

# A Jungle Bridge

**Comments, Thoughts, and Pictures  
From Costa Rica**



*Friday, Oct. 12, 2007*

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*The kids sometimes spread out on the porch here and use the art supplies to do their homework. Here, Irene looks on as Maria shyly holds up a picture she drew naming the parts of a human body. .*

## **RECENT NEWS**

Our little school kid Ronaldo gave everyone quite a scare, as he reacted very badly to medications given him by the hospital. As you may know, his family gave up on the Clinic, preferring to stay with traditional medicine and faith healing. Worked beautifully.

More and more, the school kids are hanging around here to do their homework. Looks like we found another need to be entered into a description of what the building next door has to do – “a place for homework”.

You'll recall Jackie and Joseph, black crack addicts who have been in treatment programs in excess of eight months now. Jackie had her and Joseph's baby!

We're looking for “a few good folks” who could be interested in placing “The Bridge Sales Book”, showing off Nanci's greeting cards and prints.

“Moving Thoughts” are discussed, as we take a serious look at our transportation situation.

We've had some great donations to start off the month. Thank you all for your support so far, and we look forward with gratitude for your continued support!

## RONUALDO AND THE SHAMAN



You remember the story about little Ronualdo, the youngest child in a Bribri family, and one of our school kids this year. He started out with a bad cold, and visited the Clinic in Hone Creek. After a second trip to the hospital, he was readmitted for pneumonia. Upon discharge, he took the medications provided by the hospital, and suffered quite a severe reaction. By this time, the family had had enough of modern medicine, and chose traditional methods and faith healing. An application of medicinal plants got rid of the rash from hives in about 20 minutes, but the sad little boy was still painfully rigid and swollen.

They know of a shaman in the interior, at the end of an eight-hour bus trip – which the boy would have been unable to make. We knew of a shaman visiting locally, and we put them in touch.

The shaman – Frederico – makes house calls, apparently. He showed up at our Community Kitchen on Thursday and joined in the soup crowd. After soup, he walked Ronualdo and his family back up the mountain, a one-hour walk for which the boy had to be carried – he was still painfully stiff. The shaman's fee? Food until Sunday, when he would be finished. He discreetly asked us for bus fare, which we provided.

*Say hello to Ronualdo!*

On Sunday, Frederico and the boy's father Erasmo showed up at the house. "Ronualdo is much better", the dad said. The spiritual healer made a telephone call to Panama, and took his leave.

One week later, Ronualdo again graced the Community Kitchen. His personality, smile, and little laugh had returned. He was walking without even a limp.

Thank you, God – in all your forms!

## JACKIE AND JOSEPH HAVE A BABY

This morning, October 12, 2007, Jackie gave birth to a baby boy – named Steven. Mother and baby are doing fine at Calderon LaGuardia Hospital in San José.

Both Jackie and Joseph are still in their respective recovery programs, (8 months now), and Joseph is "building a room for she" meaning Jackie and the baby which I believe is being added to the women's shelter.

Thank you, God! And congratulations to Jackie!

## LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD FOLKS

***Place sales kits where people gather, drink coffee, and browse***

Here in CR, we have placed several "Sales Brochures", with text and pictures showing the greeting cards and prints available at The Bridge. We sell cards and prints, and use the cash to operate. It's one of our sources of revenue. We have pledged to donate all earnings to The Bridge, so we continue to be active donors ourselves. Any "extra" cash we earn will be used to expand Bridge programs or handle specific tasks or emergencies as they are identified, such as replacing uniforms that did not last the school year, and so on.

We can use your help.

Our most successful location so far is Bread & Chocolate, here in Puerto Viejo. People hang out there, drink coffee, have fresh baked goodies, and - look through The Bridge Brochure. Should they like what we see, they buy them directly from the inventory with the Brochure. We split the cash with them, and put our share into Bridge programs.

Are there such coffee-and-doughnut-and-conversation places near you? If so, would they be willing to carry the Bridge Book? To see what we're talking about, download an introduction from [http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/intro\\_brochure](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/intro_brochure). If you like what you see, you can follow the instructions in the Intro, get the rest of the materials, and proceed to find "locations near you".

If you think you'd like to give this a try, let us know by [clicking this link](#) and sending an email telling us you're looking into it, and let us know what state and city you live in.

Then, as you watch cards move through the location, you'll have the satisfaction of knowing that you're keeping kids in school, helping with the Community Kitchen, helping us respond to medical emergencies, supporting kids doing homework, and much, much, more.

Thank you!

## **MOVING THOUGHTS**

At this moment, we are graced with the presence of Tashia, a volunteer who, along with her active participation at The Bridge, has made her own car available as a transport, and herself available as a driver when needed. Thank you, Tashia!

I had hoped to save quite a bit of money repairing Espy by combining her "vital parts" with a body from another vehicle. That would cost \$750 instead of \$2,500 – \$4,000 to buy another younger and sturdier car. I reasoned that would free up cash for other Bridge programs. It has become nearly impossible to get the mechanic to focus on getting the combined "Espy, Too" through the Revisión and registration process, and the car is not yet legal to drive. There's enough little things physically wrong with the combined vehicle, that it's become obvious that this path might have been a mistake. I'd like to get this through the Revisión process, so it can be sold for whatever can be recovered from it. This may take \$200 to complete, and the car could sell for \$500 - \$1,000.

Do you remember that van we bought? We bought it as a school bus. We knew it was inexpensive when we bought it, and indeed, it turned out to be unreliable and inadequate for our needs. This vehicle also needs to go through the Revisión process and become legal to drive, so we can sell it! This may cost \$300-\$400, but the van can sell for about \$2,500.

To buy a strong, useable vehicle, we're going to need about \$5,000 for day-to-day transportation, errands, medical emergencies, That could be partially offset from the sale of the other two vehicles, but it isn't clear when their sales will happen.

We'd be open to receiving a donated vehicle that would "do the job"... standard shift, no A/C, manual windows, power steering would be useful, power brakes a necessity, good solid engine and drive train. Revisión current and good for some reasonable portion of the year.. Or, receiving a large enough "earmarked" donation to allow purchase of a solid, functional vehicle.

Individuals out there with the available cash who would be willing to make a tax-deductible donation please contact us by [clicking on this link](#) and letting us know!

Thank you for your support.

## **YOU CAN HELP US!**

*Send this email to two people you know who might also enjoy it.*

If they like it, they can sign up with us directly!

## **VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE**

October has started off with a bang, in which we received initial donations totaling \$1,156. Thank you all for your support, including a major donation from a private Foundation in the US who wishes to stay anonymous. Thank you, Anonymous!

In August and September Product Sales (Greeting cards and prints, consulting fees) averaged \$291 a month, and we donate those proceeds to The Bridge. Assuming that average remains the same this month, our monthly budget for October looks like this:

Operating budget	\$2,500
Already donated	\$1,166
Estimated Product Sales	\$ 291
	=====
Revenue Projection	\$1,457
<b>Balance needed donations</b>	<b>\$1,043</b>

Your donations now are helping with everything from helping kids do their homework, paying school expenses, replacing school uniforms and shoes that just haven't survived the trip down from the jungle to school, making sure people who come to The Bridge have enough to eat, continuing to respond in medical emergencies, supporting our efforts in the Job Survey, which so far has resulted in placing 5 people in six openings identified. There is so much more, and we'll be producing a special report for donors to let them know exactly how their money has been put to work.

Your continued support is very welcome!

**NOW's a GREAT time to contribute.**  
Go to the website donation page by [clicking here](#), where you can use a credit card.  
Or, mail a check made out to "El Puente" with "Member 29409704" in the Memo Field to  
**USE Credit Union, 8697 La Mesa Blvd, La Mesa, CA 91941**  
Deductions are tax-deductible  
**Do it NOW! You'll be glad you did!**

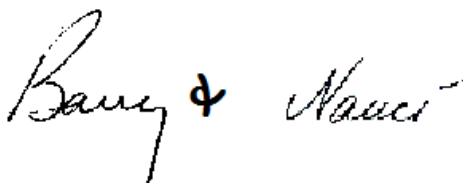
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***Thank you for your support!***

Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!



**IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE PICTURES**

...go to [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly) and download the file with the date of this issue.

Go to The Bridge Website by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Go to The Bridge Online Store by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Download a Powerpoint presentation and a brochure by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Go to the newsletter archive by [CLICKING HERE](#)

**Here's some Video clips** showing activities at The Bridge:

[Nanci and Alejandro working together to serve lunch on the porch](#)  
[Daniel, Barry, and Alejandro setting up for the movie](#)  
[Watching the movie: this day, "Winnie The Pooh" in Spanish](#)

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