



February 28, 2011  
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## **RECENT NEWS**

Well, you've done it again! School Year 2011 is underway. Nanci, my "Silent Partner", speaks up. The Bridge is again blessed with Volunteers.

## **SCHOOL IS OPEN FOR 2011**

Look what you've done! You all have been working wonders! With the help of many of you, we've been able to serve 64 "Bridge Kids" so far this year. School year 2011 is underway. Uniforms, shoes, backpacks and supplies have been bought and received for all but a few still on the waiting list. We've come round the last turn, and we're heading for the finish line!



We've started to receive Book Lists from some of the teachers. We're stockpiling cash for the home run. Last year, the kids had to pay an additional \$50 - \$80 each for books, with about half of the Bridge Kids needing our support. The School Program will need about \$2,000 - \$2,500 for books in the next few weeks.

We're in the home stretch – and there couldn't be a better time for your donations in support of these plucky "Bridge Kids".

You can and do make a big difference!

### **NOTES ON THE FOOD PROGRAM**

The INA (government trade school) class hasn't started yet this year, but the added exposure to families and students from last year seems to have increased the basic attendance at the Community Kitchen. Thanks to you, we're currently serving healthy meals to about 520 people a month at The Bridge on a three-day-per-week schedule. When the INA class convenes, we can expect a rise in the number of people having healthy meals at The Bridge.

### **TRIP TO SAN JOSE – NANCI GIVES A TALK**

Nanci was invited to serve on a panel of women who are working on community service projects, sponsored by the Women's Club of Costa Rica. The session was Saturday, January 22. We went a day earlier, staying overnight at Berni Jubb's Pura Vida Hotel in Alajuela – thanks Bernie! We brought Willi along, so he could see what's happening in the world outside this local area. Nanci did beautifully, and was blessed with a number of new subscribers to this newsletter and some generous donations!

Thank you, folks – and good job Nanci!

### **VOLUNTEER CORNER**

The Volunteers are on the job around here. They've been helping with whatever needs doing to keep things going.



Fritz Gard and Myrjana Leyman, both from Holland, dig in to help Erick and Ronualdo with their homework.



*You've already met Fritz. On his left please say hello to Cynthia Laila, visiting us from Belgium.*



*Eventually, everybody gets into the act. Here, Barry's explains use of the internet for research to Alejandro.*

### **BOBBI AND FAMILY DEPART FOR CANADA**

Bobbi Banks and her family have headed back home. We were so sorry to see them go. She and her husband Ron, her twin sister Lea and husband Peter were all a huge help around here. Bobbi put dozens of children in school, "suing them up" in person. She's already starting in next week to fund raise for The Bridge. It's likely to be a sterling year. You go, girl!

## **THE ARMY IS COMING – HOORAH HOORAH!**

Do you remember my mentioning army ants? And that when they showed up we just let 'em in the house and let them go to work? What kind of work would an army of ants do?

Have you ever had a giant cockroach in your kitchen? Nests of baby bugs snuggling up in your rafters? Take a look at this YouTube video showing a column of army ants going about their housecleaning chores. Each ant is about ½ in long!  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4-xLlfjrtFo&feature=related>

Welcome to the Jungle!

## **WHAT HAS GOODSEARCH DONE?**

***And, what can you do for El Puente by your use of it?***

GoodSearch is a search engine that pays a little over a penny each time you use it for the charity of your choice.

A companion website named GoodShop lets you order online from over 1,100 stores whose names you'd recognize. Each purchase results in a donation averaging 2.5% to the charity of your choice – at no cost to you!

In December they total up the searches and the purchases in the name of your chosen charity, and send a check. For El Puente, just in time for the Christmas Party and the start of the School Program "suit 'em up" season.

Some of you are already using those services, and El Puente has received nice donations in past 5 years. Here's how that looked.

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>GoodSearch Searches</b>	<b>Donation from GoodSearching</b>	<b>Donation from GoodShopping</b>	<b>Annual Donation</b>
2006	1,290	\$16.85	\$0.00	\$16.85
2007	3,052	\$40.47	\$0.00	\$40.47
2008	1,974	\$24.27	\$19.15	\$43.42
2009	2,290	\$24.61	\$8.13	\$32.74
2010	2,603	\$27.37	\$13.75	\$41.12
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>11,209</b>	<b>\$133.57</b>	<b>\$41.03</b>	<b>\$174.60</b>
<b>Average donated per search</b>		<b>\$0.0119</b>		

Thank you for trying these great services!

What is possible with them? How far can you go in helping El Puente? Take a look at this!

We have a subscriber list of 1,600 members. Here's what would happen if each and every one of you made a few searches a day using GoodSearch as your search engine, and listing your favorite charity as El Puente – The Bridge!

<b>Searches per day by each subscriber</b>	<b>GoodSearch Donation in December</b>
1	\$4,767
2	\$9,533
3	\$14,300
4	\$19,066
5	\$23,833

As for GoodShop? Choose "El Puente – The Bridge" as your favorite charity, and we can get a donation averaging 2.5% of everything you purchase online.

Imagine what kind of projects we could undertake – school repairs, school supplies, a better seating and teaching area outside... As the GoodSearch and GoodShop folks say, "The Sky Is The Limit!"

How can you get started? Go to <http://www.goodsearch.com/> and sign up?  
And choose **El Puente – The Bridge (La Mesa California)** as your favorite charity!

## 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 relevant web sites or discussion boards.**
- **Look at our list of critically needed supplies** – [click on this link to get to the “What Can I Bring?” page on our website.](#)

## DONOR NOTES

We are blessed with 17 people who are in the “Intrepid Bridger’s Club” – they have committed to a monthly pledge amount. You can see how the Pledge Program is going by [clicking on this link to visit the website.](#)

## VIEW FROM THE BRIDGE

**Thank You 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** by [clicking here](#),  
and donate online using PayPal, or mail a check.

**Do it NOW!** You’ll be glad you did!

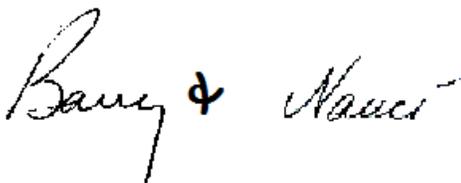
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***Thank you for your support!***

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 Blog** -“Angels With Their Skins On” by [CLICKING HERE](#)

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

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

Download a **Powerpoint presentation or a movie about The Bridge** 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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