



Thursday, April 16 2009

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Here's Wendy Smith and her class from Edmonton, Canada. These kids did an absolutely great job raising money to buy school supplies for the Bridge Kids. See the story below.

RECENT NEWS

Wendy and the kids from Room 7 make a very special donation. Everyone was delighted over Easter 2009. 'Twas the week before Easter. Volunteer Trudy goes by the numbers. There's a new "cock" on the block! Joseph does it again!

THE NEWS FROM ROOM 7

Wendy Smith and her husband Laurence visited The Bridge recently. Wendy is a first grade teacher at Patricia Heights School, Edmonton, Canada. She brought with her quite a few school supplies that her students from Room 7 bought for the Bridge Kids. They...

Wait...

...rather than me explain it, let them tell the story, from one page in a book they put together explaining who they are, and what they did.

The image below is a foto from one page of that book.



We are having 3 cookie sales. At our first cookie sale we made \$27.00. At our second cookie sale we made \$11.40. At our last cookie sale we made? we have been having cookie sales to buy school supplies for you. We hope you like your books and supplies. This is our display about buying stuff for you.

This is one page from the book they sent along – explaining how they raised the money to buy the school supplies.

HOW many cookie sales? This is really cool!

When the job was done in Canada, Wendy popped in at The Bridge, explained what her students had done, and enthusiastically presented the result.



Wendy excitedly shows the supplies her students bought to Nanci, Carmelita, Willi, Alejandro, and Maria

So, to Wendy and all the students in Room 7, from our folks to you, we say...



“Weste Weste” means “Thank You” in the Bribri language!

EASTER 2009

We were thrilled to host 66 people at The Bridge last week for Easter Saturday! Of that total, 6 were volunteers from around the world. Timoteo Jackson, a local tribal leader, joined us with his entire family, and opened the meal with a long and wonderful prayer in both Spanish and Bribri.



*The crowd assembled in our yard for Easter 2009. .
Our place mats were homemade with images for coloring, and as you might guess from the foto, they were well-colored before the meal was served.*

Earlier in the day, a small group of Bridge Kids hid 130 Easter eggs that the crowd had brilliantly and beautifully colored earlier in the week. After the meal, the rest of the kids fanned out, each with one of the 50 homemade Easter baskets in hand, looking for those elusive eggs.

The “interesting” part came with the traditional piñata.



Nanci was tired of the traditional images, like Pooh, on the piñata, so she created images of things that normally get pounded on and broken apart – like coconuts

And she did her normal thorough job. Then came the test – swinging the creation in front of a blindfolded kid with a stick. Swing after swing, hit after hit, the piñata wouldn't break. She'd made it too strong! So to avoid open rebellion, she tore it open at the top and threw the candies and toys up in the air, setting off the traditional scramble by the delighted kids.

Happy Easter, all!

'T WAS THE WEEK BEFORE EASTER

We also celebrated a week ago, as Joseph took Constantino, a Bridge regular, and Jenny, a young woman living in Puerto Viejo, into rehab for crack addiction. Nanci finally got through to Constantino this afternoon, at the allotted time for calls, and it sounds like Constantino is starting out well enough in this 13-month program. The Bridge did what it could – facilitating the conversation between Joseph and Constantino, and providing the \$85 in bus fares and registration fees.

The women's rehab center is in San José, and the men's center is in Quanaacoste Province, all the way across the country. Joseph made the round trip by bus and was back here, very tired, after two days. Way to go, Joseph!

Nanci has written a very special version of the Constantino Story, and we'll be sending that along to you very soon. Keep your eyes open for that email!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

Trudy Baker continues to do an outstanding job – computerizing our accounting data. Having completed 2008 and 2007, she's now jumping into 2006 with a passion, and expects to have the year complete before she returns to Canada shortly.



Here's Trudy and Everett Baker, frequent visitors at The Bridge

Thank You for your volunteer work, Trudy!
And a Thank You to Everett, for allowing us
to enjoy Trudy's help during your precious time together!

We will miss you both!

AN IDEA – HOW ABOUT A BRIDGE BLOG?

Nanci made a suggestion, and I think it's a good one. What if we had a blog, allowing visitors, volunteers, and donors to talk together about their experiences and thoughts about The Bridge?

We'd ideally find someone who is willing to take on the day to day implementation and administration of the blog,

Email me your thoughts, and I'll summarize the result in the next newsletter. (This would be so much easier if we had a blog, wouldn't it?)

THE COCK ON THE BLOCK

Nanci Stevens

Here at The Bridge, we have a motto – “When he crows, he goes.” It seems there doesn’t seem to be a law in this country that a self-respecting rooster waits until sunup before he throatily welcomes the morning. So one hears “Cock-a-doodle-doo!” all through the night. Since the chicken coops are only 10 feet away from our bedroom window, when he crows, he goes. When our hens are in the mood to hatch baby chicks, we buy fertile eggs somewhere else.

Without a rooster on premises, the girls have had to fill the bill – or the beak, so to say – of both genders. Two of our hens have sprouted a long rooster feather, and now once in a while we hear “Urrr ur ur ur urrrrrrrhhhhhhhh!” as the ladies substitute for the “cock on the block” – known locally as, “el gallo mas gallo”. So far, we’ve been fortunate – they wait until daylight.

In another incident, Mrs Grey, a perfectly normal mama chicken – was running across the yard with the other chickens, getting away from a gavilan – a hawk – that had landed near the chicken coops. I was watching as she stopped in her tracks. She turned around, leaned forward, and started to run – straight at the hawk – while letting out her chickarooster yells at the top of her voice. As she approached the hawk, he turned and looked at her with a look I can only interpret as surprise. She did not slow down. She slammed right into the hawk, knocking him off his claws and sending him beak over feet into the nearby hedge. He struggled to his feet, got into the open, spread his wings and got the hell outta here..

Mrs. Grey turned, and walked back toward the other chickens, who were looking at her with a look I can only interpret as respect.

Strange things, here.

THE SCHOOL PROGRAM 2009

We haven’t forgotten! Believe it or not, the School Program startup for this year isn’t q-u-i-t-e over. We’re still learning about (what we hope is) the last of the schoolbook requirements. One of the teachers had to step out for medical reasons, and a replacement had to be approved in San José. We believe we’ll be done soon! Thank you God!

YOU CAN HELP US!

Here are ways you can help.

- **Send this email to people you know** who might also enjoy it. Suggest to them that they can sign up to this newsletter if they
- **Post a message about us on social networking sites or discussion boards** dealing with adventure, travel, eco-tourism, volunteering, education, microlending, human services, eliminating poverty, or other humanitarian or environmental activities.

DONOR NOTES

We say “Thank You!” again to our regular donors, who faithfully provide a monthly donation to help keep us going! And “Thank You” as well to those who continue to support us through occasional donations – they are appreciated.

THANK YOU!

VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

**We’re grateful for the continuing support we have been getting.
You all are allowing us to continue to serve!**

NOW’s a GREAT time to contribute.

Make a **Monthly Pledge** by [clicking here](#).

Make an immediate donation online by [clicking here](#),

where you can use a **credit card** or an **E-Check**.

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
(And please drop us an email letting us know you've done it
so we can say a proper "Thank You!")

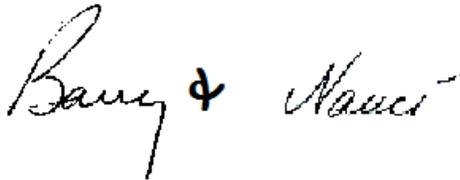
Do it NOW! You'll be glad you did!

Thank you for your support!

Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry & Nanci". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE PICTURES

...go to www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly and download the file with the date of this issue.

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

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