



Dear Friends and Family,

For the past four years, Kid's Christmas Fund has worked with IPODERAC'S Children Fund (ICF - <http://www.ipoderac.org/>) to make sure that every kid at IPODERAC, a home for abandoned boys in Central Mexico, wakes up to a Christmas present on the morning of December 25th. Recently, IPODERAC has partnered with a hair salon in the local town to ensure that each boy receives a fun present this holiday season. So this year, Kid's Christmas Fund and ICF are asking our friends and family to help us with one of the most important aspects in setting the young men of IPODERAC up for success – scholarships for a post-high school education that helps them obtain work and self-sufficiency.

We have already raised \$2K of the \$7.2K that we hope to raise for the 2017 scholarships. Thanks for doing what you can this Holiday season to help us raise the rest and give these young men the additional education and training they need!

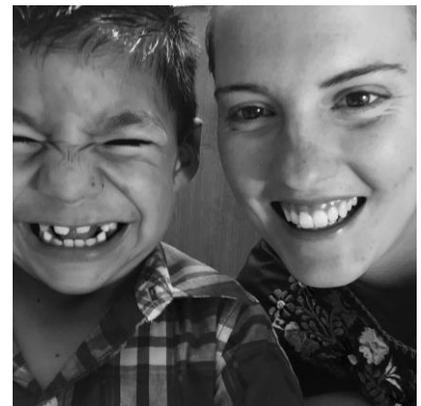
Additionally, see the below note from Tally Ritter about her experience living and volunteering at IPODERAC this year as she speaks to the importance of these scholarships.

Happy Holidays,

Kid's Christmas Fund                      and                      IPODERAC'S Children Fund

**To make a tax deductible donation please visit - <https://ipoderac.nationbuilder.com/donate>**

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of living and working at IPODERAC with 72 amazing boys and young men. This experience, although anything but easy, was the most rewarding experience of my life. IPODERAC taught me many lessons; one of them being that it truly does take a village to raise our children into kind, smart, and loving adults. And that doing so is an absolute must if we hope to end the cycle of abandonment that plagues so many places around the world as homeless and abused children can, at times, grow-up to inflict that same pain on their own children.



*ALL SMILES - Tally with one of her boys or "chavos"*

At IPODERAC I lived in the youngest boys' home, with kiddos who were 5-8 years old, and they were a force to be reckoned with. The world has already been hard on them and some of them reflected that hardness back, as anyone would, but all of them were spirited and starving for knowledge, friendship, and love. IPODERAC gives them a safe place with food, clothing, companionship and support for education through high school. Having support with school is one of the most important aspects of breaking the cycle of poverty and abandonment. Some of my favorite moments of my time there were watching these boys overcome their challenges and advance in their self-confidence. Like watching Jose learn to write his name, or finding Alberto

with a book, practicing reading when he was supposed to be doing his chores – the hunger for knowing how to read was so striking in his eyes with many words still a mystery to him at age 8.

These little boys grow up and many of them remain at IPODERAC. Last week, I was looking back at an email that my brother August sent out the day before he left IPODERAC after his own stint volunteering in the same house back in 2009.

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The last sentence read – “Please say a prayer for the boys in my house – and for two boys named Ruy and Alexander, who didn’t return after school yesterday.”

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And here I was, seven years later - Ruy and Alexander had indeed returned and are still living there, each with their own story of successes and hardships. Ruy, like many of the older boys, has finished up with high school and is now in a trade school and working part time. Some of these young men are at university, studying engineering, others are studying carpentry or auto mechanics or various trades that will give them the best shot at living a productive, independent life. IPODERAC’s Children Fund knows that this further education equips them with the knowledge and skillsets they need to succeed in life after IPODERAC and has committed to making sure these boys get that support.

In essence, these scholarships give the boys the gift of freedom, a freedom that will last a lifetime. Thank you for giving young men like Ruy and Alexander that gift of freedom!



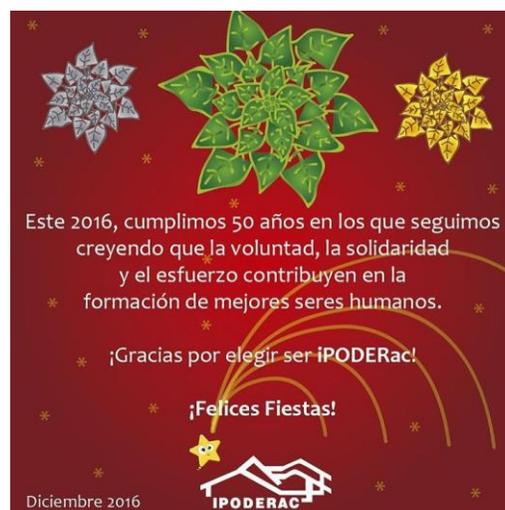
*ICF Board Member Jim Polsfut with the scholars  
(Ruy is crouching)*

With Love,

Tally Ritter

PS – I’m also proud to report that IPODERAC has acquired land several miles away from the boys home and is raising funds to construct and open the same kind of center for girls. Click here for more info:

<http://www.ipoderac.org/programs>



*IPODERAC celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2016!*