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## Proyecto de Oncología Pediátrica BCS LCCF Spirit of Joy Children's Cancer Program La Paz, BCS 2013

Greg Edwards, President of LCCF, Visits the Spirit of Joy



As a direct result of many years of work by LCCF along with Amigos de los Niños, children with cancer in Baja California Sur are beginning to be treated in La Paz. Eight children who were already in treatment no longer need to travel to Culiacan and five newly diagnosed children will receive their entire treatment here.

**Dr. Eduardo  
Altamirano,  
Renowned Pediatric  
Oncologist, at work  
in the center in La  
Paz**



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**Los Cabos Children's  
Foundation**

January 2013 Report

**Special points of in-  
terest:**

The BCS Government has now made supporting children with cancer in the state a priority.

Government facilities have been made available for use by the Spirit of Joy!

Many promising collaborators are coming to LCCF with a desire to expand the services being offered.

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## Dr. Eduardo Altamirano and Dr. Rogelio Ortiz



Dr. Altamirano comes to La Paz after developing the cancer program in Culiacan where LCCF/ADLN has been sending the Baja children for treatment for years. He has been working in Pediatric Oncology for 26 years and associated with St. Jude's Outreach program for 18 years.

Dr. Altamirano is working closely with Dr. Rogelio Ortiz, the Director of the State Cancer Center.

Dr. Altamirano is currently treating outpatient children in the state cancer facility as well as having his office located there.

## Staffing and Training

Additional staff and training will be needed to serve all of the children with cancer here in the Baja.

This will require additional funds for salaries and specialty training of nurses and support staff.

Several collaborations are in the making for staff training including the proposal of LCCF Board member Nizar Mandami (University of Nebraska).



## Collaborators

Exciting new collaborations are in the making through the International Community Foundation who is eager to form an alliance with LCCF to carry the care of children with cancer to a new level. They are bringing to the table expertise interested in making a *triangle of care* between Culiacan, Tijuana and La Paz.

ICF has already stepped up with an initial grant toward this end and will be meeting in La Paz in February with LCCF President Greg Edwards and Dr. Altamirano, as well as representatives from St. Jude, Rady Children's Hospital and the UC San Diego Moores Cancer Center to look at details of the collaboration.

## The Santa Josefina Blood Bank

The equipment from the Santa Josefina Blood Bank has been donated by LCCF to the cancer program and some of it is already in use. This equipment made a significant contribution to the necessary steps for accreditation which will authorize payment for treatment by Seguros Popular and allow most of the children with cancer in the Baja to be treated in La Paz.



## Casa Valentina BCS Under Construction



Casa Valentina will be a place for families and children to stay while the children are receiving inpatient treatments. Four rooms are being built as well as a shared kitchen, laundry facilities, and common areas of comfort.

The efforts of LCCF and ADLN have brought the attention to this need and facilitated its construction. The BCS Government is stepping up to cover the cost!

## Facilities

The Spirit of Joy Cancer Program is being integrated into existing BCS Government facilities. We currently share space with the State Cancer Center for administration and outpatient chemotherapy infusion as well as having designated rooms in the Salvatierra Hospital.

Another floor of Pediatric rooms are potentially available for the Cancer Program if and when funds are available for staffing.





[www.loscaboschildren.org](http://www.loscaboschildren.org)



Los Cabos Children's Foundation and Amigos de Los Niños A.C. share the Spirit of Joy Cancer Project, which is currently treating 30 children diagnosed with different types of cancer. The Pediatric Hospital of Sinaloa (Culiacan) and St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital have been working hand in hand with LCCF/ADLN to save lives of children for several years now.

The Spirit of Joy cancer program is more than just a treatment. It is a journey filled with care and compassion by the families, patients, doctors and donors. The families staying at Casa Valentina (Culiacan) and Casa de Carlitos (Sioux Falls) receive love and support as their children courageously fight their battle against cancer. However, it is the goal of LCCF to further support and provide the same world class level of treatment for these children in their home state of Baja California Sur. So far, we have served 15 children!

It is through the generosity of donors, the commitment of the local medical community and the courage of our young patients that LCCF/ADLN received approval in spring of 2009 to develop the first-ever pediatric oncology program in the southern Baja. Together we are raising the level of health care for all children while "changing the world one child at a time."

## Message from the President of LCCF

LCCF has been instrumental in changing the BCS health culture in many ways. In regard to children with cancer, LCCF and its cancer program partner ADLN, have endeavored to bring a new awareness of the high rate of cancer in children in BCS to the community and make a difference in addressing their urgent needs. By investing time, energy and funds consistently over the years we have established our credibility with the BCS Government, earned their respect and in the case of Casa Valentina BCS their financial support. As a Foundation committed to furthering the work already accomplished, we look forward eagerly to the new partnerships and collaborations dawning on the horizon.

We often talk about sustainability...this is sustainability! Sometimes this process may take longer and be more frustrating than anticipated. As a major project evolves it transforms itself over and over and takes on its own identity...much like the transformation of a child into an adult. Sometimes those who did the actual work, as nurturing parents, do not get the credit and the name of LCCF may not always appear on the marquis, but I want every one of you who have believed in the mission of LCCF and supported the children of the Baja in so many ways over the years to take comfort in the fact that this sacrificial work is now bearing fruit! Remember...this is not about constructing a building...but about constructing a new health approach in the hearts of those who care! Thank You!

