

Rotary Club of Calgary West (Service through Fellowship)

The *Monthly* WESTERNER

Box 4572, Station C, Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3
Elbow River Casino, Fridays 12:15 pm

President: Garfield Ganong **President-Elect:** Lynne Thornton

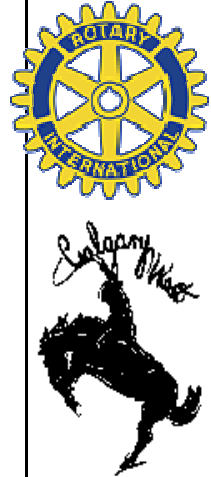
Past President: Mike French **Secretary:** George Edwards

Treasurer: Derek McClary

Directors: Brent Barootes, David Elson, Garth Evans, Bill Lawless,
Marie Rickard, Brenda Sali

November Edition

Publisher: David Williams



The mission of Calgary West is to uphold the ideals of Rotary in all avenues of service, with a focus on aiding the disadvantaged and developing the potential of youth, in Canada and internationally, in a spirit of fun and fellowship.

Garfield's Cogitations

Calgary West has a history of Community and International Service projects. Events such as Feed the Hungry, Salvation Army Christmas Kettles, Adopt a Village and stoves for Guatemala are examples of hands on local and international Service Through Fellowship projects. Thanks to Dan Doherty's organization thirteen Calgary West Rotarians and family members have just completed another international hands on project with the completion of the construction of a house in Ensenada, through Youth With a Mission's, Homes of Hope program. Those attending included Steve Rickard, Mike Carlin, Jim and Francis Barnes, Dan and Marlene Doherty and their son Riley, Mike French and Maggie Julian, Maury Quinney, Chris Davis, Garfield and Roghan Ganong. We all arrived on Thursday Oct 18th at the San Diego airport where we were met by Youth with a Mission (YWAM) organization representatives Malcolm and Mitch. We piled into two vans and began the two hour drive to Ensenada. What an eye opener we had when crossing the border. Garbage collection and any kind of recycling is non existent, lots of graffiti on every vertical surface and every building locked in a walled gated compound usually topped by barb wire. What a contrast to the San Diego side of the border.

Upon arriving at our compound in Ensenada, a city of a half million, we were assigned our living quar-

ters with guys in two motel bunkhouse type units and the girls in a separate secured compound hotel type setting called the Base. This same night we attended the Rotary Club of Ensenada's regular weekly meeting and were welcomed as old friends. Their club was chartered in 1936 and they have about 42 members. Even though English was not their first language several of their members could understand and speak some English and communication was not an issue especially with our YWAM adviser and construction boss Mitch with us who is fluent in both languages. It was at this meeting and through fellow Rotarians that the connection was made for their club to work with us to get Anna back to school. Anna is 16 and could not go to grade 10 this year as her family did not have the \$150/ six months needed. If Calgary West can provide the funding then the Ensenada Club will manage the money and monitor Anna's progress.

Anna's father Juan is blind (one eye is completely dead and the other is covered by a cataract) and we were able to make another contact at the club that will hopefully result in getting Juan to a specialist to assess his situation and get the cataract removed!



The possibility of having his sight restored in at least one eye and being able to go back to work would have an immeasurable impact on the family's quality of life.

The next two days were spent in 30 degree plus heat constructing a 16 foot by 20 foot wood frame house for Juan, Maria and Anna. The build site was on a patch of dusty land in the hills of Ensenada where the family lived in a broken down ambulance and wood shack with no power, outhouse and outdoor kitchen. We arrived that first day as strangers and through the build we became friends and then part of their family. To be part of changing the lives of the poorest of the poor really impacted on

me and brought home what Rotary is all about. Every Calgary West Rotarian contributed to this project whether you were lucky enough to attend the physical build or not. Be proud to be a Rotarian and share this with your friends and neighbors by inviting them into Rotary.

Finally don't forget that November is Foundation month and your Board has unanimously agreed to match each member's and immediate family's donations up to \$200/person.

President Garfield
Service Through Fellowship

A letter of appreciation from Michael Fitzsimmons 2007 Integrity Award

August 31, 2007

Mr. Mike French
Past President
Calgary Rotary Club of Calgary West
Box 4572, Station C
Calgary, Alberta T2T 5N3



Dear Mike,

Thank you for the kind hospitality you shared with my family and me at the 2007 Annual Integrity Awards dinner this past spring. It was a pleasure to meet with you again in April at one of your weekly meetings and I was delighted to have the opportunity to speak to your Club members.

Please extend my sincere thanks to your Rotary Club for the honour of selecting me to receive a 2007 Integrity Award.

I salute the ideals that your organisation promotes and stands for, and, in particular, your focus on developing the potential of youth.

I wish you and the members of the Rotary Club of Calgary West continued success in your many worthy projects focusing on "Service Above Self".

Sincerely,

Michael Fitzsimmons

Membership Report for October/November 2007

David Elson

Mike Riekie, the Director for Membership has had to withdraw and David Elson has been co-opted onto the Board in his stead. Duties were not picked up until mid October and as a consequence it is very much a question of playing catch-up. It will be the end of this calendar year before the membership committee is fully functional.

However, some progress has been made in the following areas.

Prestige Meetings

The intent is to have at least two and hopefully three 'prestige' meetings before the end of this Rotary Year. These meetings are to encourage our membership to bring guests to our meetings to hear speakers of distinction and enjoy the bonhomie of our membership. The 'hard sell' of Rotary will be kept for a later date. Bill Quinney will work with Bill Lawless and his programme committee to identify dates, prestige speakers and also to work toward showcasing the skills, talent, and wit of our own members. Liaison will also be needed with our Club communicators to ensure these meetings are well publicised.

Target Recruitment

Lynne Thornton is looking after this initiative. We are looking for ways of focusing on recruiting in the following specialised fields as well as general recruitment:

- Women
- Youth (relative)
- Targeted Classifications (e.g. chiropractors)
- Ethnic Diversity

Alumni

Jim Willson has developed a list of Calgary West Alumni. He is seeking the help of Members who are acquainted with individuals on the list to make new contacts to see if circumstances are such that they may again be candidates for Rotary.

Special Fireside

The significant difference to traditional Firesides is the proposal to invite both existing new members and prospective members who are sufficiently along the process where the dissemination of Rotary information would be appropriate. Firesides traditionally are informal social gatherings involving members and their partners where Rotary generally and the Clubs activities specifically can be discussed.

This Special Fireside is unlikely to take place until toward the end of this Rotary Year. Clarence Buckley is involved in developing proposals for this initiative.

Member Retention

IPP Mike French has very kindly consented to help out in working with Members 'at Risk'. This could be due to lack of attendance, lack of involvement in Club committees and even failure to pay annual dues. Mike knows the people in the Club and can establish the best way that they can be approached to, hopefully, bring these members back into the active fold.

Sick and Bereavement Visiting

Once again Don Axford is looking after this area. Please would you all make sure that Don is notified as soon as anyone is found to be sick or in need.

Fundraising Report – October 2007

We have not received our share of the casino funds from our last endeavour and we have already been notified that our next casino is January/February/March, 2009. We are scheduled for the Elbow River Inn once again.

The Calgary Coop signed contract has arrived for our Strawberry Shortcakes Fundraiser to proceed as last year. Stan Cichon is chairman of this committee and planning is underway.

Bill Tapuska and I are looking for a chairperson for our next "New Initiative", The Dennis Dubbin Show, which we would like to schedule for April or May, 2008. If you are interested, please contact Bill or myself.

Marie Rickard

Service and Matching Grants - Brent Barootes

FEED THE HUNGRY

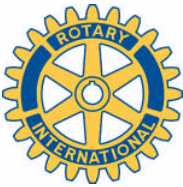


This very worthwhile cause and event is coming up fast. It is just a few weeks away. Rick Dreja is taking names for volunteers, so see Rick to sign up. The big day is **Sunday, November 18**, at St Mary's Hall. Mark your calendar, bring your partner, invite your friends. The more volunteers the better. For more details, see either Don Alexander or Ron Morrison who are chairing the committee again this year.

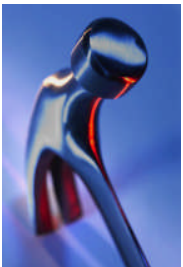
In addition, the Community Service Committee under Marg Henschel is presently considering an application for a capital support project of Feed the Hungry beyond our annual work and monetary support. Feed the Hungry is in desperate need of new stoves and equipment to continue to do their work. Marg's team is presently reviewing a proposal to support Feed the Hungry with a \$15,000 donation (spread over three years at \$5000 a year, plus our regular annual support each year). As soon as all the details are worked through, it will be presented to your board of directors for approval. This is a wonderful opportunity for us to solidify our commitment to Feed the Hungry and make a major impact beyond what we do one day a year. Congratulations to Marg and her team as they move forward with the review of this opportunity.

ROTARY FLAMES FOUNDATION INITIATIVE

Under the direction of Ron Brookes, our club is in the next stages of creating a partnership with the Calgary Flames Foundation to assist in raising approximately \$250,000 over the next four to five years for the Calgary Rotary Clubs and Calgary Flames Foundation Initiative. Our club has already contributed \$20,000 to this project, which aims to raise \$10 million for community projects by 2012. Should our partnership come to completion, we can as a club boast of our \$250,000+ contribution to the project. Ron is in talks with the Flames Foundation to set up the casino account and to get them to apply for the casino. This should be great fellowship again and a great way for us to participate big time in this project.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY



Our commitment to Habitat for Humanity over the past several years has been incredible. To date we have funded a partial house building with volunteer labor and a sum of \$75,000 cash through casino work for Habitat and monies from our coffers. As you are aware, we have also recently completed another casino for Habitat for Humanity. We hope to add another \$80-90,000 of support through this casino to their organization.

It is exciting to see how we are growing this partnership and making a real difference to the needy in our community, as well as possibly garnering greater recognition for what we do with Habitat.

Mike French and his committee have presented to the board for approval, as per our bylaws and

continuity efforts, a three casino commitment to Habitat for Humanity. This would be a commitment of two more casinos over the next few years in addition to the one we have just completed. Through this agreement, we would be committing to deliver approximately \$250,000 (two more casinos plus the one done in August 2007) to the local organization. In turn, we would be recognized as a top level supporter of their organization and garner a higher profile for our club in the community. In fact, this level of commitment would allow us to “build” one single family dwelling in our name. It would be a Rotary Club of Calgary West house with funding and volunteer labor by us! This is really exciting and members of the club can proudly say to friends, family and prospective new members, “You ask what we do, we are in the works of sole funding and providing volunteer labor for a single family home for Habitat for Humanity, an investment by our club of volunteer hours to build and \$250,000 cash!” Few organizations in Calgary can boast such a claim, our great club will be one that can!!

Congratulations to Mike and his team on all the work to move this forward and we look forward to the board’s approval for this project.

INTERNATIONAL COMMITTEE MOVES FORWARD WITH GIFTS AND PLANNING



The International Committee met last month and has allocated two specific project grants. The club will be supporting “Clowns Without Borders” (the late September guest speaker) with a grant from the club of \$1500. In addition, the club will be supporting a project headed up by the International Community Services and lead by Calgary Rotarian, Garth Toombs. This is an effort to supply 100,000 malaria-treated nets for people in Tanzania. The request is for all North American clubs to donate \$10 per member to this project. On behalf of each Rotary Club of Calgary West member, the club will donate \$10 per member from the International budget (approximately \$850).

In addition, of the 26 projects that have applied for funding to our International committee, 10 have been chosen (based on duplications, selection criteria, etc.). Each of these 10 organizations will be invited to submit a formal application due by October 31. Once the submissions are received, the committee will review and see how further funding can be allocated.

The committee will be doing ongoing reviews of international projects, so please continue to submit projects you would like to champion, or think we should support. Congratulations to Bryden and his team on all their hard work.

SALVATION ARMY CHRISTMAS KETTLES



The organization of this event has been undertaken by Chuck Morrison. Thanks Chuck! And he has already been hard at work. He has secured two “inside” Chinook Mall location dates (*November 24 and December 1*) for us and also Westbrook Mall Starbucks inside location on *December 8*. Be sure to sign up to “work the bells” for Sally Ann and assist our club in the most worthwhile annual community project we undertake.

Greetings from Kearstin Plemel in The Netherlands



Well these last few weeks have been very exciting, as they usually are when you're on an exchange!

The big highlight was Romania, it was great I was there for one week with my school as a mini exchange program. The Romanian children will be here for one week in April, I am looking forward to that very much!

The trip there was long we took a plane from Schipol airport to Budapest in Hungary (another stamp for my passport!) then a bus from Budapest to Oradea, our final destination.

My host family was just wonderful! The mom's name is Eva my sister Reka 15 and little brother Zsjombi 11. Reka was basically the younger Romanian version of me! Look out world, there's two of them!

The first night all of the students went out to city fest. A big party the city was having in honor of its birthday! There were musical performers people dancing, food of all kinds and various street performers. Very fun!

Sunday a bunch of us drove to the mountains and hiked up to a cave which was filled with bear skeletons. 107 to be exact. It was discovered in 1975 and is estimated that about 1000 years ago there was an earthquake that caused the collapsed the entrance trapping all of the bears.

After that we all went and played soccer in the mountains, Dutch against Romanians and, naturally the Canadian referee. It was so beautiful, we also travelled up to a waterfall which was the water source for many of the mountain villages.

On the drive back we saw a man leading a cow on a leash down the wrong side of the road, and a herd of turkeys resting comfortably in the middle of our path. That day I also ate eggplant paste on

bread (surprisingly good) and something called birds milk, a sweet dessert of whipped egg whites and a sort of cinnamon pudding.

Monday we had a tour of the school which was 235 years old! We also worked on a project we were given and went around the town sightseeing. That day I ate McDonalds (you have to pay for ketchup here), and also had a typical Romanian chocolate. Healthy!

Tuesday morning we worked some more on the project. In the afternoon we went to the spa in the mountains. It was situated around the hot springs (not as impressive as the Banff hot springs, but hey, that's okay!) in the evening I went out for dinner with Reka's father and her step mom Emme, we ate duck!

Wednesday was an early start. 7:00 am we were on the bus headed for the mountains again. This time we did a 3 hour hike up to the edge of a precarious cliff overlooking a beautiful, vast canyon. A lot of the Dutch kids were a bit reluctant because they had never seen a mountain before in their life, but once they got to the top they were very proud of themselves.

Thursday we all gave our presentations, the topics included Dutch/Romania prejudices, and fashion/eating differences and similarities. Our group did a brochure on travelling around Oradea. In the afternoon Reka, Eva and I decorated the school and in the evening there was the farewell party! It was so nice to be with the whole group dancing and having a good time. There was also more typical Romanian food such as fried fat with peppers, pastries with different meats (I didn't want to ask which kind!) and some really good cookies!

I find the Romanian people very warm and invit-

ing, they make you feel right at home and make sure you're happy. It can be a very hard life, and the difference between The Dutch way of life and Romanian way of life is extremely vast. There is a lot of pride taken in preserving Romanian history especially with the building restoration. That is my point of view any way!

As far as thing in the Netherlands goes, everything is great! I love my current host family and met with my third host family for coffee two nights ago. They look promising! I will move there on December 4th. I have my first Rotex weekend on October 27th an 28th and I'm extremely excited. The newspaper came to interview me on Wednesday! It was very exciting. My Dutch is

coming along very nicely, everyone says I speak it very well! Though I'm still a long way from being fluent.

Verneil, as always has been keeping me updated regularly! She's always there to offer me guidance whenever I need it, and listen to all of my stories, and regale many of her exciting tales to me! She is the best counselor anyone could ever ask for.

Well, that's my installment for this month! I hope all is well with you back home!

Best regards!
Kearstin Plemel

CLUB ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR NOVEMBER – Garth Evans

The fall Club Assembly was held at Quincy's restaurant on October 17, and was attended by 43 of our members, who enjoyed a great roast beef dinner and entertainment by Will on the keyboard. A special thanks to Margot, Pauline and Denise for all their hard work in finding a great location and entertainment.

For more information on the business part of the meeting, please see Lynne's weekly report for the October 17 assembly. It is a great report.

Your Rotary International Foundation committee, John Rymes, Bob Hamshaw, and Pauline Evans met at John Rymes' on Saturday, October 19th and set out plans for informing us about the Foundation during the next few weeks, as November is Foundation Month. Sa'adat could not attend, but will be involved as well. Bob Hamshaw agreed to take over from John and will be the collector of your donations and handle all the paperwork with RI. John will continue to lend us his great wealth of knowledge and all of his enthusiasm for this great part of Rotary. John can still collect your money as well as any of the other members of

the committee.

Remember that the club will match your donations up to US\$ 200 to the RIF and the sooner you get your money in the sooner your tax receipt will come.

Following is a part of a letter from our District Governor Bernie Carriere to the club presidents regarding RIF.

"The month of November is soon upon us, and in the Rotary calendar it is recognized as Rotary Foundation Month.

I respectfully request that all clubs support the Every Rotarian, Every Year (EREY) campaign, or US\$100 per member in contribution to our Foundation's Annual Program Fund (APF). It is the support of the APF program that funds Matching Grants, Ambassadorial Scholarships, Group Study Exchanges and other worthy Rotary programs."

Thanks to all the reporters for their continued commitment to the weekly newsletters.



Dear Friends of Clowns Without Borders

I hope this email finds you well. To those of you who responded to our emergency call for donations, a great big THANK YOU!!!! The generosity that has literally poured in over the past week has been overwhelming. We have raised over \$5,000 in 7 days which has more than covered our budget for the upcoming expedition to Limpopo. Woohoo! This means we can now begin planning ahead for expeditions in 2008. It is really heartwarming to receive so much support and encouragement from everyone who is part of our Circle of Laughter. Thanks!

News:

1. We are now looking at expanding CWB South Africa's HIV Program, Project Njabulo, to other community based organizations in South Africa, Lesotho, Swaziland, and even Malawi!
2. CWB-South Africa will also be establishing an office in either Pietermaritzburg or Durban with an ongoing professional development program for local artists.
3. Our website should be up and running by the end of this month. Check it out! www.clownswithoutborders.org.za (soon!)

Journal Update from the field:
Alice Nelson is working with Sibongile Tsoanyane and Mr. Fish for the next 3 weeks in Limpopo. Below is an update from Alice's first week rehearsing in Durban. Enjoy!

May you be peaceful and happy.

Jamie McLaren Lachman

Durban October 6, 2007 (Alice)

I landed in Durban a week ago after flying on 3 planes and a 7-hour layover in the nightmare that is Heathrow airport. It was a relief to see Jamie's smiling face and even more of a relief to see his couch.

Monday. I attended Jamie's CirKus Cirkor Professional Development Program workshop at the BAT Center (a creative arts center),

where local artists are training to be circus teachers. This is where I meet my future clown partners, Sibongile (Sbo) and Mr.Fish. They have been touring the clown show for 6 weeks in KwaZulu-Natal and this afternoon, along with Jamie, they will perform it for me. The deal is, I'm going to be taking on Jamie's place for the expedition to Limpopo. Man, I had no idea what big shoes I have to fill. And I'm not talking wacky clown shoes. Well, kinda.

Tuesday and Wednesday. I teach the PDP class some improv. This is an opportunity for Sbo and I to work together on translating. As I don't speak Zulu, I have to be specific in my directions and make sure the class understands what I'm trying to get across. This is good practice for when I am teaching in the field. Afternoons are spent in clown show reformatory, learning routines, repeating chase scenes and trying to sing in Zulu. I fall on the couch as soon as we get home - my feet seem too small to fit Jamie's shoes.

Besides being a clown and a teaching artist, my other task on this expedition is to be the driver. In South Africa, they drive on the left side. Maybe if I put on some more socks I can fit into these shoes.

Thursday and Friday. Rehearsing, rehearsing, rehearsing. I've spent this past week trying to master hitting Mr.Fish in the head with a mop, without really hitting Mr.Fish in the head, which isn't too bad except then I have to hit him in the crotch. So far, I've only really hit him twice. Good thing he's got a great sense of humor. After whispering to myself over and over, "It's okay, I'm on my own journey, I'll get it. I'll get it", Sbo puts her hand on my shoulder and says, "You caught on fast". Ahhhhh, I got my feet in the shoes! Not a perfect fit, but good enough to start on my journey.

Friday afternoon, a bunch of kids show up at the room we are rehearsing in. SURPRISE!





Jamie says, "Well, get ready! Lets do the show for them!" "But what about my Magic? The mop and bucket routine? Jamie! I'm nervous". Jamie smiles, "That's good". As we dance out singing, I'm instantly reminded why I love this work. As they laugh and take immense delight in stepping into our hilarious world, I can't wait to hit the road and give this gift to as many children as possible.

On Sunday we leave for the Limpopo Province. We will be working with Ndlovu Medical AIDS Centre and other community based organizations. We will perform the clown show to primary and secondary schools in the mornings. The afternoons will be spent teaching workshops to the OVCs (orphans and vulnerable children) and their caregivers (Gogos) at Ndlovu. Please check out www.ndlovu.com, this place blew me away when I went last year.

Well, I better pack up my shoes for the trip, and this horn - oh, and my nose. Where did I put that mop and bucket?

- Alice Nelson, who is saying A HUGE THANK YOU to all her Canadian and American Friends (especially Bob and Bee Nelson, Brandon Palm, CAOS Animated Object Festival, Alberta Foundation For the Arts and the Loose Moosers) who have supported her expedition to South Africa through the good folks at Clowns Sans Frontieres. Thanks for bringing joy and laughter to those who need it most!

Please Support Us!
To Donate: CWB-SA is a register NonProfit Organization in South Africa. About 90% of our donations go directly to expedition costs in the field.

From South Africa and internationally
We are now set up to receive electronic transfers into our bank account:
Nedbank, Brand Rd Branch
Acct Name: Clowns Without Borders
Acct No: 1743009747

Branch Code: 174305
Swift Code: NEDSZAJJ

From the United States
US donations made payable to "Clowns Without Borders" with "South Africa" in the memo are Tax Deductible through our sister organization, CWB-USA, a 501c3 not-for-profit organization in the United States.

Send Checks to:
Clowns Without Borders
42 Cumberland Rd.
West Hartford, CT 06119

Paypal:
Click on www.clownswithoutborders.org/helping/index.shtml. Be sure to write "South Africa" in the "Payment For" line.

**Please notify us by email that you have made a donation so that we can track it and let you know that it has safely arrived.

Jamie McLaren Lachman
Founder and Director
Clowns Without Borders-South Africa
www.clownswithoutborders.org
jamie@clownswithoutborders.org
US: +1 860 331 9621
South Africa: +27 76 384 9478

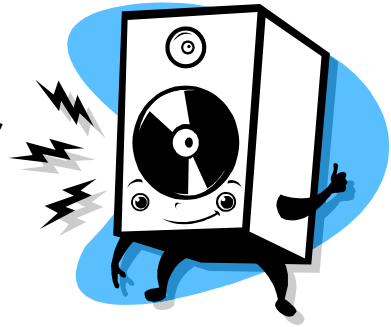


"no child without a smile"



Speakers' and Reporters' Page

Speakers for November



2nd	David MacKinnon speaking on the equalization formula
9th	A speaker from Shelterbox
16th	Meeting cancelled due to Christmas party
23rd	Cynthia Jeanne Douwes on her Ambassadorial year
30th	Judith Athaide on the largest building West of Toronto.

Reporters for November

2nd	Sa'adat Keshavjee
9th	Larry Doyle
16th	Mike French
23rd	Garth and Pauline Evans
30th	George Edwards
December 7	Don Axford



The reporters for this Rotary year are:

Don Axford

Larry Doyle

George Edwards

Garth and Pauline Evans

Mike French

Sa'adat Keshavjee

Margot McDermott

Bill Tapuska

Lynne Thornton

If any reporter cannot meet his/her commitment for a particular date, PLEASE arrange for a substitute from the above list.

Calendar of Events

August: Membership and Extension Month

3rd and 4th Calgary West Casino

29th and 30th Habitat for Humanity Casino

September: New Generations Month

7th-9th Waterton Peace Park Assembly - 75th Anniversary

14th Fall Lobster Social

21st District Governor Visitation

October: Vocational Service Month

17th Assembly

19th No meeting

November: Rotary Foundation Month

5th World Interact Week

9th Remembrance Day Celebrations

16th Christmas Party at Calgary Golf and Country Club

18th Feed the Hungry

December: Family Month

7th Club Elections

16th Christmas Brunch at Pine Brook

January: Rotary Awareness Month

February: World Understanding Month

14th Strawberry Shortcake Deliveries

March: Literacy Month

April: Magazine Month

May

21st Spring Assembly

23rd No meeting

June: Rotary Fellowship Month

14th President's Ball

Visit www.calgarywestrotaryclub.org/events for up to date information

Photo Page

“When our club went to Ensenada, we went with the idea that we were going to build a house.”



“In fact, what we really built was not a house: **we built a home!**”