



PUNTADEMITA FOUNDATION

2008 SUMMARY

Over the past year the Punta de Mita Foundation has made leaps and bounds in establishing itself as a successful community foundation working in the greater Punta de Mita region of Bahia de Banderas, Nayarit. The Foundation has set up the administrative and operational capacity to be a grant-making institution, manage two project committees and oversee various community programs. The four pillars of the Foundation that the Founding Board of Directors established in 2008 are: education, healthcare, environment and security. These pillars also act as our areas for grant making and committee work.

The administrative accomplishments made in 2008 were hiring a full-time Executive Director, setting up an office, and putting together an Executive Board, a General Board and an Advisory Board of Directors. In addition, the Punta de Mita Foundation was able to make alliances with other organizations in order to have fiscal sponsorships and issue tax-deductible receipts in the US, Canada and Mexico. These organizations are the International Community Foundation in San Diego, California, Tides Canada, and Becas Vallarta A.C. in Puerto Vallarta, Mexico.

In addition, the Punta de Mita Foundation became part of a network of community foundations throughout Mexico via our association with CEMEFI (Centro Mexicano de Filantropía). These associations have helped the Punta de Mita Foundation set up programs, administer grant-making and collection donations over the past year.

In 2008 the Punta de Mita Foundation went through one grant cycle and awarded nearly \$250,000 dollars in grant funds. Our three grantees for 2008 are PEACE in Punta de Mita, Riviera Recicla, and Costa Verde International School (CVIS). PEACE works in the areas of education, community empowerment and environmental protection. Riviera Recicla is a cooperative of local non-profit associations that are managing a recycling and organic composting program throughout the region. Lastly, a scholarship program was set up with CVIS in Sayulita to send two bright and talented Punta de Mita students to an accredited, bilingual private school. Besides these larger grantees the Punta de Mita Foundation created a mini-grant program designed to help individuals and small groups that not established non-profit associations but are in need of funding for positive things that they are doing for their community and/or environment. Over the past year the Foundation issued mini grants to buy costumes for the local children's dance classes, support local artists doing pottery classes with the retired women's cooperative in Higuera Blanca, renovate the local police station and provide a stipend for biologists working at the sea-turtle conservation camp in Litibu.

The Punta de Mita Foundation was also successful in addressing the needs of the community by setting up two different committees that would manage projects outside the scope of our grantees' work. The Education Committee did a thorough needs-based assessment of the public schools in Corral del Risco and Emiliano Zapata, raised over 30,000 dollars and as a result was able to build two new classrooms in the kinder. The Smart Growth Committee was established to work on a baseline report for the region that would investigate the current social, environmental, and economic issues that are causing problems in the communities of Emiliano Zapata and Punta de Mita. Together with the department of Sustainable Tourism at the University of Guadalajara's Centro Universitario de la Costa, the Smart Growth Committee has finished this extensive report and will publish it in both English and Spanish by early 2009. This report will act as a road map for the Foundation and help promote sustainable development and better urban planning in the region of Punta de Mita.

The Punta de Mita Foundation held some small events throughout the year but 2008 was not focused on fund raising. Instead the Foundation focused on establishing itself, showing visible results to our donors, and building our credibility and accountability with the communities in our region. The Foundation has been successful in all three of these areas. The 2008 annual event, held on December 6th at the Hotel Des Artistes rooftop was able to raise nearly \$80,000 dollars along with the Second Annual Punta de Mita Foundation Charity Golf Tournament. This figure is far less than was raised in 2007 at the annual event, which brought in nearly \$400,000 dollars including in kind donations. Nevertheless the Punta de Mita Foundation is dedicated to our mission of enhancing the quality of life for all and will continue its fundraising efforts in 2009.