



PROJECT Child

Proyecto Ayuda al Niño / PAN

September 2004

Who We Are

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

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 volunteers in the U.S. and concerned citizens in the Dominican Republic, we help establish an on-going support plan where volunteers are challenged to a deeper involvement. **Project Child, Inc.** hires loving caregivers and medical staff as well as invites volunteers to play an important role in bringing new life to forgotten children. Furthermore, we provide one week mission trip opportunities throughout the year to help care for the children in the Dominican Republic. Whether your talent is in construction, painting, evangelism, assisting medical teams, or nurturing and loving the children, we invite you to join our team and have a life changing experience.

Where We Are Going

We are excited about the future. **Project Child, Inc.** is building a Home/Hospital for special needs children on a five acre parcel of land outside of Santo Domingo. Please join us in making this dream come true.

In Memoriam

On August 26 of this year, Rupert, an eleven-year old child we cared for, passed away as a result of complications from convulsions. We are saddened by his departure but rejoice in the fact that he is now in the presence of the Lord.

Mission Trip of July 2004

By Lourdes Valladares

During our July 17-23, 2004 mission trip we found the children in the best health condition yet and we were able to purchase badly needed items for their continued care. Additionally, we visited Jimani and assessed first hand the devastation brought about by the May 24, 2004 floods.

Our mission team was comprised of Marie Libby, Elizabeth McKeel, Dr. William Muiños, Alexandra Muiños, Elizabeth Nemitz, Rebecca Nemitz, Marla Unger, Danielle Valladares and myself. The first two days were dedicated to our medical mission. Our fulltime medical doctor, Dra. Mirelis Agramonte, assisted Dr. Muiños in assessing the medical status of each child and in implementing the third phase of our immunization program. Dr. Muiños reported that this was his easiest trip since 2000 due to the fact that the children were in the best medical condition he has seen them as a result of the hard work and dedication Dr. Agramonte has devoted to the children since she was hired in November 2003. The program of diagnostic blood work implemented by Dr. Agramonte has identified



Danielle & Maximo

numerous treatable medical conditions that have been taken care of, thereby avoiding serious medical complications in the future. Marla Unger was very helpful in providing massage therapy for the children and expanding their range of motion. The children were blessed by her presence. The rest of our "love team" (Marie Libby, Elizabeth McKeel, Alexandra Muiños, Elizabeth Nemitz, Rebecca Nemitz, Danielle and myself) helped feed the children, played with them, prayed over them and showed them unconditional love. This was the first mission trip for our ten-year old daughter, Danielle. She was very helpful with the care of the children and developed a special bond with a three-year old child named Maximo.

Our team also visited the construction sight of Casa de Luz. The project has progressed at a quick pace and one of the wings of the building is near completion. The first floor was completed and the second floor was under way. This wing will have two stories, 16 dormitories, each accommodating 4 children (64 children in total) as well as an industrial kitchen, employee lounge and locker room, nurse station, doctors' offices, and rooms for physical and occupational therapy.

One of our team members donated a brand new washing machine. It was a welcomed addition inasmuch as the washer for the facility had been broken for some time. Despite our hiring freeze due to the need to dedicate funds to the construction of Casa de Luz, we hired a lady to do the laundry for the children, apart from the rest of the facility's laundry. Additionally, we purchased much needed items such as cleaning supplies and cooking utensils.

For continuation to story, see page 4

Join us in our next mission trip October 28 - November 4, 2004.

Opportunities to love and care for the children, assist medical staff, evangelism, construction work, carpentry, painting, etc.

Reminder: We meet every 3rd Thursday of each month at Wayside Baptist Church, 7701 SW 98th Street - Room A-101, Miami, FL 33156. Time: 7:00 PM. For more information call PCH at (305) 271-0467.

The Eyes are the Window to the Soul

By Marla Unger

Eyes say a lot. They convey anger, thoughtfulness, love, kindness, soulfulness, agony and intention.

When I first decided to come to the Dominican Republic, all I wanted was a chance to look into these children's eyes and tell them how much God loves them and how beautiful He found them, His creations. He has not forgotten them; I needed them to know that.

What I found, in this country of lush green foliage and sweet bananas, were eyes that told of their pain, suffering and hopelessness. When I first met the children at the orphanage, I did not know their names.... all I saw was their plight. I couldn't bear to look into their eyes for fear of breaking my heart. I looked at their crooked bodies, which must cause them constant pain. I looked at their dirty strollers, most broken down. I looked at the flies that buzzed around them. I saw the dwindling bodies arching in the cribs. I saw their dingy clothes. I saw everything but what was in their eyes.

The first day was the hardest. I couldn't look into the eyes of a child I was massaging without tears coming to my eyes. As I touched them

and spoke to them all the things God has given me to say, they did not understand my language, but I prayed they understood my heart.

Soon, those children you would believe have no idea you are there...those children who rarely respond to their surroundings... those children were telling me with their eyes their stories. I heard the stories of loveless living, of unkind touch, of fear, of boredom, of pain, of suffering, of being misunderstood and mistreated. I saw the stories of rescue and gratefulness. I saw the stories of needing understanding and to be heard. I saw the desire to speak and communicate. I saw the maturity in the immature bodies. When you look into the eyes of these children, you can see them. And you can be understood and you can understand.

As the week progressed, we communicated... me, who spoke very little Spanish, and they, who did not speak. They cooed to me how their night went. They conveyed they wanted that game again. They stretched forward for those hugs and kisses. They thanked me for wiping their faces with a cool cloth. They reached to touch something different they noticed I was wearing. What surprised me most was, they asked for massage. How humbling.

When they understood nothing but their names, they understood that through my hands...God was touching them. I've heard it said we are his hands, his eyes, and his mouth... I've never experienced it with such profundity. And in their eyes, I knew... with my entire soul and heart, that they knew God was with them. That He hears and understands them when no one on earth can. That He, only He, speaks their language. And that everyday, when no one looks into their eyes... He does. He just does it through their souls. ■



Marla & Dominguito share a hug



Casa de Luz

*We were planning an inauguration ceremony for the completion of the first wing of the children's home/hospital for special needs children (**Casa de Luz**) for November 27, 2004. However, due to lack of sufficient funding, we have had to postpone the date. We hope to have our inauguration in the very near future and we will keep you posted.*

Due to a conflict with an organization known as **CHILDHELP USA** regarding a trademark infringement we are changing our name from **Project ChildHelp** to **Project Child**. We hope this name change does not cause any confusion or inconvenience.

How God Cast off My Fears and Opened My Heart

by Alexandra Muñios



(Alexandra is 14 years old and daughter of Dr. William Muñios, Pediatric Gastroenterologist, Board Member and Medical Director for Project Child)

During March 2003, as the plane was landing in Santo Domingo, I felt anxiety and nervousness. I was quite angry with my father because he was making me go with him to the orphanage that I had always heard as being a very strong and emotional experience. I was petrified and disoriented, and had no idea what to expect. Once we got off the plane a taxi was waiting for us and we were on our way to the orphanage. As we were walking in, all the children's faces lit up and they were ecstatic to see us. I was afraid but it was a feeling that I had never felt before. It was a fear that I was ashamed of. Everyone else that was with our group was compassionate toward the kids but I was afraid. The smell made me gag and some children were drooling or had their hands in their mouths and then reaching out to touch me. I was completely disgusted and felt ashamed of that because I wanted to show them that I cared for them and loved them but I just couldn't.

After a day of shock at the orphanage we arrived at the missionary camp where we were staying and I was in for another surprise. It was a camp where there was no air conditioning, tin roofs, and no hot water. We had to sleep with mosquito nets so the bugs and critters wouldn't bite us. Then it got better. After a whole night of sweating I got to take a shower but there was no hot water. I missed the simple pleasures that I had in Miami and for the first time in my life I came to appreciate what I had. The next several days assisting my father working with the kids were very difficult for me. The poverty, physical deformities, and the every day lives of these children depressed me. All I could think of was the plush life I lived back home. All I really wanted to do was go home, put this experience out of my mind and never return again. I never knew people could live the way people lived in this place.

My father was expecting me to go on the next trip in July of 2004 and I knew I was needed on this trip. This trip was easier for me to deal with because I knew what to expect and there was not going to be any big surprises. When we got to the orphanage, Lourdes said a short prayer before walking in and I thanked her for that. I felt peace and safety, which was definitely something that I did

Silent Auction and Fundraising Dinner - October 15, 2004

Project Child is having its Second Annual Silent Auction and Fundraising Dinner, **Open Doors**, to benefit special needs children in the Dominican Republic, October 15, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. at the Big Five Club located at 600 S.W. 92 Avenue, Miami, Florida. Tickets are \$75 per person and sponsorships are available. All proceeds will go to Project Child's continuing humanitarian relief effort in caring for special needs children as well as towards the construction of a home/hospital, **Casa de Luz (House of Light)**. We are also seeking donations of gifts and services for the silent auction and volunteers to help coordinate this event. Now more than ever your support is urgently needed to ensure that these special children have a bright future. For more information or to make reservations, please call Lourdes Valladares at (305) 271-0467, email us at Valladares@projectchild.org, or visit our web page at www.projectchild.org.

not expect. I know that those feelings were God sent. I felt so close to those kids this time around and I just wanted to take them all home with me and care for them. The smells did not bother me as much on this trip and I was not afraid of the children at all. Instead of them needing our help, I felt like I needed them more. They are the reason that I have matured so much in all aspects of my life. They taught me how to love all people and what only one person could do to improve the life of another. I was no longer feeling afraid or nervous. I felt a rewarding feeling just knowing that I made someone smile and made someone feel loved. There is nothing in the world that can replace that feeling and I thank God for giving me the opportunity to broaden my horizons to really make a difference, and for showing me His faithful love and touching my heart. As it says in Psalm 136:1 "Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good. His faithful love endures forever".

Current Fundraiser

Help us raise funds by shopping for unique, fun and practical CURRENT products. You can help our kids by designating **Project Child, Inc.** as the organization of your choice at the end of your purchase. 50% of your total purchase goes directly to **Project Child, Inc.** Visit www.currentfun.com. Lots of Christmas items already available.

This newsletter is also available in *Spanish*. If you prefer to receive a Spanish newsletter, call us or email us.
Este ejemplar tambien es publicado en *español*. Si desea recibir el ejemplar en *español*, llámenos o envíenos un correo electrónico.

Continued from page 1, "Mission Trip of July 2004"

On July 20, 2004 we made a special one-day trip to Jimani to assess the devastation of the May floods. Jimani, bordering with Haiti, was hit by torrential rains May 24, 2004 which caused flash floods that tore through this rural community destroying everything in its path and resulted in over 2000 dead and over 400 missing or injured. Participating in this trip were Ramon Guzman, Pastor Valerio Vidal and his wife Marina, and Pastor Felix Abreu, all PC/PAN Board Members. Others in the group were Dr. Mirelis Agramonte, Penny Briones, Marie Libby and myself. We brought funds to distribute to this community, raised by PC and donated by members of Wayside Baptist Church in Miami. We visited the church being used as the hub for meetings by all evangelicals bringing humanitarian relief. This was the only church in Jimani spared by the floods. The community was divided into the Haitian and the Dominican refugee camps. The Haitian camp was made up of tents donated by the Italian government, while the Dominicans took over a partially constructed housing development. The Dominican government, was building 200 new wooden structures for homes, which have 2 rooms and a small bathroom. The expected completion date for the project was some time in August. We met many people who had lost all of their family members. One lady who was eight months pregnant lost her husband when the floods hit and was now raising her children, her two-month old baby plus all of her nieces and nephews who were now orphaned. Ramon Guzman and Penny conducted

a child evangelism service at a church, which was no bigger than 10' by 15' made of scraps of tin salvages from anything they could get their hands on. There were over 50 adults and children crowded into that small structure for the service. With only a few plastic chairs available, many sat on cinder blocks while the others stood. Nine children accepted Jesus as their Lord and Savior at this service. In a place where voodoo is the religion practiced by the majority of people, it was amazing to see the spirit of God shine through such a dark place. We have personally committed ourselves to help this little church shine God's light. If you would like to help with the purchase of chairs, Bibles, or building material for the Jimani's refugee church please contact us at (305) 271-0467.

Making a Difference: There are Various Ways in Which You Can Help

- Yes. I would like to be a monthly donor. Enclosed is my first monthly gift of _____. Please send me a "reminder kit".
- Yes. I would like to donate \$_____ toward the construction Fund for the Home/Hospital.
- Yes. I would like to donate items.
- Yes. I would like more information and possibly join **PC** in the next Missions Trip in October 2004. The Missions trip will offer medical, construction & caregiving opportunities to be with the children.
- Yes. I wish to volunteer for fundraising events.

Donation By: Check Money Order
Credit Card: Visa Mastercard Amex Discover
Account No.: _____ Exp. Date _____/_____
Name _____
Address _____
State _____ City _____ Zip _____
Tel: _____ E-mail Address _____