

Fundraising News

Fundraising Concert in Belfast Central Mission

On Friday 14th November the Belfast Central Mission was once again host to a fantastic fundraising evening for the benefit of the Trust. This time it was for "Une Soirée Musicale" with music by the Queen's Island Victoria Male Choir, Neuschel Brass Ensemble and Kathryn Ker. The evening was also an opportunity for our founder to present an up-to-date report on the work in the Centro Infantil Bellota and also included a supper provided by the congregation of the Mission.

The Queen's Island Victoria Male Choir sang a varied programme, from 'Stout-Hearted Men' by Sigmund Romberg to 'When I Survey', sung to Joseph Parry's tune Myfanwy. The Neuschel Brass Ensemble played an equally

Kathryn Ker singing at Belfast Central Mission



broad collection of pieces from Henry Mancini's 'The Pink Panther' to Don Gillis' arrangement of 'Just a Closer Walk'. Kathryn Ker sang numbers from Jesus Christ Superstar and Les Miserables.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable evening which raised over £1,800 (when Gift Aid is added) for the Trust. Our thanks again to Alan Ker for organizing the evening, to the Mission for all that they did in hosting the event, and to everyone who took part and made the event possible.

The Maya Childcare Trust invites you to a fun

TABLE QUIZ Friday 20th
March 8pm



St Brigid's Parish Church Hall
Ballyclare Road, Glengormley

Minimum donation: £5 (Includes supper)

All proceeds go directly to the Centre in Guatemala.

Trustees AGM

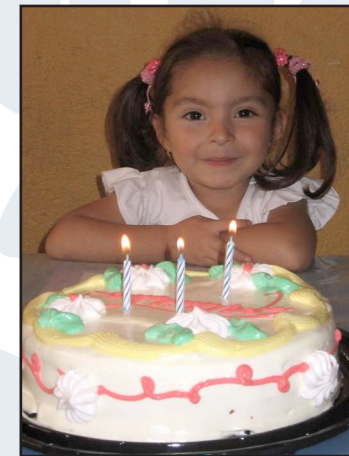
The trustees of the Maya Childcare Trust are meeting for their Annual General Meeting on 21 March 2009. If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments that you would like them to consider, please contact info@mayachildcare.org

News Bulletin of the Maya Childcare Trust

A charity based in the United Kingdom which is dedicated to supporting the work of the Centro Infantil Bellota (which is the Spanish for "Acorn Childcare Centre") - a childcare centre for disadvantaged children living in Quetzaltenango, Guatemala.

Welcome to the Maya Childcare Trust spring newsletter! The beginning of March is a time for celebration at the Trust: this year we mark the third anniversary of the opening of the Centre in Guatemala to children. When the Centre first opened its doors in March 2006, it initially cared for five children. This quickly increased to 15 and the Centre now provides for 20 children and their families at any one time. There are many more families in need of the Centre's support, but the number of staff and the size of the building restrict the number of children that can be accepted without diminishing the quality of care.

As many of you will be aware, Rachael Rhude (née Ker) set up and ran the Centre with Guatemalan colleagues until her return to the UK in late 2007. Before leaving, she handed over management of the Centre to Marielos Grijalva, who became director in September 2007 and has been doing a wonderful job of



running the Centre ever since. For this edition of the newsletter, we have interviewed Marielos about her work and motivation. You will find extracts from the interview on pages 2 - 3. A more complete version of the interview can be found on our website: www.mayachildcare.org. We hope this will help to give you a better sense of the warmth, enthusiasm and commitment of the Centre's director.

Marielos continually reports to the trustees that the families that rely on the Centre all express enormous gratitude to staff at the Centre for the support that they receive. I in turn would like to express my appreciation on behalf of the trustees for all the generous support that you continue to provide through regular giving and by getting involved in fundraising efforts. You can read about some current fundraising events on page 4. Your support is very much appreciated and makes an enormous difference to the lives of the children attending the Centre and indeed to their families.



Zoë
Zoë Rose - Chair of The Trust

You have received this Bulletin because you are listed on our database as a supporter of the Trust. The trustees believe that this communication is an important way of letting you know how your donations are being used. If you would prefer to be removed from our mailing list please either email us at: info@mayachildcare.org or write to our Secretary, Mr Andrew Ker, 24 Ravensdale, Newtownabbey, Co. Antrim BT36 6FA.



News from the Centre



Extracts from an interview with **Marielos Grijalva**,
Director of the **Centro Infantil Bellota**

What motivates you to work at the Centre?

The fact that we care for and help children in poverty, who are the most vulnerable and the most in need of our support. We share with them affection and understanding. The majority of them have suffered abuse, and come from disintegrated homes where there is domestic violence.

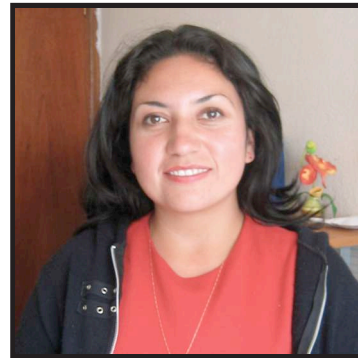
Also, knowing that people far from my country are bringing help to these children, receiving nothing in return, makes me feel that I should also be helping my own people.



What do you like best about your job?

The fact that every day I see the children's faces so happy to be in the Centre, and their gestures of affection. Many of them can't express themselves with words, but their hugs and their affectionate looks say it all. The work with my colleagues as part of a team, creating a pleasant and comfortable environment for everybody.

I set high standards for myself and so I like doing things well and seeing others also do a good job. This job is really a blessing for me. I enjoy what I do and how I do it.



Marielos Grijalva

Volunteering at the Centro Infantil Bellota



What are your hopes and wishes for the Centre in 2009 and beyond?

One of my many wishes is to be able to continue bringing help to the children that we have at the Centre.

I hope that the Centre survives and can open its doors to more children that need it. There is great demand for this care.

In the longer term, I hope that the Centre might have its own premises with adequate education areas to carry out the High/Scope programme and above all with a green area with play equipment for all the children attending the Centre.

I would love to have our own transport, to be able to take children on trips to more places

or to collect them and return them to their homes if they live some distance from the Centre.

There is so much potential!

I am so grateful to all those that support us and make the work we do with these children possible. Thank-you!



If your travels take you to Central America, and you are interested in visiting the Centre, please contact us. The Centre is always glad to welcome visitors and volunteers. There are a wide variety of ways in which volunteers can contribute to the Centre. Those wishing to work directly with the children are usually asked to stay for at least a month and to have a reasonable level of Spanish. If your time or Spanish language skills are more limited, you can help in other ways. Volunteers have built furniture and play resources, fixed broken toys, painted and decorated, translated resources, created and cared for a small garden area, played musical instruments for the children, sewed costumes, taken photographs or written reports to help with publicity, or they have arranged fund-raising events. All these gifts of time and skills have helped to enrich the Centre and its work with families in need.



Zoe Rose, volunteering at the Centro Infantil Bellota