

## Dear Everyone

Greetings from sunny San Francisco. This month we had the honour of finalising our gift to the primary school. Back in March Hazel had met with the head and some of the parent-teachers' group to start thinking about the donation and what they might be able to do with it. They then went away and did their thinking and research and came back with a plan. As they said, this is a one-time opportunity, and they needed to make the most of it. Which they absolutely did. Hazel handed over the money a couple of weeks ago so that they could concrete their planned purchases, and I was invited back last week to see the results in real life. My eyes opened wider and wider as the head gave me the tour around the school and showed me everything that they had done and how far they had managed to stretch the money. It was truly a loaves and fishes moment, and a privilege to be able to share it with them.

There were different kinds of balls and rackets for the P.E department, speakers for the music department, a large wall TV and curtains with their rails in the tech room, a hot/cold air unit in the final classroom; they have been equipping the classrooms with these at the rate of one a year for a few years, books for the library, and a robotics kit (like grown-up Lego, I loved it). Probably in UK schools most of these things would just be considered as essential materials, but here where everything has to be fundraised by the parents and teachers, it would be almost impossible that a little school on a challenging estate like this one could afford these kinds of resources; which is why it has taken them the last several years just to install the heating units, classroom by classroom. All in all, this has been a very worthwhile project, and a graphic illustration of how a little, used well, can make a big difference.



Right now, we are working on a smaller fundraiser for one of Hazel's Scouts. The public health service in Argentina is surprisingly good at what it does, which is primary health-care and life-saving medicine, without many bells or whistles. Twelve years ago, aged three, Lucho had a cancerous tumour in one of his eyes, and the health service removed the eye and gave him chemo. Today he is a healthy, cancer-free, fifteen-year-old. But in Argentina you will not get your prosthetic eye on public health. And these resources are imported, and therefore priced in USA dollars. Lucho and his parents are all Scouts, and our Scout group back then helped the family to raise money for his first prosthetic eye by selling barbecued chickens. Twelve years on, he needs a bigger replacement prosthesis, and we are helping them with organising a raffle to raise the required funds.

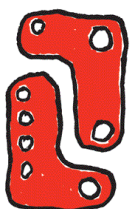
This weekend our older Scouts are off camping with the older Scouts from the other groups in the district. And we putting together a project to do some maintenance work on a mountain-biking track just outside the city in the next couple of weeks.

Family is fine. Both the girls plus Teen's Boyfriend have been around this week doing bits of work in our house. They need money, so we give them opportunities to earn it. Church is fine. Hazel was supposed to preach last week but no-one told me, and we don't have anything as fancy as a published rota, so I went away climbing mountains for the weekend instead(!) All part of normal chaos. Thank you all for your prayers and support. We hope you have a good month.

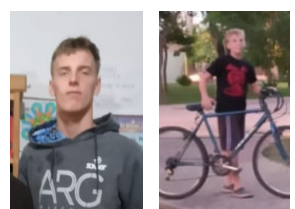
A lucho a los 3 años  
Le diagnosticaron  
un tumor en el ojo

Cubría la totalidad del ojo  
Así que tuvimos que  
sacar todo en la cirugía.  
Y pasamos por el proceso  
de quimioterapia también!

Hoy tiene una prótesis ocular,  
Y creció un montón también  
Así que debemos hacer una nueva



Hazel X Martin



Joni & Daniel

Latin Link

