



March 31, 2012
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Check out Yvonne, one of the “Bridge Kids”, grinning from ear to ear as she admires a portion of the stunningly beautiful eggs she helped color for next Saturdays Easter Egg Hunt. Where are we going to put them all?

RECENT NEWS

It's time for Easter eggs around here, and the folks are diving in to help get ready for our annual Easter bash. The Bridge Kids are in school, and it seems deceptively quiet as we see them one or two at a time working on homework. We've been floored and roofed – and the best is yet to come! A group of nursing students attends El Puento for a cross-cultural experience. Big Maria is getting crafty!

KIDS IN SCHOOL!

The rush is over. Kids are in school, and needing money to buy copies of study materials, books, and exams. Now we usually see them one by one, as they do their homework, often needing access to the Internet.



Maria, a Colegio (High School) "Bridge Kid", digs into the internet to get some homework done.

Just yesterday (Friday), we brought Nanci's computer to the "compu-hospital", since it stopped working completely. It started out on a homework session for Eric and Ronualdo, and when we tried to use it again, it wouldn't even boot up.

I'm really knowing that whatever is the issue can be easily resolved – we'd really like to be able to continue offering the computer to students for homework assignments. Their teachers assign homework requiring Internet use, and the local Internet Café is expensive.

Let's know that the "Little Engine That Could" remains "The Little Engine That Does!"

WE'VE BEEN FLOORED – AND ROOFED!



Nanci presents a celebration cake to the workers at the tail end of construction. On the left is instructor Juan. Leo, student and the construction foreman takes the center.



Take a look at the completed structure, with the outside seating finished. Beautiful job, guys!

Our thanks to the men and the woman from the INA class who got the structure and roof done!
And to all of the rest of **you** who made this miracle happen.

Now – on to the varnishing touches!

ADELPHI COMES TO VISIT

The Bridge was delighted to receive visits from a class of 18 nursing students and two faculty members sent to us from Adelphi University of New York.

Adelphi University School Of Nursing sends group of student nurses to visit El Puente



A group of 18 student nurses, a professor and an administrator came down from New York to visit El Puente recently. They jumped in and served at the Community Kitchen, and participated in various cultural discussions with people who attend.

They also jumped into a minibus and went to Uatsi, where Timoteo Jackson, the Tribal Leader, and his family put on a cultural presentation just for them!

Timo and his family are very passionate about preserving their culture, and they made that point very clear in the discussion following the presentation.



A tiny fraction of Timo's family, in costume for the presentation, with his son Carlos at the right as the lead actor, playing a bad guy that came from Spain carrying a gun.

Thanks to Timo and his family for a great day!

SHE'S GETTING CRAFTY!

Our right-hand-gal Maria has hopped right into making crafts. First, there was the small microloan for a Dremel tool, with which she's been making bracelets from beads. More recently, she's learned the sewing machine, and is making lovely over-the-shoulder carry bags that are very popular around here.



Not bad for just a couple of weeks practice.

Maria has really been forging ahead in many ways. When we first met her, she was quiet and somewhat shy. She is learning crafts, as is obvious in the stories here. And she has, in the past months, been in a group that visited the office of the President of Costa Rica taking a stand for indigenous rights.

You go, Girl!

SOMEBODY SAY SOMETHING ABOUT AN EASTER PARTY?

Our big “do” for Easter will be Saturday, April 7. Every year, we have a big party with an egg hunt, lots of food, prayers from the tribal leader, water balloon fight – the works!



The theme for the day is, of course, renewal, new life, and overcoming great obstacles. What better to reflect this than the brand new chicks in the foto above, trying out the Easter baskets made for, and by, the folks eager to join in the Easter Egg Hunt!

Here’s Grandma Ynez, at the head of the table, together with Mayra, Griselda, and Khrys having fun decorating eggs. What’s the significance of this shot? We almost caught her in a smile! One step at a time!

The Bridge gives a great resounding sound of applause to Gia Smith and Casa Amma for the exquisite prayer beads she and Leo created and sold to fund the majority of this wonderful party. We are soooooo grateful.

Hope all of you have/had a great day!

WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE

We’ve been having some interesting developments in the immediate area. By all appearances, several months ago, the water pumps next to our house sprung a leak.



Here’s water bubbling up in several spots
Around the water pump enclosure...

...flowing down to the road, where it...

flows around our house into the lot
next door, where...

...it forms a pool that could breed mosquitoes. From a public health standpoint, this is not a good thing. I called the area manager in Limon, and suggested that it would be better for everyone if they could fix this problem without involving the Ministerio de Salud – the health department. He must have agreed, since someone came to look at the issue the following day.

Nanci thinks digging a hole and starting a Tilapia farm might be a winner.

BARRY'S GOT A GIRL FRIEND

It started innocently enough. Every morning I open up the chicken coop doors, letting the ladies begin their day's work – keeping down the insects and other pests without the use of pesticides. A short time ago, a fancy looking chicken with curly feathers took up residence with us. I liked the feathers she was wearing, and I picked her up to take a closer look. That became a morning ritual – I'd pick her up and take her to the dishes where we put corn out for the chickens. We named her "Fluffy".

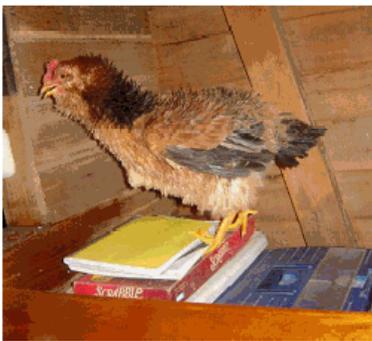
After a while, Fluffy began running over when I went outside, sometimes squinching down and raising her wings slightly – a hint that she wants to be picked up. When I rode the bicycle out of the yard, Fluffy would start to follow if she were nearby. And then... she started coming into the house. I suspect she must have been looking for me.



She walked in like she owned the place...



Checked out the computer wiring...



Looked at the filing system.....



Checked out "corporate HQ".....



Went to the bedroom to see about a rest.

Turns out she was looking for a place to lay her eggs.

Every so often, she makes a mess, and Nanci tells me to "go clean up after your girl friend."

I gotta admit, she is kinda cute!

VOLUNTEER CORNER

So how DO we serve soup to 50 people at the Community Kitchen?

Here's a shot of the kitchen area on one such day.



Bill Smith, a volunteer from Canada is at the left drying dishes. Barbara Truitt, who lives locally comes next, followed by Marilia de Cesare – also a neighbor and a regular long term gift for The Bridge. At the sink, with mounds of dishes, we find Carmelita, one of the young Bribri workers. Then of course, there's Nanci. It's a mystery as to who has her by the shoulder.

Then, of course, we have other volunteers who show for short spurts, such as Stephanie Van Der Kerchove, who brought her energy here all the way from Belgium to grace us for a couple of weeks.



Say "HI!" to... Stephanie! Check out that wonderful smile!

Wherever you come from, and however long you stay, we say "Thank You!" to our wonderful Volunteers!

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

AND YES, THERE IS SOMETHING ELSE YOU CAN DO!

Things had to move very fast this year to enable us to finish putting 126 children in school. So fast, in fact, that we had to use the “extra” money that is left after we pay all the overhead expenses of The Bridge with our Social Security checks. We have been putting that money in the Food Program each month. That has left us with a \$600 balance yet to pay at the Old Harbor Supermarket, where they have been kind enough to give us a charge account for El Puente.

As mentioned above, we’re also getting into varnishing the structure that has been completed for El Puente. This will be nearly \$200 for polyurethane varnish and some labor.

NOW's a GREAT time to contribute.

Make an **Immediate Donation** www.elpuente-thebridge.org/page30.html

Thank You for the continuing support we have been getting.
You all are allowing us to continue to serve!

Make a **Monthly Pledge** www.elpuente-thebridge.org/pledge

Make an **Immediate Donation** 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!

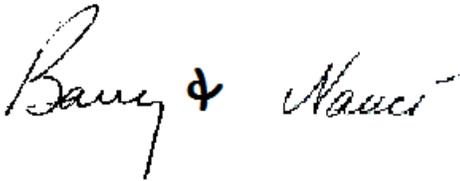
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Thank you for your support!

Well,

...djmiache

Enjoy!



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** www.elpuente-thebridge.org

See the CNN news report on us <http://bit.ly/yQSVOZ>

Download a **Powerpoint presentation** or a **narrated slideshow/video** www.elpuente-thebridge.org/present

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Email: barrystevens@earthlink.net
nanci.stevens@gmail.com

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

SKYPE: barry.stevens2