



PROJECT ChildHelp

March 2003

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.

What you do today matters forever

by O. Frank Valladares

Often times I have been asked, "why do you do it?" Why do you spend your spare time working for Project ChildHelp (PCH), and why do you spend your vacation time with those crippled children at that orphanage in the Dominican Republic? Some of my more cynical colleagues inquire as to what my angle is. What is in it for me? In other words, am I making any money out of this deal?

My answer is simple, but not readily comprehended by someone who has not had a spiritual transformation. I can assure you that I do not have a pecuniary interest in PCH, but I do receive tremendous rewards from my work for PCH. The reason I do it is because God called me to do it, and He will reward me in immeasurable ways. When we first visited these children in 1999 God revealed to me what He wanted from me. This was the purpose He had in store for my life.



Volunteer Paula Martinez from Miami, Florida holds Wendy

Another frequent question I am asked is why go to a foreign country thousands of miles from home when there are needy, disabled children in our own community? The answer is that DR is where the Lord called me. The children we work with in DR are severely developmentally disabled. Many have neurological disorders that prevent many of them from walking, talking, or communicating in any way. They live in a world of their own, shut out from the outside world. They can't feed themselves, care for themselves, do their necessities on their own, they can't even tell when they are hungry, when they have a headache, or when a tooth hurts. When I saw them for the first time I was overwhelmed by their suffering. God put it in our hearts to do whatever

See next page for continuation to the story

we can to bring comfort and relief to these children and try to alleviate the suffering. Although we have been successful to a certain extent in terms of feeding them, providing medical care and meeting their daily hygiene needs, the suffering from their physical condition remains. God's disabled children are no less marred and no less capable of restoration that His other creations. More importantly, God's people are called to reach out to the poor, the needy, the destitute, and the hurting. If we truly believe the Bible, this is a dictate that we must carry out. This is not a burden or a cross to bear, it is a tremendous privilege. These children have added a dimension of richness to our ministry, and to my wife and I personally that I could never have imagined in my wildest dream.

Suffering is largely a mystery, but it is not a mystery without direction. God has a reason and a purpose for this suffering. Whether it is to mold Christian character, to stimulate empathy toward others who hurt, to refine one's faith, or to focus one's attention on eternal glories above, only time and wisdom will tell. The entire ordeal of our suffering is inspired by God's love. We are not the brunt of some cruel divine joke. God has reasons, and learning some of them can make all the difference. The challenges we face in this ministry are but a series of great opportunities disguised as impossible situations.

The disabilities that many of these children suffer from can be eased with the help of loving hands. Feeding a child who is incapable of feeding himself is a way of helping that child overcome his disability, one spoon full at a time. In the United States we take many things for granted because we live in a society with laws that protect the handicapped. Handicaps occur when people with special needs are denied access due to steps or curbs, lack of elevators, ramps,

Braille, signs, interpreters and the like. When those situations arise we have the Americans with Disabilities Act, which steps in to protect those who are most vulnerable who can't protect themselves. But, what happens to the special needs children with severe disabilities in DR (or any other part of the world) who do not have the legal protections we enjoy in the US, nor a society sensitive to their needs? That's why God called us there.

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You can help these disabled children we care for manage their way through a world of barriers and handicaps, freeing them to stretch beyond their limitations. By reaching out to these special children, we reach out to God

himself. In Matthew 25:40 Jesus tells us "...whatever you did for one of the least of these little ones, you did for me".

In his book [A Life God Rewards](#), Bruce Wilkinson writes that the teaching of Jesus show us two keys that determine everything about eternity. The first key is your belief. This key unlocks the door to eternal life and determines where you will spend eternity.

The second key is your behavior (actions or works). This key unlocks the door to reward and determines how you will spend eternity. Simple decisions we make today, such as how you spend your time and money, how you help those in need, will become opportunities of great promise. Accept these keys to life and you will begin to live with an unbreakable certainty that everything you do today to help the least of these really does matter forever. ●

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.

PROJECT ChildHelp

66 West Flagler Street, 2nd Fl. • Miami, FL 33130

Tel: (305) 271-0467 • e-mail: Valladares@projectchildhelp.org



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

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ City _____ Zip _____

Website address/URL: www.projectchildhelp.org

The American Institute for Public Service Honors Project ChildHelp with the Jefferson Award for 2002. Sponsored by Radio Unica

Historically, in 1972, Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Robert Taft, Jr. and Sam Beard founded the American Institute for Public Service (AIPS), to establish a Nobel Prize for public community service.

The Jefferson Awards are presented on two levels: national and local. National award recipients represent a "Who's Who" of outstanding Americans. Winners included three Supreme Court Justices, eight U.S. Senators, six Secretaries of State, ten Cabinet Officers and three former First Ladies. On the local level, Jefferson Award recipients are ordinary people who do extraordinary things without expectation of recognition or reward. To help us identify and celebrate these



From left to right, Danielle, Lourdes, Senator Bill Nelson and Frank, holding Award

"Unsung Heroes," in 1977, the Institute developed a partnership with Media Sponsors, local newspapers and television stations. This is where Radio Unica (the world's largest radio and sports network) entered into a historic partnership with AIPS. For the first

time in the award's 30 year history, AIPS and Radio Unica reached out on a massive scale to recognize the contributions of 5 outstanding Hispanic Americans.

Project ChildHelp is extremely proud to announce that its founders, Frank and Lourdes Valladares were among the five chosen Hispanic American winners ever to receive the prestigious Jefferson Award, joined by Debbie Delgado-Vega, Father Richard Estrada, Mercedes E. Alejandro and Caridad Asensio, who have all demonstrated quality leadership. The highlight of this spectacular event was when our very own Florida State Senator, the Honorable Bill Nelson, presented Mr. and Mrs. Valladares with the Jefferson Award certificate on June 19, 2002 in the United States Supreme Court along with Radio Unica Chairman and CEO Joaquin Blaya.

In that spirit, the celebration continued in Miami where Radio Unica held a private luncheon to honor Frank and Lourdes with the actual Bronze Medal signed by Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis, Senator Taft, Jr., and Sam Beard, along with the United States Congress Seal Honorary Flag. ●



From left to right: Francisca, Juana, Gladys, Lucas, Isabel, Maria del Carmen, Catalina, Germania, Xiomara and Juan (not pictured).

MEET OUR STAFF

It is with great joy and pride that we introduce you to our children's caregivers and nurses in the Dominican Republic. These are the people that are the "hands and feet" for our special children. Please pray for renewed strength for them each day to carry out their duties lovingly amidst many obstacles.

--Lourdes



OUR NEXT TRIP

Our next mission trip to Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic leaves Miami March 29 and returns April 4, 2003. While in DR we will be staying at Campamento Buenas Nuevas in Los Alcarrizos, Santo Domingo. This is a camp that is operated by APEN - Alianza Pro-Evangelización del Niño. This is the Dominican counterpart to CEF-Child Evangelism Fellowship. The camp consists of single beds or bunk beds, from 2 - 10 persons per room. The bathrooms are shared, and there is no air conditioner, although most rooms have ceiling fans.

This promises to be a fruitful and productive trip. We are bringing our usual 3,000 to 5,000 pounds of supplies including diapers, vitamins, medicines, clothing and toys. This trip we received a donation of hundreds of brand new children's shoes which we plan to distribute in some of the poorest neighborhoods called *Bateys*. There are several lay people that are coming with us on this trip including Ralph Martinez, who accompanied us on our mission trip of July 2002 and helped us tremendously.

We are very excited about our Medical Director, Dr. William Muiños, a Pediatrician Gastroenterologist at Miami Children's Hospital. Dr. Muiños, sits on our Board of Directors, and is a tireless worker who has a soft spot in his heart for the special children we care for. He rarely misses a trip and when we are there he works from morning till night. This trip he

is bringing several interns who are training under him at Miami Children's Hospital, with a view towards rounding out their medical education and training by allowing them the opportunity to sharpen their skills in a place where they are most needed. Hopefully the trip to DR for Dr. Muiños' interns can become a regular part of the curriculum in the future.

Please pray for us, that we will return home with a new perspective and a greater burden for reaching out to those less fortunate children. ●

ANNOUNCING PCH's NEW WEBSITE!!!

www.projectchildhelp.org

We are pleased to announced that on or about April 1, 2003, our new website will be available to all!

You will be able to obtain current information about our **mission, fundraisers, special events, and volunteer opportunities**. You will also be able to view photos of the children, our staff, and read our Newsletters and articles online. The website will also provide information on mission trips and post the dates when you may join us on future trips. It will also offer **four** ways in which you may make your donations in a secured way.

A page with information in Spanish will also be included. We hope that you will take the time and visit **www.projectchildhelp.org** very soon!

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 \$_____. 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 **ChildHelp** in the next Missions Team
- Yes. I wish to volunteer 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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