and Ella (equipment transportation and storage), Tony and "Chayo" Tamayo (transportation), Chuy, Felipe, and Esaul Valdez (equipment storage and meal discounts), and Noe, our favorite chauffeur!

Monday, April 28, 2008 (San Bartolo, BCS, Mexico)

(Below) After the majority of the volunteers left Mexico, a couple volunteers stuck around to make another equipment presentation at this elementary school. Another equipment presentation was made the following day to an elementary school on the outskirts of La Paz in Marquez de Leon (not pictured), and another the following day in the community of Insurgentes, approx. 3 hrs. north of La Paz (not pictured).



Because of your generous donations and support, more than 1,700 children we served during our trip! Thank you... we couldn't have done it without you!

