



August 21, 2012
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We've been asked more than once – Where do you cook enough food to feed 5,000 people a year? That's a LOT of hungry mouths! Fortunately, they don't all come at the same time! Here's a panoramic shot of The Bridge Kitchen – usually filled with volunteers scurrying in and out, now unusually quiet. What you see is what you get. Welcome to Soup Central!

RECENT NEWS

Quiet is a relative thing. A new kind of “statistic” – “The Bridge Index” – is updated for another year. Remember that roof over the outdoor platform? Some Angel Volunteers saved the day. We say goodbye to an old friend. How many people are in a pot of soup? We've lost our balance – Yay!! Staying clean at The Bridge!

A (RELATIVELY) QUIET TIME OF YEAR

The school startup rush is long over, and school is in session, yet it seems like the school in Puerto Viejo has a randomly changing schedule. Often, the Bridge Kids passing through here in the morning get to school only to find out the schedule has been changed, or the school is closed for the day. That's very frustrating for them – and for us, as we absorb them when they get back feeling a little unhappy and looking for something to do.

On days when children from one troubled family show up early in the morning, we still provide a “little something in their bellies”. When Bridge Kids come here after school, we provide some cold fruit juice, books to read, access to the internet for homework, and just some all around support.

Although no one has confirmed this to us, the appearance is that the Desarrollo – the development association – for the nearby indigenous has invested in cellular telephones for nearly all of the children in their “zone”. In general, the families we serve do not have electricity, so it's not unusual to see cel phones plugged in *everywhere* at The Bridge to charge up their batteries.

Even in what could be expected to be a quiet time of year, we're still pretty busy around here!

THE MASTER (OR RATHER “THE MISTRESS”) OF INDEXING

A Volunteer at Work For The Bridge

You'll remember **Volunteer Angel Lili Prince**. For the past several years, she has faithfully prepared a **Master Index** of the key terms in each issue of the Bridge Newsletter beginning with the 2006 issues. Using the Master Index will tell you, for instance, that there were 59 mentions of the word “Volunteer” found in the Newsletter, each mentioning an individual's name and pointing you to an issue and an article to read about that Volunteer.

We'd like to include mentions and photos of every volunteer that comes to The Bridge. Through the years, we've had many, many Volunteers, and although we try to collect your names and email addresses, don't take it personally if you are not mentioned. Just know that we are VERY grateful for your efforts!

When we are able to get fotos of our Volunteer Angels – I just point the camera, click, and shoot. That opportunity didn't arise with Lili, since her work is mostly virtual – at the end of an Internet connection. So when she arrived in Puerto, I asked her for a photo, and her answer was clear – she doesn't care to be in a photo. So, I decided to find an image that reflected her spirit and personality. Like it or not Lili – ladies and gentlemen, say hello to...



...Lili Prince, Queen of the Index!

Lili has done a fan-**tas**-tic job with this project, and with the newest edition now available online, we say

“Thank You, Lili!”

To download your copy of the latest Master Index, go to <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly> and download the file named **Master Index 2006 – 2011**.

RAISING THE ROOF – REVISITED

Only three weeks after the new roof on the outside structure was finished, we had a really strong windstorm. A heavy branch fell from a tree overhead and punched a small hole in it. For a time, we simply carried on, using a bucket under the hole whenever necessary. Then one day we were blessed by a visit from Theresa Field, a local resident, accompanied by a young woman looking for volunteer projects (yet another wonderful story to unfold.) When Theresa saw the hole in the roof, she said, “I have two friends who can fix that.” That afternoon, her two friends showed up with the needed supplies. They climbed up on the roof, and before you could say ¡Dios mío! they had replaced the broken piece of roofing material!

Here are those Volunteer Angels, with the newly repaired piece of roof showing right over their head!



We haven't seen Theresa since, so I wasn't able to show you a foto of her. Say "Hello", however, to **Jasquell Escorcia** and **Alfredo Videal**!

And again, a hearty **"Thank You!"** to all three of you!

I love the way this stuff manifests.

FAREWELL CORKY

Corky the Rooster was hatched here at El Puente about three years ago. He came from an egg purchased from a family down the street. Those who are newsletter subscribers, or who have come here to visit our monthly potluck evening know him well. He was quite the curiosity. He had 11 toes, (instead of the regulation 8) and his head was on upside down and sideways. Nanci, a licensed animal rehabber back in California, worked with him until he could run around the yard chasing hens, crow in the neighborhood chorus, scratch up and eat the delicious insects in the yard, and hang out with many batches of baby chickens around here. (You can read up on Corky in the last issue of the newsletter, dated 120719 – July 19, 2012.)

We liked having Corky here because he was so enthusiastically received by our community. He was a teaching animal, serving as an example of what can happen when you spray chemicals into the environment, as they were doing at the house we bought the eggs from. He's the opening shot on that CNN news piece, (<http://bit.ly/yQSV0Z>) and he appears throughout the recent video shot by Actuality Media (<http://vimeo.com/46201540>) We even had a worker on a vegetable delivery truck bring his wife with him one day so she could see Corky. He seemed to fascinate everyone. "Crazy Chicken" was famous.

A week or so ago, Corky just laid down and couldn't get up. His enthusiastic crowing faltered, and his body temperature was falling. He was still active, but it was obvious something was wrong. Time to talk with the vet. The vet's suggestion was to put Corky down.



We gave Corky a little time with his favorite "wife" Fluffy, and his latest family of four baby chicks, who obviously loved their daddy. Then, Nanci braved the trip. In what seemed like an eternity later, Corky was off to his next assignment.

Thank you for your time here, Corky – you are loved and you will be missed.

WHAT THE HECK DOES AN ENGINEER **DO** IN THE JUNGLE?

How Many People Are In A Pot Of Soup?

We're in the process of updating our cooking gear, among other things. This was the ideal time (and the only time in many years) to dig into my engineering toolkit and figure out how many bowls of soup can be served to how many people using the various sizes of soup pot we have here now.

| | | | | Pot Volume = $\pi r^2 h$ | Capacity, Bowls | People Served | |
|------------------|---------------|----------|--------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------|------------|
| Old Cooking Pots | New: | Height | 12 inches | 2,413 | Cubic Inches | 218 | 115 |
| | | Diameter | 16 inches | | | | |
| | | Radius | 8 inches | | | | |
| | Large | Height | 9.5 inches | 1,970 | Cubic Inches | 178 | 94 |
| | | Diameter | 16.25 inches | | | | |
| | | Radius | 8.125 inches | | | | |
| | Medium | Height | 8.5 inches | 1,128 | Cubic Inches | 102 | 54 |
| | | Diameter | 13 inches | | | | |
| | | Radius | 6.5 inches | | | | |
| | Small | Height | 8 inches | 831 | Cubic Inches | 75 | 39 |
| | | Diameter | 11.5 inches | | | | |
| | | Radius | 5.75 inches | | | | |

Let's find out how many bowls of soup and people served the new larger pot can handle.

Let's see – sample data collected shows 1.9 bowls of soup per person, there's 20 liquid ounces of soup per bowl, and 1.805 liquid OZ. per cubic inch... Hmmmm... (sounds of a pencil tapping, and some tapping on the keyboard)... Pass the Calculator... more tapping...

(Does anybody out there care?)

STAYING CLEAN AT THE BRIDGE

A global foundation that has been very helpful to El Puente recently stepped up to the plate with a donation that we could use for specific things.

We've Lost Our Balance!

As we mentioned in one of our past newsletters – we went WAY over budget in the last Suit-Em-Up period with a surprising number of children in the School Program, We spent all the cash we had, including Food Program money, to make sure that we put as many kids as possible into school this year. We charged several months of food purchases at the Supermarket, and then started to pay it off – slowly.

One of the items we paid off with this recent donation – the grocery bill has been paid down to zero, and the account reactivated in case we need it again!

Yay God!!!

Then There's The Rust

Another welcome task – replacing the rusting out and poorly performing washer and dryer. Those of you who have been with us for a while know we wash a lot of clothes – uniforms for Bridge Kids, clothes for the people working here, and a mountain of linen for the Community Kitchen.

The foto of the dryer, at the left, will give you an idea of the condition of the old workhorse appliances. After a quick trip to Limón, we had a change of scenery in the back working area.



Here's a shot of the "old faithful" that kept us all dry for nine years



Da-ta-da-daaaa! Here's the new washer and dryer.

Again, a "Thank You" is in order.

UP, UP, UP, ON THE ROOF ***This Time – the House Roof***

In recent years I've had workers who were cleaning the roof call out to me and, pointing down, say "this needs to be repaired." And yes, there have been small, insignificant leaks around the edges. Only recently, we had to tape over some tiny little holes in the porch roof – through which we could see little tiny specks of sky! It was time to replace it, and part of the donation received from the foundation was used to buy materials and pay for the labor needed for the repair.



There's Leopoldo, up on the roof, hard at work replacing the tin roofing

Leopoldo Torres, one of the students in the INA class on Construction Techniques that was taught at El Puente, also served as the foreman of that class crew as they learned and did their class work here. He dove, or rather jumped, right into this project, and expects to have it complete in three or four days.

Good going, Leopoldo!

There'll be more to come. We'll keep you posted!
Again, we say "Thank You!."

A YOUTUBE VIDEO ON SEVERAL WAYS TO HELP EL PUENTE

You can help, and it won't cost you anything!

When you search for things on the Internet, use **GoodSearch!** For each search you make, GoodSearch will donate one cent to El Puente! Then, when you want to shop for things from any one of over 1,000 brand name products, use **GoodShop** - and the vendor will donate a percentage of the purchase price to El Puente - **at no cost to you!**

Visit this short YouTube Piece, and learn more about GoodSearch and GoodShop.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rijmf7-kmi4>

Then, when you're all worn out from using the Internet and shopping online, you can go to **GoodDining** (in the USA), and find a restaurant near you that will also donate a percentage of the meal cost to El Puente - again, **at no cost to you!**



So how can YOU help El Puente? It's as easy as 1 – 2 – 3!

- 1. Search the Internet**
- 2. Shop Online**
- 3. Dine Out!**

Go to GoodSearch at www.goodsearch.com and choose **El Puente - The Bridge in La Mesa, California** (our official US address) as the charity of your choice.

YOU CAN HELP US!

There are several **MORE** ways you can help.

- **Send this email to people you know** who might also enjoy it.
- **Know anyone who wants to volunteer?** Get them in touch with us!
- **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
- **Ask us about giving a benefit for El Puente.**

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

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!

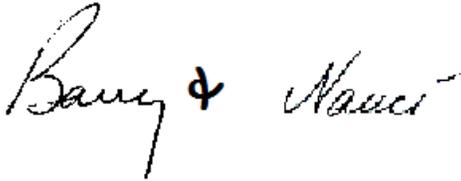
* * * * *

Thank you for your support!

Well, time go go.

...djmiache

Enjoy!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barry & Nancy". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

IF YOU HAVE TROUBLE SEEING THE PICTURES

...go to <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly> and download the file with the date of this issue.

Go to The **Bridge Website** <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org>

Download a **Powerpoint presentation(PPT)** or a **narrated slideshow/video(AVI)** <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/present>

Download **brochures in Spanish, English, or French** <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/brochures>

Go to the **newsletter archive** <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/weekly>

See some **Video clips** showing activities at The Bridge <http://www.elpuente-thebridge.org/video>

See us in action in the CNN News Report at <http://bit.ly/QSVOZ> (Push the "CC" button for English subtitles)

Come for a visit ina video by Actuality Media <http://vimeo.com/46201540>

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