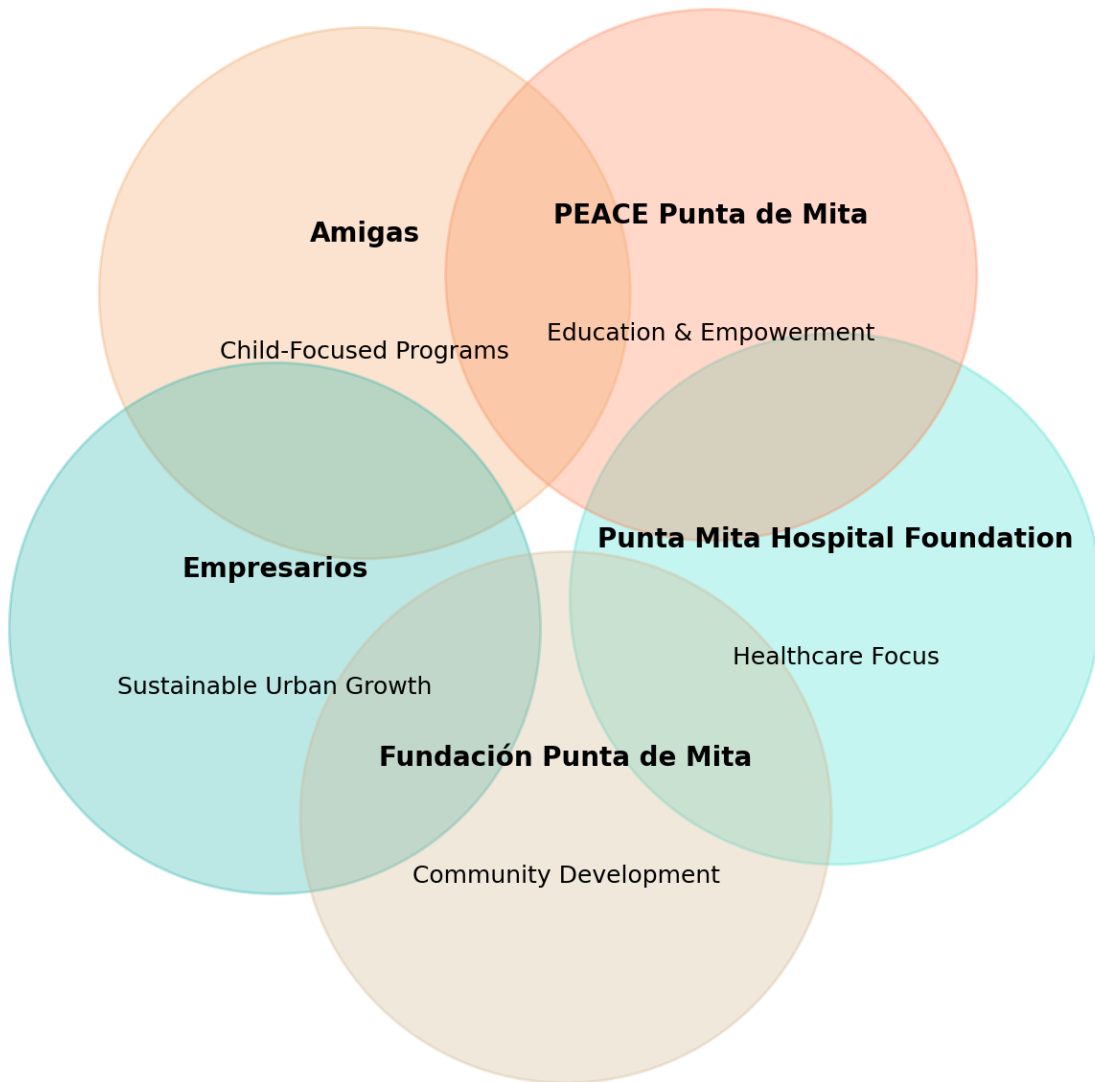


Guide to Giving: Five Punta de Mita Charities

Charlie's Lunch <https://charlieslunch.org> provides this overview of the five complementary charitable organizations serving the Punta de Mita area, listed in alphabetical order. Each has its own mission, focus, and approach, that together form a fabric of inter-connected care to improve the well-being of local residents and surrounding communities. Four of them are legally constituted non-profit Donataria, whereas the Amigas are a volunteer group of women that raise funds through BBC, an official Donataria.



In Mexico, a **Donataria Autorizada** (often simply referred to as a Donataria) is a nonprofit organization that has received special authorization from the country's Tax Administration Service (SAT) to issue tax-deductible receipts (also known as recibos deducibles) to donors. This designation allows individuals and companies who donate to the Donataria to deduct those contributions from their taxable income, creating a significant incentive for charitable giving.

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Amigas Punta de Mita (Children's Arts & Community Programs)

Mission & Vision (in cooperation with): <https://bbcinc.org>

- **Mission:** Improve children's lives through funding arts, education, and community programs.
- **Vision:** Every child has access to creative, empowering opportunities for development and success.

Core Programs & Impact

- **Key Programs:**
 - **Creative Arts Momentum (CAM):** Dance-based education for 950+ children in five communities.
 - **LUDOTECA (at the Fundación Punta de Mita):** Safe, play-based learning center providing meals and academic support.
- **Biggest Annual Goal:** Securing **\$50,000** (raised largely at an all-women event) to sustain and expand children's programs.

Distinguishing Traits

- **Arts & Creativity Emphasis:** Focuses on dance, play-based learning, and cultural enrichment.
- **20-Year History:** Long-standing tradition of an annual fundraising event with costs underwritten by the team, ensuring 100% of donations go directly to children's programs.
- **Targeted Child-Focused Support:** Funding is dedicated to schools, playgrounds, girls' sports teams, and nutrition.

April 1st 2025 donor appreciation cocktail party at La Pescadora:

- Cocktail party is for any one person or couple giving a 500\$ US donation. Men are invited (most of Amigas events are for women only, this year is an exception).

Leadership

- Yeugenia MacDonald - Chair
- Becky Detering – Co-chair
- Diana Jacob
- Nadine Brown
- Nancy Connor
- Dawn Lyons
- Sandra Redmond
- Cindy Schmidt

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Asociación de Empresarios de Punta de Mita y Riviera Nayarit (ADEPM) (Sustainable Urban Growth & Infrastructure)

Mission & Vision: <https://adepm.org.mx/en/home>

- **Mission:** Promote orderly, sustainable urban growth, foster alliances among entrepreneurs, and address social initiatives like security, infrastructure, and water.
- **Vision:** Bridge government and business communities to preserve sustainable development benefiting Punta de Mita and its surroundings.

Core Programs & Impact

- **Key Projects:**
 1. **Sustainable Tourism Destination (PPDUPM):** Urban development plan.
 2. **Clean Water for Sayulita:** Upgrading water treatment facilities.
 3. **ENA - Naval Station:** Collaboration with Mexican Navy to enhance security.
 4. **Sister City Program:** Partnership with Vail, Colorado, for cultural and economic exchange.
 5. **“Let’s Clean Up Our Highway”:** Highway clean-up and repair initiatives.
- **Biggest Project: PPDUPM** – Impacts urban planning, environmental care, and tourism infrastructure across multiple communities.

Distinguishing Traits

- **Business & Infrastructure Focus:** Addresses macro-level issues like highway maintenance, security, and water treatment, differing from purely social or educational charities.
- **Government Link:** Acts as a conduit between local authorities and private sector stakeholders to implement large-scale projects.
- **Long-Term Regional Planning:** Emphasizes sustainable development and economic growth for the broader Riviera Nayarit area.

Leadership

- Jason Lavender Refsnes - President since 2015 with over 30 years in business and finance.
- Adalberto Moreno Benavent - Director Experienced in business associations, strategic direction, and government relations.

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Fundación Punta de Mita (Comprehensive Community Development)

Mission & Vision: <https://www.fundacionpuntademita.org>

- **Mission:** Promote sustainable community development in Punta de Mita and Bahía de Banderas, empowering communities to identify and implement solutions for the common good.
- **Vision:** Empowered, prosperous, and sustainable communities.

Core Programs & Impact

1. Human Development:

- LUDOTECA, an Educational Play center based on international theory of child development. Also offers healthful breakfasts and lunches.
- COMPAS, scholarships and mentorship for at-risk youth to reduce dropout rates
- Adult Trade Workshops and Training

2. Social Integration:

- Del Mar Community Center & Sports Center
- Community Development Funds
- School Co-Investment and Civil Society Strengthening

Biggest Impact Areas: Education and Nutrition support for children and youths (scholarships, mentoring, healthy meals), and the Del Mar Community Center, fostering a sense of community as well as adult classes with significant community participation.

Distinguishing Traits

- **Broad Multi-Sector Approach:** Works in education, health, environment, and social inclusion.
- **Capacity Building:** Focuses on civil society strengthening, offering training and funding to grassroots organizations.
- **Regional Collaboration:** Partners with local and international stakeholders, ensuring broader coverage beyond Punta de Mita itself.

Leadership

- President: David William Connell
- Secretary: Phil Nickolas Ferarri
- Members: Adalberto Moreno Benavent, Adam R. Bronfman, Yvonne Boland, Janet Burak Lanzillo
- Executive Director: Alejandra Rivera

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PEACE Punta de Mita (Education & Community Empowerment)

Mission & Vision: <https://peacepuntademita.org>

- **Mission:** Empower local communities through education and development programs that foster self-reliance and active participation.
- **Vision & Values:** Education as empowerment, holistic growth, and community engagement.

Core Programs & Impact

- **Key Educational Programs:**
 - **PrepaNet** (hybrid high school partnership with Tecnológico de Monterrey)
 - **Campeones & Campeones Jr** (English, leadership, technology skills)
 - **Keep Going!** (youth/adult English classes opening doors to better jobs)
 - **Click On!** (Digital literacy for children, youth, and adults)
 - **SUPERA-INEA** (Primary and secondary certification program for adults)
- **Largest Project: PEACE Community Center** – a central hub offering expanded educational initiatives and resources including Tec de Monterrey partnership.
- **Daily Reach:** 400 beneficiaries, with 120 meals provided daily.

Distinguishing Traits

- **Education-Focused:** Structured programs from primary grades to adults.
- **Community Center as Hub:** A permanent center for continuous learning and support.
- **Holistic Development:** Goes beyond formal education to include leadership, technology, and life skills.
- **Skilled Professionals:** PEACE invests in a professional team of educators and coordinators committed to quality education.
- **Investment & Fundraising:** Contributions are investments in the future of Punta de Mita by empowering individuals, strengthening families, and transforming communities through education.

Leadership

- Frank Hutto – Chairman of the Board
- Dinorah J. de Haro Inda – Executive Director
- Roberto Santa Cruz – Treasurer
- Juli Bulloch – Communications
- Mandy Shapansky -Fundraising (Vacancy)
- Diego Martinez-Negrete
- Carl Emberson
- Alfredo Bonin
- Juan Pablo Stone
- Bob Farquharson

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Punta Mita Hospital Foundation (Healthcare Focus)

Mission & Vision: <https://puntamitahospitalfoundation.com>

- **Mission:** Ensure access to state-of-the-art medical care in Punta de Mita and surrounding communities.
- **Vision:** Develop a strong healthcare network centered on preventive and advanced medical services.

Core Programs & Impact

- **Primary Focus:** Direct medical services (surgeries, diagnostics, emergency procedures), health brigades, preventive medicine.
- **Key Project: Health Brigades,** bringing specialized healthcare (OBGYN, Pediatrics, Cardiology, Neurology, etc.) to underserved areas.
- **Community Reach:** Over 2,400 brigade patients served, with 186 surgical/emergency procedures conducted.
- **Funding Use:** Medical equipment, patient care support, health education, and community outreach.

Distinguishing Traits

- **Healthcare-Centric:** Uniquely focuses on both preventive and advanced medical care in the region.
- **High-Level Equipment:** Significant portion of funds goes to maintaining top-tier medical equipment for the hospital.
- **Direct Patient Care:** Emphasizes providing immediate and specialized care to underserved populations.

Leadership

- James Temerty
- Margaret Isberg
- Richard Zien
- Kurt Hauser
- Roberto Santa Cruz
- Alfredo Bonin
- Dallas Howe

Key Points of Interest

| Charity | Primary Focus | Scope of Programs | Funding Allocation | Key Beneficiaries | Signature or Largest Project |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|---|---|
| Punta Mita Hospital Foundation | Healthcare (preventive & advanced) | Health Brigades, OBGYN, pediatrics, surgeries | Medical equipment, direct patient care, health ed. | Patients in Punta de Mita & surrounding communities | Health Brigades (mobile medical services) |
| PEACE Punta de Mita | Education & community empowerment | Multiple programs spanning K–adult learning | Community center, meals, Qualified teacher investment, materials | Children, youth, and adult learners in local area | PEACE Community Center |
| Amigas | Children’s arts, education, and sports | Dance (CAM), Ludoteca, play-based learning | 100% to child-focused programs (arts, sports, meals) | Local children requiring creative, educational support | Annual \$50k fundraising for kids’ programs |
| ADEPM | Sustainable urban growth, infrastructure, safety | Urban dev. plan, water treatment, security | Infrastructure repairs, clean-ups, security stations | Residents & businesses in Punta de Mita & Riviera Nayarit | Sustainable Tourism Destination (PPDUPM) |
| Fundación Punta de Mita (FPM) | Comprehensive community development (health, ed.) | Human Development & Social Integration | Scholarships, community centers, capacity building | Punta de Mita & Bahía de Banderas communities | Nutrition & Education Support + Del Mar Center |

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High-Level Contrasts

1. Healthcare vs. Education vs. Infrastructure

- **Punta Mita Hospital Foundation** is the only one fully dedicated to clinical healthcare services, while **PEACE**, **Amigas**, and **FPM** mainly tackle educational and social programs. **ADEPM** concentrates on larger-scale infrastructure, security, and sustainability projects.

2. Immediate Services vs. Long-Term Capacity Building

- **Hospital Foundation** provides immediate healthcare services (surgeries, diagnostics).
- **PEACE**, **Amigas**, and **FPM** are more involved in long-term community development (education, child-focused support, scholarships, capacity-building).
- **ADEPM** works on long-range planning and infrastructure to ensure sustainable urban development.

3. Funding Allocation

- **Punta Mita Hospital Foundation**: Primarily invests in medical equipment, patient care, and health education.
- **PEACE**: Uses funds for daily educational and meal programs, operational costs of the community center, and staff salaries.
- **Amigas**: Ensures 100% of the event proceeds directly fund child-centric programs (arts, sports, playgrounds, etc.).
- **ADEPM**: Channels resources into infrastructure (roads, water systems), environmental campaigns, and security.
- **FPM**: Distributes grants, scholarships, and invests in community centers, skill training, and nonprofit strengthening.

4. Community Reach

- **Punta Mita Hospital Foundation**: Broad medical outreach through brigades, impacting diverse age groups.
- **PEACE**: Directly engages ~400 people daily in educational programs.
- **Amigas**: Focuses specifically on children (arts, play, nutrition) with annual fundraising events.
- **ADEPM**: Engages business owners, government entities, and local communities to address large-scale needs.
- **FPM**: Works within Punta de Mita's three main communities and the broader Bahía de Banderas region, supporting other grassroots organizations.

5. Organizational Structure

- **Punta Mita Hospital Foundation**: Traditional philanthropic board with a healthcare emphasis.
- **PEACE**: Local nonprofit led by an executive director with an education-oriented staff.
- **Amigas**: Volunteer-led group with a focus on fundraising events. Donations made through Banderas Bay Charities (BBC).
- **ADEPM**: Business association structure bridging government, entrepreneurs, and local stakeholders.
- **FPM**: Community foundation model partnering with public and private entities.

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Conclusion

Each of these five organizations addresses different facets of community well-being in Punta de Mita and surrounding areas:

- **Healthcare** (Punta Mita Hospital Foundation)
- **Education & Empowerment** (PEACE)
- **Creative Youth Development** (Amigas)
- **Infrastructure & Sustainable Growth** (ADEPM)
- **Holistic Community Development** (Fundación Punta de Mita)

Their work often intersects—good infrastructure and a healthy populace facilitate better educational outcomes, while robust educational programs can empower communities to advocate for improvements in healthcare, security, and the environment. Taken together, these charities form a complementary ecosystem of support, ensuring the region’s residents have access to essential services, opportunities for growth, and a sustainable future.