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NO BAD NEWS

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The Whales Are Here!
Photo by Morgan Edwards.



The Little People Won!

BY DAVID FLORES

Remember when concerned Todos Santos residents staged a protest against the construction of a home on the dunes of Todos Santos four

weeks ago? Well, the Federal Attorney for Protection of the Environment Agency (PROFEPA) exercised the closure of said construction less than two

weeks after the protest. This might not be a definite closure, but rather the beginning of a lengthy legal battle. Coastal dunes provide a buffer against coastal hazards such as wind erosion, wave overtopping and tidal inundation during storm events. They also provide a source of sand to replenish the beach during periods of erosion, so touching them is a no-no. 🐦



How Fast is Los Cabos Growing?

Very, very fast. According to the Los Cabos Coordinating Council (CCC) president Julio Castillo, in 1997, when the CCC began operating, there were 42,000 inhabitants in the Los Cabos municipality and 3,500 hotel rooms. Today, Los

Cabos has 173 hotels, 20,816 hotel rooms (not counting private rental properties, Airbnb and similar apps) and over 330,000 inhabitants according to INEGI's 2020 census, which also predicts that we will be half a million people in 2050. 🐦



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Nonprofit Outgrows Facility as Community's Medical Needs Grow

BY KATHRYN REED

Since its inception in 2016, the Padrino Children's Foundation has outgrown its space three times. That is why the nonprofit is on a quest to raise \$750,000 for a two-story, 5,000-square-foot building in Todos Santos. As the town's population grows, so do its needs. Each month Padrino sees new patients, with about 20 percent of the local population coming through its doors. That's 21,800 medical interventions provided to 1,211 kids since January 2017.

Dr. Alejandra Peña Salguero and Jim Cardillo with the Padrino Children's Foundation at a Dec. 3 fundraiser.

In December 2019, the reported number of medical

interventions was 10,688, with 707 children served.

Mental and social health, rare genetic diseases, and helping kids with special needs are part of the services. Financial assistance for care is a big part of what Padrino does, including paying for transportation to La Paz or Cabo and even mainland Mexico. The group also offers specialized health clinics.

"Cases have gotten more complicated over time," Dr. Alejandra Peña Salguero, medical and executive director, said at a fundraiser this month. More children are coming in who need speech therapy and help with their autism.

Nancy Naigle and Nancy

Serfass founded the organization "to provide access to professional medical care for children in need and promote wellness for children in the community of Todos Santos and the surrounding region." Both remain actively involved, including being on the board of directors.

To date, \$300,000 has been raised for the new clinic. That leaves \$450,000 still to be collected. Naigle is hopeful this will be attained in the first quarter of 2023.

Todos Santos area residents this winter are opening their homes for fundraising events to benefit the Padrino Children's Foundation.

The land in the San Vicente area of Todos Santos, which is about two blocks from the current location, has been donated. The new clinic will have a room dedicated for visiting specialists. There will also be guest suites for doctors so the foundation will no longer have to pay for hotel expenses.

Padrino used to have an annual fundraising dinner which is where a huge chunk of its operating dollars came from. The pandemic put an end to the large gathering. It has been replaced

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with several dinners at private residences, where 20 or more people gather for food and drink, sometimes live enter-

tainment, with those intimately involved giving an update on the foundation

The December gathering was the first of 14 this season, with the others to take place in January and February. The foundation is in the process of securing its status as a nonprofit in Mexico, which should then enable it to tap other financial resources.

While money is needed for the structure, dollars (and pesos) are also being raised to keep the services going. Jim Cardillo, chairman of the board, said the 2022 operating budget is about \$310,000, of which 70 percent is paid for by individual donors. The rest mostly comes from grants and fundraisers.



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