



Thursday, October 15, 2009

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*The Patiño School – as you see it walking onto the grounds. Nanci and one of our Volunteers, Sophie Lindvik, visited recently.*

## **RECENT NEWS**

Nanci and Volunteer Sophie visit the Patiño School – one of the 8 schools we send Bridge Kids to this year. Our howler monkey neighbor finds a girl friend. The International Scouting movement comes to Puerto Viejo! Join up with the 100 – 10's project! We need a lawyer! And – finally – Grandma Ynez gets her dough!

## **THE PATIÑO SCHOOL!**

Nanci recently took Sophie Lindvik, a long-term Volunteer from Norway, on a visit to the Patiño School, where two of the Bridge Kids - Daniela and Juan Diego - are going. Donning their backpacks – off they went! We thought you'd like to see one of the schools that we send "Bridge Kids" to. So here is... the Patiño School!

If you've seen the video about Don Candido, "The Hidden People", the Patiño School appears in it, and the above "long shot" is the first view of the school in that video.. (Thanks to Sophie for taking these fotos.)



*A classroom in Patiño*



*Nanci looks at study materials for a Social Studies class*

So, where are the students? We arrived between the morning and afternoon sessions, and class hadn't started yet. However, we did find two of the students that are very important to us.



*Daniela and Juan Diego, two of the Bridge Kids*

Our purpose was to just show Sophie the school. Meeting Daniela and Juan Diego was a bonus – they were waiting for their class to start! Nanci and Sophie signed in as visitors as required, and went on their way

## **WE'VE A HOWLER OVERHEAD**

By ***Nanci Stevens***

"It sounds like a sick dog." Barry was looking out over the lake at a tree in the distance. The eerie glow of the amazing sunrise illuminated a gentle spume off Mount Arenal giving the impression of lazy cotton candy draped sleepily over one side of this most energetic and picture perfect volcano.

"What sounds like a sick dog?"

"I dunno," he answered, sliding up closer to the shiny wooden railing over looking the valley to Lake Arenal, now boasting metallic pink from the glare of the mighty sky.

"It's a howler monkey," I said, yawning, as I joined him on the porch.

"No, there's a dog out there, sounds like he's got a cold."

"It's a howler monkey," I repeated. "Look up in that tree over there." I pointed out. "Looks like a black ball against the bright sky. No distinct features from this distance."

He was howling to greet the morning. Welcome to Mono Congo.

The howler monkey, Mono Congo. I'm still enchanted by them even after six years. We look for them everywhere we go. On a bus to Limon, on a zip line strung through the trees, a stroll to Manzanillo, or the sandy forests all along the beach. I can imitate them pretty well but it's hard on the voice. And I have to be careful; I had one follow me home one time, and I have no idea what I'd do with him.

We live under the dense canopy of the Talamanca foothills. For six years now we've been hearing them at about four in the morning way off in the distance wailing their plaintive cry. Once Bear and I even became temporary parents to a little one whose mommy was probably eaten.



*Nanci and a Baby Howler*

I've rehabbed lots of different types of animals. This one was sure different. The doctoring book says you're supposed to rub their food in their own feces for some reason or other that I never did figure out. He solved the problem for me. Everyone who came to visit the little guy wanted to feed him a banana. He got so constipated that even after three suppositories, spoons of cod liver oil and I forget what else, he was still stopped up by the time we got someone in the know to take him off our hands. I've got to hand it to the guy at the other end of the line when our little fella finally did let go. I'll bet there was plenty to rub his food in then.

The San Diego Zoo has built an island for howler monkeys right in the middle of the park. Some days one can hear them hooting at each other from every corner of this huge sanctuary. One day I became privy to some amazing behavior. Two adult males and a baby had separated themselves from the rest of the main troop: some kind of choir practice.

The senior of the two adults began a complicated 'song' of about twenty notes, the younger repeated it note for note. The first began again adding a new phrase with the second adult again successfully repeating it note for note. It seemed the senior was passing down some ancient wisdom. More quietly the little one, almost under his breath, was also obviously learning this 'song'.

My friend Randall, big cat keeper at the zoo says he can't work with the primates. "Too human", he says, "can't see them locked up."

About a month ago, an adult howler monkey moved into our immediate neighborhood. According to those who study them, adult males don't co-exist in the wild, so the unfortunate losers, and the old males are kicked out to start a new life on their own. In their new territory, the young ones loudly announce their attentions for a new bride while the elders loudly proclaim the injustice of being ousted and replaced by younger competition.

It's been written that the second noisiest animal on the planet is the howler monkey, second only to the trumpeting of an elephant. And this one's only about the size of a large house cat. I was quite impressed being jerked awake at four in the morning by a howler monkey sounding his clarion call in announcement of the morning light. One would expect to see something the size of a gorilla, swinging through the trees overhead. Finally after about a month of the saddest sounding calls, he was successfully joined by another. The two became one, and they have moved off in the distance where we still hear them, but faintly; the wooooooooooooo, sounding something like the mournful wailing of a displaced ghost. Even with my well-mastered monkey call, I know I can never replace the joy of a real union. Ah, well, such is life. We'll miss them of course.

May they live long and happy lives!

## SCOUTING COMES TO PUERTO

A group of Canadian Scouts visited at The Bridge recently – they are from #152 Mills Haven Scout Troop, Sherwood Park, Alberta, Canada. They served as volunteer workers, bought construction materials, and they painted and added a bathroom to the Puerto Viejo School. As part of their service here, they also met with Joseph Martinez Forbes, who is working to form a Scout Troop in Puerto Viejo. We really enjoyed having these guys and gals here.



*Joseph Martinez Forbes*



*The Canadian Scouts - Samantha, Roger, Erin, Mike, Lori, Evan, and Matthew. Also shown are Barry, Nanci, and one of the Bridge Kids, Ronualdo*

Scouting contributes to the education of youth to help them take a constructive place in society. It is an educational movement for young people, voluntary, nonpolitical and open to all without distinction of creed, race, or origin. Founded in 1907 in England, Scouting now supports 28,000,000 young people in 160 countries around the world. We are so pleased to see this introduced into Puerto. Yay, Joseph. And by the way, Jackie & Joseph just had a little baby girl – we'll see about pictures in a later issue.

Recently Joseph held an initial public meeting at the Pro Niño room to introduce Scouting to the community. At that meeting, information about Scouting was presented by Hansen Marin Zuñiga, a Regional Executive from Limón for Guías y Scouts de Costa Rica. About ten people attended the initial meeting, and they really seemed to enjoy it. We're really looking forward to good things for the community from this effort.

We got a copy of the Spanish-language presentation made in Puerto Viejo from Hansen Zuñiga, and it is too big to be emailed. As a service, we have made it available through our website, and you can [view that presentation by going to www.elpuente-thebridge.org/scout](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/scout). There is also considerable information available in English at [www.scout.org](http://www.scout.org)

Scouting has the potential of uniting – or “Bridging” – all segments of society here through a proven organization with a 100-year history of global success. Although this is not a formal project of The Bridge, we are delighted to continue doing what we can to help.

## 100 10'S

We've been blessed with donations from just over 200 of you during the 6 years of our service here. Thanks to you, we've been able to continue. We are being asked to do more. Two months ago, for example, we provided \$350 on the request of Timoteo Jackson, to be used to complete a critically needed suspension bridge; volunteers started the project, and ran short of cash. This created quite a bit of pressure for our Food and School programs in the following two months, but with the patience of suppliers and a couple of Social Security checks, we're pretty much back on track.

We'd like to put the Food and School programs on a more secure basis.

We just changed the Pledge Website – and have added a **\$10-a-month pledge opportunity**. We have an ambitious goal – to **sign up 100 pledges for \$10 a month!** That would give us the amount needed for the Food and School programs day-to-day, and allow us to respond to contingency situations more easily.

**So please consider signing up for the “100 10’s Program” today!**

To see how you can join, [CLICK HERE](#). We’ll give you all the details!

## **HELP WANTED - ATTORNEY**

Earlier, we discussed the “Green Fund”, intended to serve as a financing source for projects such as water and septic systems, projects to help create income for people served by The Bridge, as well as medical, cultural, and educational projects. The funds will be raised in the US, guaranteed to the donors using government bonds. As the Green Fund settles into operation, continuing growth is expected after the initial “raise”.

We’re looking for a lawyer. Specialty areas required will range from setting up a corporation, determining if the new corporation should be a non-profit, and setting up any agreements that may become necessary for the fund-raising operation. At first, this will be pro-bono, however, we’ve set up the financial side of things to allow a small % fee on money raised, and we’re looking to raise quite a bit. The result will likely be larger than any reasonable up-front fee the lawyer could charge.

If you are an attorney, or if you know someone who might be willing to consider this opportunity, please get them in touch. We’ll be delighted to provide much more information.

## **CHRONICLES OF THE JUNGLE MOM**

This great book by **Michele Kohan** tells about her move to Costa Rica with her two school-age children. She came to the Puerto Viejo area, and got involved helping out at The Bridge. Her description is lively and fun, and makes great reading. She writes about her experiences here at The Bridge, and this book is a cool way to get started knowing about what happens here. Michele has pledged 25% of her profits from the book sales as a donation to The Bridge, for which we are very grateful. You can see this outstanding book by visiting [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and searching for “**Chronicles of the Jungle Mom**”

## **RANDOM NOTES**

**Grandma and her Social Security** - Ynez, the matriarch of one of the Bribri families who comes to The Bridge, got her full pension amount for the first time ever. One of her sons had volunteered to save her the trouble of going to the bank in Bribri to pick it up. Turns out he has been keeping most of it. Nanci was somewhat involved in helping her get her pension back. When she got to Community Kitchen today, she came into the house very excitedly... pulled out her wallet, got the money out, and handed it to Nanci to count. It was all there. Ynez tucked it away, pledging to find a very creative hiding place for it. Thank you God!

**Don’t forget to visit the blog** – Describe your experiences here – make comments, constructive criticisms, share your memories <http://elpuente-thebridge.blogspot.com>

## **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.  
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!

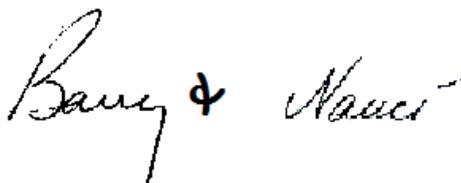
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***Thank you for your support!***

Well,

...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](#)

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

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

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

### **CONTACT INFORMATION**

Email: [barrystevens@earthlink.net](mailto:barrystevens@earthlink.net)  
[nanci.stevens@gmail.com](mailto:nanci.stevens@gmail.com)

Our toll-free number from the US is  
1-866-462-7585

SKYPE: barry.stevens2