



November 11, 2011  
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*With Nanci literally “on deck” in the background, (“another butt shot”, she would say), and with sawdust flying, volunteer Janet Montoya breaks out her computer and dedicates a day to teaching Eric and Irene some fine points about the Internet*

## **RECENT NEWS**

Welcome to the next issue of the newsletter, sent to you on 11-11-11 – that event won’t happen again for a while! Things are hopping all over at The Bridge! You’ve already heard about the outside eating & teaching area being built by volunteers at The Bridge – more news in this issue. We want to spotlight our angel volunteers this month; what a gift you are. Then there’s “Holy Cow! They came, they built, they sanded!”

## **VOLUNTEERS**

Volunteers enable us to do what we do at The Bridge. Just what does that mean anyway?

Last month we had the honor of visit with Janet Montoya, a volunteer from “up there” with a 40-year career in education. Janet blessed us with her presence, and was a joy to have around. On one particular day, during the construction of the outside floor, she took quite a bit of time showing Eric what can be done with the Internet. Eric has his nose in the computer, and Irene is watching and smiling in the background. Thanks for the time spent, Janet!. Her 40-year history made it easier for our usually shy and standoffish children to warm up more quickly – and, get this – we get her back at Christmas!

Let’s not forget the beautiful Bobbi Banks, a volunteer par l’excellence from Canada, heavily involved for several years suiting up the Bridge Kids for school. She’s already been out and about, speaking at churches and clubs and who knows where else, collecting money for 2012. The start of the school season will find Bobbie back here, personally suitin’ ‘em up again.



*This photo shows Bobbie with the students in a class she taught, front and almost center, holding a peanut butter jar they used to take up a collection for the children in the El Puente School Program.*

Here's a comment from Bobbi about a fundraiser the students in one of her classes did.

*"I taught "determinants of health" to a group of Continuing Care Assistant students at the Lunenburg Campus of the Nova Scotia Community College in September. The students took up a collection, and I was blown away by their generosity. The NSCC has a tradition of "service learning" and this contribution directly to the education of Bribri kids in Costa Rica is service learning in action."*

Thank you Bobbi! And if you can pass along a "Thank You!" to those students, please do that as well! Can't wait to see you back.

### **CLEAR THE DECK**

***Holy Cow! They came, they built, they sanded!***

First, there came the Surf For Life volunteers – 18 of them over several weeks. Working with Ernesto, the trusty contractor who kept it all together, from laying out and digging the foundation holes, putting in cinder blocks and cement, framing, and flooring. It was a community effort to get the tarp up! You've already seen much about this in our "Holy Cow!" emails.

Then – sanding and varnishing! Another contractor – Carlos – showed up with two muchachos. They unloaded a sanding machine it took two of them to carry. Carlos presented me with a heavy electrical cable with two bare wires sticking out of the end. "Where's the 220 volts?" he asked. We went out to the electrical meter, and I unlocked the box. He wired it in. It was the beginning of the... finishing.



*The completed floor. Look at it gleam!*

Thank you! To Surf For Life for your hard work and donations – and also to those of you who sent money in to help with the cost of the floor.

Before the floor was completed, we met at The Bridge with the Directora of the INA trade school facility in Bribri. In that initial meeting, she was excited about the idea of INA building the sides and roofing structure as a “laboratory” in a construction class, where INA would pay for the building materials and the students in the class would contribute the labor. They are interested in beginning classes on the 10<sup>th</sup> of January. We have begun signing up students to participate in the class. At this writing, we have 8, and are looking for more to reach the desired minimum of 12.

In a second meeting, immediately after the floor was completed, she brought the instructor of the Construction Techniques Class with her. We discussed her idea of INA doing the construction as part of a class. Between her first and second meeting here, she had apparently done some digging into her budget. She was very uncomfortable as she let us know that she didn’t have the money for the construction materials. If we could find a way to get the materials purchased, INA could start work on January 3. I said I’d see what we could do.

We took the drawing to the ferreteria (hardware store), and they priced out the remaining materials at around \$3,000.

I decided to revert to “vintage Barry”, and looked up the person in charge. I called the President of INA to ask if there was any possibility of juggling the INA budget for a good cause. Turns out, he was out of the country. However, the second in command was someone we’re already in touch with – the Minister of Education! He’s very familiar with El Puente, and we’ve been having an email dialog with him on several topics. I sent him an email with the drawing and budget, and a request to see if it was possible to “juggle the INA budget” to include these materials.

**Let’s know that there is magic in the air!**



## **In The Meantime...**

We just couldn't allow a beautiful area like that to lie idle. So, for the first official act...



*Jason and his family prepare to have fun with a birthday cake*

Using the new floor area for a Community Kitchen felt like the right thing to do. And celebrating birthdays always happens around here, given a little advance notice.

Nanci is a bit of a wizard, baking cakes in a toaster oven! And we usually have a chuckle as we include one of those “magic” candles that just won't blow out!

## **SO WHAT'S THIS BUSINESS WITH INA?**

Another big use for the ‘floor’ will come as INA teaches classes there.

What does INA have to do with The Bridge? As the students we serve get older, we see the possibility that The Bridge can expand to include further education for those children, now becoming young adults.

We already have students graduating into high school, and looking towards a future job. So the natural question comes – “What happens **after** escuela and Colegio?” One answer – additional training courses for jobs they can get by building on the education they've received.

I've heard several times that there is a shortage of people trained in the trades in this area. Trade school is an option for further education beyond high school. There are jobs available for people in the trades. That's where INA comes in. That's what they do – train people to fill those jobs. The only “catch” – the students must be able to read, write, and do basic mathematics.

So using the new structure and facilitating INA classes is a good addition to what's already in progress at The Bridge – a logical next step.

## THANKSGIVING DAY BENEFIT IN SAN JOSE

Casa Alfie, a great hotel right in the center of San José, is hosting a benefit on Thanksgiving Day for The Bridge! Those of you who are in the Central Valley area in Costa Rica will have a chance to join us, socialize, see Nanci's art exhibit, and sit down to a great Thanksgiving Day dinner!

Meet, Greet, and Give Thanks with us at the charming

### Casa Alfie's

In the heart of culture in San José—As a benefit for

### El Puente—The Bridge

Offering a scrumptuous **Turkey Dinner**, Complete with:  
a stupendous stuffing, melt-in-your-mouth mashed potatoes,  
Sensational Salad Bar, tender fresh veggies, a tasty soup, and  
**Pies, Pies, Pies!** OMG — How much better can it get?

And all this for only **\$20 per person!** Mix this together with your good company, it's the makings of a great party! And, you'll get to see an art exhibit by Nanci Stevens, of The Bridge! **See You There!**

Where: Casa Alfie  
Near Teatro Nacional  
Al Frente Colegio de Señoritas

When? Thanksgiving Day Nov. 24  
Dinner served 2 PM.  
Come early to socialize.

How about a cash bar? Woo-eee!

Telephone for Reservations—Space Is Limited

**2221-2102**



*Looking forward to seeing you there!*

Have yourselves a wonderful Thanksgiving!

## THE HUNDREDTH MONKEY

The “Hundredth Monkey” effect is a concept in which a number of monkeys on one island learned how to wash their food before eating. As the number of monkeys learning on that one island increased above a threshold – the “hundredth monkey” - the learning began to spread to monkeys on other islands, totally isolated from the first group– the other monkeys simply “got it”. Although researchers have tried to discredit the idea, the idea *behind* the concept is a good one.

**How many people have to learn something new before everyone else simply “gets it?”**

That’s one of the questions that Nanci and I played with.

We’ve written some lyrics that tell the story as it can apply to each of us as individuals. And we’re looking for a songwriter! Someone who wants to put a tune to this, something relatively simple, with guitar chords and a catchy melody.

### **I Am The Hundredth Monkey**

By Barry & Nanci Stevens

I am the hundredth monkey  
I know it’s up to me  
To build a better future  
From what it used to be

I know I’m being called on  
To vanguard the parade  
To bring us into sunlight  
Where once was only shade

I see it all around me  
As I go about my day  
The many folk awakening  
Unto a better day

And though I feel ecstatic  
To know I’m in the zone  
It makes my heartbeat gladder  
To know I’m not alone

We’ve started to emerge, now  
As the dark is blocked by sun  
The rest are on the verge, now  
In knowing we are One

And so in praise and laughter  
we lift our heads up high  
With joy we fill the heavens  
Loud, with our clarion cry

We are the hundredth monkey  
We’re all we need to be  
There is no ‘dark switch’ on the wall  
There’s only light, you see.

I am the hundredth monkey  
I know it’s up to me  
To build a better future  
From what it used to be

Anyone out there up for the project?

## **ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE**

***Thought we'd end up the stories this month with a little humor!***

We see many people here who are involved with English as a second language, either because it is their second language, or because as volunteers they teach English as a second language. For us it's everywhere. Both the volunteers and the indigenous have trouble with it (the English language, that is). That's why we really laughed when we ran across some examples of what makes our language so frustrating for people trying to learn it. Nanci and I really enjoyed reading it, and we thought you might get a laugh out of it as well. Here are twenty fun examples of our chosen language at work.

- 1) The bandage was **wound** around the **wound**.
- 2) The farm was used to **produce produce**.
- 3) The dump was so full that it had to **refuse** more **refuse**.
- 4) We must **polish** the **Polish** furniture.
- 5) He could **lead** if he would get the **lead** out.
- 6) The soldier decided to **desert** his dessert in the **desert**.
- 7) Since there is no time like the **present**, he thought it was time to **present** the **present**.
- 8) A **bass** was painted on the head of the **bass** drum.
- 9) When shot at, the **dove dove** into the bushes.
- 10) I did not **object** to the **object**.
- 11) The insurance was **invalid** for the **invalid**.
- 12) There was a **row** among the oarsmen about how to **row**.
- 13) They were too **close** to the door to **close** it.
- 14) The buck **does** funny things when the **does** are present.
- 15) A seamstress and a **sewer** fell down into a **sewer** line.
- 16) To help with planting, the farmer taught his **sow** to **sow**.
- 17) The **wind** was too strong to **wind** the sail.
- 18) Upon seeing the **tear** in the painting I shed a **tear**.
- 19) I had to **subject** the **subject** to a series of tests.
- 20) How can I **intimate** this to my most **intimate** friend?

To all of our friends, subscribers, volunteers, and visitors – if you are forced to use English as a second language, please – accept our heartfelt condolences.

## **PLANTING A SEED FOR CHRISTMAS SHOPPING**

It's that time of year again! We'd like to plant a seed with you. As the Thanksgiving holiday winds down, and you begin to think Christmas shopping, remember that there are two things on the Internet that can really do some really good things.



First, there is a search engine named "GoodSearch", and you can sign up with it, select **El Puente – The Bridge** as your favorite charity, and every time you search the internet using GoodSearch, they donate a penny to The Bridge.

Second – if you're signed up with GoodSearch, you can hop on over to **GoodShop**, where there are over 2,500 brand name products and retailers available online – names you will recognize, and products you will love. Each time you buy something through GoodShop, and you've chosen El Puente – The Bridge as your favorite charity, they pay El Puente an average of 2½% of the purchase price! Imagine this – you can do all your Christmas shopping, and have the purchases sent directly to your house, **without burning gasoline, no milling around in shopping crowds, no more waiting in lines at checkout.**

And, if you have ever felt that the meaning of Christmas has been slipping away, consider this. When you do your Christmas Shopping on GoodShop, you will also be giving a gift to the children and families we serve at The Bridge!

So jump in and try it out! Here's the getting started address at GoodSearch: <http://www.goodsearch.com>

Go to GoodSearch and sign in. Choose **El Puente – The Bridge** as your favorite charity. Then, search away! Then, go to GoodShop, and look through the list of online brand name products and stores, And... when you're ready – **SHOP AWAY!** You'll be glad you did – so will the families and students we serve!

## **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 –** [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/page26.html](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/page26.html)

## **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** [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/pledge](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/pledge)

Make an **Immediate Donation** [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/page30.html](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/page30.html)

You can donate online using PayPal, or mail a check.

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

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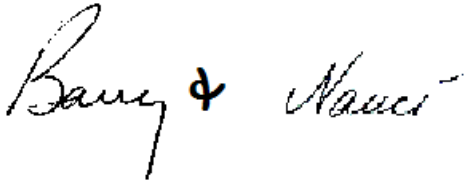
***Thank you for your support!***



Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!

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** [www.elpuente-thebridge.org](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org)

Download a **Powerpoint presentation** or a **narrated slideshow/video** [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/present](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/present)

Download **brochures in Spanish, English, or French** [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/brochures](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/brochures)

Go to the **newsletter archive** [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly)

See some **Video clips** showing activities at The Bridge [www.elpuente-thebridge.org/video](http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/video)

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