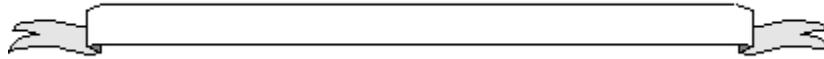


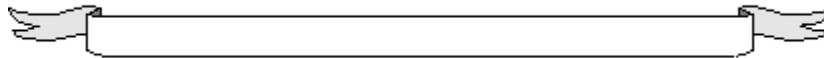


Monday, Aug 31, 2009

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**Photos soon come!**



*You've probably noticed the absence of photos in the newsletter – a result of our digital camera taking an unscheduled walk out the front door in the hands of a “third party”.*

*Nanci's daughter has donated their digital camera to the cause, and we're waiting for the CR Correo to bring a very special battery, not available down here, to begin replenishing the stock of photos of current activities at The Bridge!*

*In the local patois, “Photos soon come!”*

## **RECENT NEWS**

The Bridge Kids are coming – for homework help, learning, games, and food. One of our families takes some hard lumps, and Nanci makes some hard choices. International Scouting is coming to Puerto Viejo – we help as we can. Do you know of any available female howler monkeys? It's time to start looking for Christmas gifts! By using a specific search engine, you can help put kids in school, and help with the cost of The Bridge Food Program.

## **BRIDGE KIDS ON THE PORCH**

It's not unusual these days to see kids hanging out on the porch. They bring their homework, and Nanci and Volunteers help them with it. They pick up books to read. I'm getting involved with math homework. They set up a computer and play teaching games. They borrow a ball, go to the beach to play futbol (soccer), and come back absolutely covered with black sand. Hosing off in the back yard, they clean up and head for home.

## **ONE LUMP OR TWO?**

You remember the Bribri Grandma, Ynez? She gets a bag of food from us each week, as an “ancient one”, who can't work to support herself. Recently, she came here very weak and sickly. When she got to the Clinic, the Doctor said “she's not only sick – she's malnourished.” As the story unfolded, it seems that two of her sons – including the “Bad Dad” we're having some “issues” with, have been beating her, taking the food we provide, and stealing her pension money.



*Meet Ynez, a Bribri  
Grandmother*

With the assistance of her daughter, she filed a Denuncia against her sons. It came to court, Nanci went along to support her and testify in her behalf. The Judge issued a stay-away order for 6 months.

Because Nanci went against “the Dad”, it appears that he has forced the kids and their Mom to not talk with us, not look at us, not go to The Bridge, no contact whatever. The Mom’s grocery bag – the family’s weekly food - is sitting here waiting, and she didn’t get the supplemental bag of food she works for by chopping veggies on Thursday. The kids’ school uniforms are sitting here, waiting for the Kids to go to school. It’s not clear the Kids are being fed – the “Dad’s” view in the past has been “she had the babies, let her feed them.” The “Dad” maintains power by harming his family.

We are knowing this has a positive outcome for everyone, and we appreciate your positive prayers for a win-win situation for everybody.

In the meantime – how many lumps does the family have to take? It doesn’t feel very good.

### **INTERNATIONAL SCOUTING COMING TO PUERTO VIEJO**

An International Scouting group from Canada contacted us. They were interested in visiting Puerto Viejo and doing volunteer work at the local school. Scouting is most familiar to us from the USA as the “Boy Scouts of America” (BSA), currently engaged in hostile controversy over their policies excluding gays and lesbians. The Canadian group is separately sponsored by Scouting International and according to International policy is a coed, totally inclusive group of folks intent on doing good things for others.

This Canadian group met with Joseph Martinez, one of the folks coming through The Bridge. You remember Joseph’s story – he’s been through drug rehab, and now runs a 12-Step group for addicts in Puerto Viejo, which has resulted in other addicts deciding to enter rehab. So far, The Bridge has helped by putting up the intake items, transportation costs, and entry fees for those making that choice.

Joseph is interested in bringing an International Scout group to this town. The thought is to include all segments of the population – black, Tico, white, and Bribri – in the group. The Scouts from Canada assisted in making the initial contacts, and the process of starting a Troop here has begun. The Bridge is helping by sending this information to those on the expanded email list for this area updated by Mina and Maya, two volunteers who came here from Norway and did some really good work. As a result, potential adult volunteers to help run the troop have been contacting Joseph and discussing what they can do.

As always, we’ll keep you posted!

### **WANTED: HOWLER MONKEY DATING SERVICE**

We’re located on the edge of the jungle, and it seems we have a new neighbor. He’s a little hard to see, but – he’s a howler monkey, and we can sure hear him! We’re told by those who are more familiar with Howler Habits that he’s trying to gather a group of female howlers around him to start another group, family, clan, or whatever it’s called. He’ll sit a bit in the nearby trees, eat, sleep, and – when he gets lonely, (or if he objects to loud vehicles) – will go into his Howler Routine. You should be able to hear a recording of Howlers by visiting <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/audio> and choosing the Howler audio file.

In the meantime, we observe it’s been taking quite a while, with no apparent success. Nanci called Judi Arroyo at the Sloth Sanctuary, and half-jokingly asked about the availability of female howlers – was there one that needed to be released back to the wild after rehab? No luck. The guy next door is on his own.

## **NANCI'S SCRATCHBOARDS**

Some of you may remember that Nanci is a well-known artist in the medium called "scratchboard", images that are created using an X-Acto knife. Her work is startlingly realistic. Some time ago, a donor/investor bought an inventory of her signed, numbered lithographs of 17 of her scratchboard images, and working with The Bridge the images were placed for sale on <http://www.art-exchange.com>. The intent of this deal – to repay the donor/investor, and to provide some product revenue for The Bridge.

Now would be a *great* time to start looking for a fine Christmas gift for someone you love!

You can see these exquisitely detailed works of wildlife by visiting the Art Exchange website at the link above and entering "Nanci Wright Scratchboard" in the search box. Visit the Art Exchange website – see these wonderful images for yourself.

Our subscription list has gone over 1,000 people, and we're adding about 25 people a week. If everyone here bought just one of Nanci's scratchboard images....

## **GOODSEARCH**

GoodSearch is a search engine powered by Yahoo!. If you used it as an Internet search engine, and selected El Puente as your favorite charity, The Bridge would get a penny for every search! What does that add up to?

Right now, The Bridge Newsletter has 1,026 subscribers.

If each subscriber uses Goodsearch as their search engine, here's how it could look.

Subscribers	Searches/day ea	Total Per Day	Total Per Mo	Revenue/month
	1	1,026	30,780	\$308
1,026	2	2,052	61,560	\$616
	4	4,104	123,120	\$1,231
	8	8,208	246,240	\$2,462

To put this in perspective:

- \$308 is the approximate cost to put two Bridge Kids in school at the start of the year;
- \$1,000 per month is the cost of the Food Program;
- \$2,462 per month is the approximate cost of the entire Bridge operating budget.

**By simply using the GoodSearch search engine, you can *really* help The Bridge!**

Go here to find out how: [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/page33.html](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/page33.html)

## **THE SPANISH LANGUAGE BROCHURE HAS BEEN UPDATED**

**By someone who really knows Spanish at the idiomatic level...**

After much laughter when reading our Spanish language brochure, a native speaker revised it, to sound more like a native speaker using more idiomatic phrases. It's available at [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/brochures/spanish](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/brochures/spanish) And choose "Version 10".

## **RANDOM NOTES**

**Communications** – If you've been trying to contact us by phone or email – ICE has taken telephone and internet service down in the area. They're "rewiring the system to make high-speed access available on the other side, past Puerto Viejo." We've been offline since last Thursday, (this is Monday), and in the "next couple of days", we should be back online. In the meantime, we're sending you these messages through Caribbeans, a great coffee/ice cream/gift store right near the bus stop in Puerto Viejo.

## **VOLUNTEER CORNER**

**Sophie Lindvik** has joined us from Norway, exploring a new life away from her marketing and P/R background. She's working with the kids, helping with the Community Kitchen, and is actively looking for more ways she can help The Bridge, and we're delighted she's here! She plans to be around for several months, and we look forward to filling you in on her activities!

**Andrew Condon** is visiting from New York. He's here visiting his family, and will be here for a few months. He's already been quite a help with the Spanish brochure, and is digging into several projects with computers relating to Nanci's art – even helping her “birth” one more greeting card design. Yay! Welcome Andrew!

**Swansea** is here from Germany. I just realized while writing this that we don't know her last name! She's been tutoring schoolkids and helping at the Community Kitchen. Thank you and welcome Swansea!

## **YOU CAN HELP US!**

There are several ways you can help.

- **Send this email to people you know** who might also enjoy it.
- **Post a message about us on social networking sites or discussion boards** dealing with adventure, travel, volunteering, education, microlending, human services, eliminating poverty, or other humanitarian 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 at the continuing support we have been getting.  
We're blessed with \$1,750 a month in regular donations and tithes.  
Our monthly budget is \$2,750, with the balance usually made from donations.**

**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!

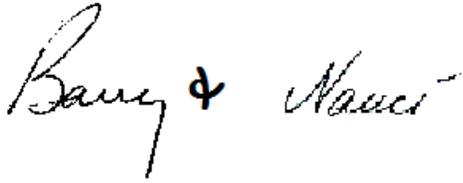
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***Thank you for your support!***

Well,

...djmache

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](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** by [CLICKING HERE](#)

Download **brochures in Spanish or English** by [CLICKING HERE](#)

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

See some **Video clips** showing activities at The Bridge by [CLICKING HERE](#)

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