

### **Project Update: March 2014**

Students from the Hillel Foundation at University of Southern California (USC) spent an alternative spring break doing service projects. They contacted ProFaunaBaja to volunteer at the marine turtle field station. However, because March is not part of the nesting season, we found other things for the students to contribute. For example, one day I took the students to an orphanage in Todos Santos, a small fishing village nearby. The town fishermen are accustomed to eating sea turtles and we wanted to instill in the children that they can conserve turtles rather than consider them as food. So the USC students played games and sang songs about sea turtles with the local Mexican kids.

The next day, the USC students met us at the marine turtle field station. The USC students painted stakes that will be used for the upcoming nesting season. These stakes will be placed at in-situ nests to identify the nests for data collection. Each student wrote their name on a stake and numbered it. This season, in return for their volunteer service, we will send them the nest coordinates of each nest in their name and a certificate of an adopted nest. The students also each contributed \$25 for their time which provided a nice donation for the maintenance of the environmental centre for the upcoming season.



Left: University Students making friends with the local marine turtle biologists. Right: University students volunteering during Spring Break