

Salsa benefit for impoverished communities in Oaxaca, Mexico

Dear Friend,

My name is Jose Carlos Leon Vargas; I am the director of SiKanda, a non-profit organization that works to improve the lives of impoverished communities in Oaxaca, Mexico.

SiKanda is currently working to improve the living conditions of the "Pepenadores" of Oaxaca city's dump. The Pepenadores are scavengers, or garbage pickers who reside at the landfill and make a living sorting out all types of waste that they resell to intermediaries (carton, metal, plastic bottles, copper, etc.). There are 40 families who have been doing this activity for over two generations already. Women, men and children literally enter the mountain of waste and work for 10 hours, Monday to Sunday, to make about 2.5 US dollars on a good day. The Pepenadores are exposed to accidents, bites, wounds and toxic dust that comes from the piles of garbage that the citizens throw away everyday. Some of the pepenadores are over 80 years old.

Together with the Pepenadores, we have created 3 projects to change those things.

- 1) Reduction of sanitary risks (with equipment and house improvements)
- 2) Economic diversification (production of organic fertilizer from the biodegradable waste)
- 3) Social awareness (everybody needs to know that we are all part of the garbage problem)

SiKanda has partnered with Salsa Rueda Santa Cruz to organize a benefit salsa concert at: Portuguese Hall, Santa Cruz, CA, on Friday 9th of July, 2010 (www.salsaruedasantacruz.com). We invite you to a great event with excellent Latino music, good company! A good opportunity to help marginalized communities in Mexico.

With your support, 200 pepenadores will be able to have a better quality of life, starting with getting less sick and having a little more income for their families.

40 usd can buy a pair of proper work boots for a pepenador

8 usd can buy a pack of face masks for a pepenador

4 usd can buy a pair of gloves for a pepenador

20 usd a month can help a pepenador have a better house and have training to produce organic fertilizer

240 usd a year can help a pepenador have a healthier life and sustain her/his family

Your support is truly valuable to the Peppenador families of Oaxaca.

If you would like to be of help, we would be very grateful to receive your donation. Cheques can be sent to the following address and are tax deductible:

SiKanda
c/o Social Planet
1644 Taylor Street, Suite 43
San Francisco, CA 94133
Phone: 415-350-9275 - Fax: 415-276-6044

Social Planet, Inc., is a nonprofit organization, exempt from federal tax under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

We need help from everybody in this endeavor. We need your help to tell everybody that we are trying to change things and that poverty issues can be tackled from the root with concrete actions.

We will be happy in providing you and your friends with more information about the projects, aims and outcomes. We recently finished a documentary on the lives, challenges and dreams of the Peppenadores that we would be happy to send you or arrange for you to see. It will give you an overview of who they are and how they live.

Muchas gracias,



José Carlos Leon Vargas
Director
Solidaridad Internacional Kanda, AC – SiKanda
www.si-kanda.org

Twitter: www.twitter.com/sikanda_oaxaca

Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/profile.php?ref=profile&id=598980392#/group.php?gid=246442868073&ref=mf>

Youtube: <http://www.youtube.com/user/sikandamex>