



PROJECT ChildHelp

August 2001

Who We Are

Project ChildHelp, Inc. is a non-profit Christian organization under laws of the state of Florida. We are dedicated to reaching out to the forgotten children in the orphanages of the **Dominican Republic** by providing humanitarian relief and meeting their spiritual needs.

Why We Exist

Our purpose is to provide the resources to meet the needs of these children by providing humanitarian aid. Additionally, as a Christian-based organization, we will communicate the gospel of Jesus Christ to all children.

What We Do

We provide humanitarian relief to meet the most basic human needs (i.e., food, clothing, diapers, vitamins, medicine, immunizations, etc.). Through a cooperative effort with local churches and concerned local citizens in the Dominican Republic, we help establish an on-going support plan where local Christians are challenged to a deeper involvement. This aspect of the ministry is overseen by volunteers of APEN in the Dominican Republic (This organization is recognized in the United States as CEF-Child Evangelism Fellowship). **Project ChildHelp** assists these volunteers by inviting them to play an important role in bringing new life to their own forgotten children.

How We Do It

Through teams of committed Prayer Partners and individual Christian prayer warriors throughout the U.S. and the Dominican Republic, we intercede daily for the needs of the mission, personnel, volunteers and of course, the children. Additionally, we are assisted by the people whom God sends our way to support **Project ChildHelp**, not just financially, but also through their skills, talents and God-given gifts.

We're Making a Difference

By O. Frank Valladares

We have just returned from our last mission trip to the Dominican Republic (7/27/01 through 7/31/01), and although this has been our shortest trip to date in terms of time spent there, it has certainly been our most productive. We were able to bring with us over 4,000 pounds of relief supplies, including, but not limited to, diapers, formula, children's vitamins, clothing, and medicine. This was done very smoothly without any problems with customs, and the shipment was free of charge thanks to the good people at American Airlines. Our medical team was able to treat every child at both orphanages, including staff, for intestinal parasites and worms. This was made possible through a generous donation of *Parasitol*, a medication for the treatment of parasites and pinworms. The results of the treatment were evident almost



Michael, age 8, smiling for the camera

immediately (we actually witnessed a child pass a 5 inch worm less than 24 hours after receiving the first treatment). We were able to leave enough *Parasitol* with our staff for follow-up treatments as well.

As to the general medical condition of the children, the head of our medical team, Dr. William Muiños, saw marked improvement in the children of the boys wing. However, as to the children in the girls wing, their outlook was much grimmer. Ninety percent of the children that were treated and tube fed by our medical team were from the girls' wing. The reason for this is clear; the owner of the orphanage restricted our worker's access to the boys' wings. Although it is evident that our workers

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Hope for a New Home...

By Lourdes Valladares

It has been a year since our last trip to the Dominican Republic. Though it was my desire to return much sooner, complications with my pregnancy and the birth of my second daughter, (Gabrielle, now 6 months old) prevented me from traveling.

Though we've been in constant contact with our staff at the orphanage via email and phone calls, I was eager to be with the children again and see for myself how they were doing. It was encouraging to see that many of them had gained considerable weight and had spontaneous smiles in their little faces which was a rare event before. Our four caregivers faithfully remain in the boys' wing (32 boys) bathing, changing, and feeding them with a gentle, caring and loving disposition. It was the unilateral decision of the owner of the home to confine our workers to the boys' wing. However, it was discouraging to see the overall deteriorating physical condition of the girls in the girls' wing. There are nearly 45 girls in the girls' wing for only 3 workers, who must tend to them and provide for their every need, which more often than not go unmet. The administration gives them 12 diapers a day for these children and once those diapers are used up no more are dispensed until the following day, and

children have to sit in their own excrement or go naked. Wendy, who is partially blind due to cataracts and whose eye surgery is still being debated if we can get past which medical procedure will best suit her, lies naked, extremely thin and malnourished inside a metal cage, with her ankle tethered to the bars. Next to her in the cage lies another little



Wendy (girl's Wing)

girl in the same condition.

My heart broke when I saw them. I inquired from the administration what had happened to these girls since our last visit, and we were advised that their weight and health were the same as before, but my eyes and my heart told me differently. For

example, during our visit a year ago Wendy was always dressed and walking about hugging anyone in her path. She was even starting to eat solid foods and gaining weight. All that progress has vanished as the workers struggle to care for a multitude of children which becomes physical impossibility. After they leave at 5:00 in the evening, **there is only one worker** until 7:30 am the following morning for all the children combined; over 75 in all! This situation is inexcusable and unacceptable in our eyes. Our team knew that we couldn't return to the comfort of our homes and families without providing more help.

Back in September of 1999 when **Project ChildHelp** was incorporated as a non-profit, tax exempt organization, I wrote down the following goals that I wanted to see accomplished:

1. To bring Christ's compassion and the Good News to children through education and humanitarian aid.
2. To assist the children in obtaining physical therapy, survival skills and training that they can use to be part of society and help build the body of Christ.
3. Through donations and small loans, provide the means for the children to establish a small business to assist in their own support. (Examples would be providing gardening tools and seeds for the growing of the home's own vegetables and fruits, selling of arts and crafts made by the children).
4. Provide training by healthcare workers to educate the caregivers and children about preventative healthcare (spread of diseases, waste disposal, hygiene, nutrition, etc).
5. **To collaborate with persons, families, organizations and churches, local and abroad, in the construction or renovation of homes for the abandoned, abused, neglected and homeless children, as God dictates the need.**

Now, two years later, as I read them once again, it is clear that goals one through four cannot be realized unless we make the last goal our primary goal. It is becoming evident to us every day and to those that partner with us, that we must build our own home for these children. This goal can only be achieved through your prayers and contributions. Please help us help the least of these.

Please share this newsletter with a friend

If you think your friends and/or family would like to receive our newsletter, please return the following portion to us. Thank you for helping us spread the news about these children and their needs.

66 West Flagler Street, 2nd Fl. Miami, FL 33130
Tel: (305) 271-0467 email: projchild@aol.com



Yes, I would like to receive the newsletter from **Project Childhelp**. Please add my name to your mailing list.

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ City _____ Zip _____

e-mail address: projchild@aol.com

Touched by an Angel

By Julissa Jimenez, R.N.

Last month I had the privilege of joining **Project ChildHelp** as they traveled to Dominican Republic. With only knowing a little about **Project ChildHelp**, I was eager to go and use my nursing skills in service to God. What I came back with was a heart touched by many of the lives we were there to minister to. Many of the children cannot verbalize a "thank you", but in a language only the heart knows, we knew the children were grateful. The time that we were with the children was three days. In the orphanage where we spent most of our time the need was so great. One can become overwhelmed easily but I was taught a great truth by the Lord; it was to do the best I could with what was placed before me. This was lived out with one of the little boys at the orphanage. He was in a "medical resort" of sorts. He received feedings of high-calorie, high-protein formula through a tube inserted through his nose and into his stomach and then also had two enemas as he wasn't passing his stool. This child also received an aerosol treatment, wound care, a

bath, and even had his fingernails cut. A "thank you" came from him as we saw him sleep restfully after taking pain medicine.

I was not only touched by the children but also by those who carry the burden for this project. There is a dedication and drive to deliver these children from the drudgery in which they live. I now share this desire to see these children in an environment where they can thrive and develop.

Ultimately God is in control and He has a plan for these children. It is a privilege to be a part of God's plan and see it come to life. Therein lies my hope for these children; that the all-loving and faithful God is preparing a better place for these children. This reminds me of how we as God's children have a better place prepared for us in the eternal presence of our Lord,

Jesus Christ. This is the hope we share together with these children. May God strengthen us to do our best with the jobs presently at hand and fill us with hope for what awaits us in the future.



William Muñoz, MD and Julissa Jimenez, R.N. administering aerosol treatment

Special thanks to Christian Chavez for his contribution of \$110.00. Christian is an 11 year old boy who was touched by the mission of **Project ChildHelp** and used monies he had received for his birthday to contribute to the children's needs. May God bless you abundantly, Christian.

Fundraiser Corner

Garage Sale – Audio/Video Sale

When: Saturday, September 15th, 8 am – 3pm

Where: 10030 S.W. 84 Street, Miami

We are looking for the following to sell at our next fundraiser: Music CD's and cassettes, CD and cassette players, DVD's, VHS movies, VCR's, computers, computer games, software, printers, Nintendo, Playstation and video games. Please let us know if you wish to donate these items and we'll arrange pick up. You may also drop off items at the address listed above. Thank you!

are making a positive impact in the treatment and care the children are receiving (boys' wing), we can not turn our backs on the girls. Thus, we are planning to hire two new workers for the girls' wing. These child care workers will be Christians, hand picked by our staff in the Dominican Republic for their love of Christ and dedication to the children. This is an act of faith because we do not yet have the funding. However, with a little prayer, we have already received commitments from several people totaling \$225.00 per month for one year. The salary for one worker is US \$250.00 per month, so we are almost half way there. Through prayer and faith I am sure we will be able to find a group of individuals, each willing to commit a little bit each month towards the salary of these workers so that we can soon have our two workers in place.

We were also able to meet with officials from a Dominican company called *Leche Fresca*, which is a vendor for the government that provides free bread and milk for school children throughout the country. We will be making an official solicitation for the free milk through the Ministry of Education on behalf of the children at the orphanage. The prospect of obtaining this free milk looks very promising, and this will be another area of prayer for us in the coming weeks.

As usual, we had heated dis-

cussions with the administration of the orphanage as to the operation of the homes and care for the children. We firmly believe that we can not give any money directly to the homes because that money will never make its way to the children, but will rather go to line the pockets of the owner, who has no love for these children, nor the love of Christ in her heart, but can talk a good game. By paying the salaries of our workers directly to them, and having them work at the orphanage as "volunteers" insures that our money will not be wasted. This, of course, is another way that God is gently guiding us towards opening our own home in the not too distant future for the least of these special children in the Dominican Republic.

**HOME IS MUCH MORE
THAN JUST A STRUCTURE...**

Imagine a beautiful place outside the city, surrounded by green grass, trees and flowers, where you can hear the birds sing and feel the breeze and breathe fresh air. You can hear the laughter of children like yourself, laughing and playing nearby, children that you call family.



**Making A Difference: There are
Various Ways In Which You Can Help**

- Yes. I would like to be a monthly donor for the hiring of caregivers. Enclosed is my first monthly gift of \$50. Please send me a "reminder kit".
- Yes. I would like to become a prayer warrior. Please provide me with a list of your prayer needs
- Yes. I would like to donate items
- Yes. I would like more information and possibly join **Project ChildHelp** in the next Missions Team
- Yes. I wish to volunteer my time for fundraising events
- Yes. I would like to donate money for the purchase of urgently needed items, including food, medicines and vitamins Enclosed is my gift of \$_____

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Tel: _____ E-mail Address: _____

(Optional)

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Miami, FL 33130

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