



PROJECT Child

Proyecto Ayuda al Niño / PAN

December 2005

Who We Are

Project Child 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** 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** 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.

Project ChildHelp, Inc. (dba Project Child) is a non-profit, registered Florida charitable organization*

*A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING (800) 435-7352.

TOLL-FREE WITHIN THE STATE, OR (850) 488-2221. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

Steps in Faith

By Lourdes Valladares

There have been some major changes in the mission of Project Child in the past year. On February 11, 2005, the privately run orphanage our staff was working at in Santo Domingo was taken over by CONANI (*Consejo Nacional para la Niñez y Adolescencia*), the Dominican Republic's equivalent of the Department of Children and Families in the state of Florida. The reason for this was because it was owned by a private individual who, despite our best efforts, would demand payment from parents and relatives of children in the orphanage, and if they did not pay she would kick the children out of the orphanage. This is what happened with Jose Miguel (June 2005 newsletter). The government brought in their own people to run

the facility and our staff has been transitioned out.

While we are saddened by these turn of events in as much as we have grown to love the children, the philosophical differences we face with government staff concerning the approach to caring for special



First children's dormitory decorated with an animal theme

needs children prevents us from continuing our presence there. This has focused our attention now on the completion of *Casa de Luz* in order to be able to operate our own children's home unhindered. We urgently need to open the doors for those special needs children that cannot be cared for by their families, may be neglected, abandoned and waiting for a home they can call their own, where they can receive the love, care and medical attention they deserve.

For continuation to story, see last page

MISSION TRIP (CONSTRUCTION): JUNE 28 - JULY 2, 2006

Project Child invites you to join them for a 5-day mission trip to the Dominican Republic to help with the construction of Casa de Luz. Painting, carpentry, landscaping, electrical, plumbing, mural painting are some of the skills needed. Due to limited rooms in the missionary camp, space is on a first-come basis and the deadline to submit the application is January 31, 2006. For more information call 305-271-0467 or visit www.projectchild.org, Mission trips page.

Searching to Find Our Purpose in Life

By O. Frank Valladares

God has a purpose for our lives, but not all of us have a clear understanding of what it is. God does not send e-mails or memoranda on the procedural aspects of accomplishing our purpose. Some of us go through an entire lifetime of searching without understanding what our purpose is and when we do come to that realization it is often too late to do anything about it. The problem in connecting with our purpose in life is that it is obscured by our self-centered ambitions and desires for our own dreams and egotistical comfort.

In the beginning of the movie, *Schindler's List*, Oscar Schindler is consumed by his own self-gratification. He is corrupt in his business practices and is driven by a desire to make money no

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matter what methods he uses. We see him in Nazi Germany chasing women, drinking, carousing, bribing officials and exploiting the Jews for his own selfish desires. As the war progresses and he begins to realize the atrocities that are going on around him and his part in them, his perspective begins to change and he begins to understand what his purpose is. He uses his money and his talents (he was very skilled in bribing Nazi officials and manipulating them to do his will) to "purchase" the lives of Jews condemned to death. By the end of the war Oscar is broke and faced with a transition period. He knew he was going to stand judgment for his part in the war. At this point he realizes, "I could have got more if I just....I didn't do enough..." He looks at his car and says, "I could have sold this car for ten people", his Nazi party pin, "two people", his gold jewelry, "two more people".

I identify with Oscar Schindler's sense of desperation in that scene and often times ask myself, "am I doing enough for Project Child?" Am I getting enough sponsors for the children, am I getting enough dona-

tions, is there something else I could be doing to raise money for the children and the construction of *Casa de Luz*? I do not know how to answer these questions other than by doing more. I feel blessed that God has revealed His purpose for my life, through Project Child and I can work towards it now so that when I reach the "transition period" in my life I can stand before God knowing that I have done my part and hear Him say, "well done good and faithful servant". What are you doing now to work towards your transition period? Perhaps Project Child is your opportunity to fulfill your purpose in life. *Take advantage of this opportunity now. Open your heart. Become involved.*

3rd ANNUAL SILENT AUCTION AND FUNDRAISING DINNER, Rays of Hope

Project Child celebrated its 3rd Annual Silent Auction & Fundraising Dinner, Rays of Hope, November 4th, 2005 at the Big Five Club in Miami, Florida. Over 120 supporters attended the event and enjoyed entertainment by Miami Children's Community Choir and the Patiño Jazz Trio. A wide variety of items were auctioned off. People purchased numerous sports memorabilia from a bat and balls autographed by baseball great José Gillen, to a Miami Heat jersey autographed by Dwyane Wade. Attendees also got to bid on gift certificates to local restaurants, theater tickets, as well as round trip tickets for two to anywhere in the forty-eight (48) contiguous states donated by Express Travel, and a vacation package trip to Puerto Plata in the Dominican Republic. We would like to sincerely thank the volunteers who gave of their time and themselves to make this evening a success and our loyal supporters for their giving hearts and their love for the special needs children of the Dominican Republic. Proceeds raised by this event will go towards the construction fund of *Casa de Luz*.

SHOP & HELP

For those of you who enjoy shopping, we'd like to share two new ways in which you may do just that and still help Project *Child*. With your help, many of the items for *Casa de Luz* can be supplied through these vendors so that more cash flow can be channeled toward construction supplies and materials. For your convenience, the online stores will ship the items directly to us and notify us of your donation. You don't need to deal with receiving the item and then shipping it to us! We invite you to visit these websites:



1. www.homedepot.com. Click on Registry at the top of the page, then look for Find a Registry Now. In some states it may be slightly different. If not, try Gift Center then Online Gift Registry. Where it says last name, enter **PROJECT CHILD**. You will be taken

to another page where **PROJECT CHILD** appears. Click on our name and start shopping for items to furnish the children's home under construction, *Casa de Luz*.

WAL★MART®

2. www.walmart.com Click on Wish List at the top of the page, and then look for Giving a Gift? Find a Wish List. For first name, enter "Valladares" and for last name enter **PROJECT CH**. Click on our name and start shopping!

REMEMBER...as a non-profit organization, the value of each item donated is tax-deductible. For more information, call us at 305-271-0467, or email us at info@projectchild.org.

Information for

All 2005 Contributors

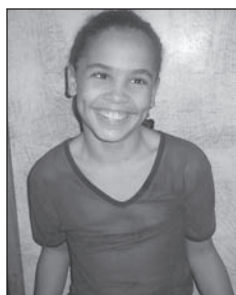
For donors who wish to claim a charitable contribution on their federal income tax, we will be mailing a receipt for the cumulative year by the end of January 2006. If you wish to receive a receipt from us sooner, please contact us and we will gladly supply it. You may reach us via phone, mail or email. Also, if you attended our Fundraising Dinner on November 4, 2005, please be aware that only \$50 (from the \$75 cost) is deductible. This is a 'quid pro quo' contribution.

You may want to consult your tax advisor for more information.

We take this opportunity to remind you that besides the monthly envelope system of donating, for your convenience we are also able to make automatic deductions from your credit or checking accounts (through debit cards). Let us know which method is preferred and we will gladly mail you the "monthly envelope kit" or the form authorizing Project *Child* to make deductions.

We give our most sincere "thank you" to all of our donors (both monetary and non-cash) for your generosity and commitment all year long.

Children Waiting for a Place To Call Home



Massiel is a beautiful 12-year-old girl whose biological mother gave her to Project *Child* on September 15, 2005. Through the generosity of people like you, Massiel has been one of our sponsored children for the last twelve months. Massiel underwent surgery on her legs and pelvis this past July to enable her to walk. Her two greatest wishes

are to someday be able to walk, and to learn to read and write. You see, she has never attended school. Through physical therapy that she is receiving now, Massiel has the possibility of learning to walk. But that is not all...Massiel is now receiving lessons from a private tutor to learn how to read and write. She is one of the children that waits for *Casa de Luz* to open so that she can have a place she can call home.



Gabriel ("Gaby") is a 12-year-old boy who suffers from mental and physical disabilities. His single mother was diagnosed with HIV-AIDS and is growing weaker every day. On those days when his mother is

feeling better and is able to find work, Gaby is cared for by his 10-year-old sister who needs to stay home from school to care for him. Gaby's mother believes that she will soon die, and she asks God everyday, "what will happen to my son, Gaby?" Relatives are willing to take his healthy sister to live with them, but who will take Gaby? Though Project *Child* sponsors him, it is not enough. He needs a home. He is one of the children waiting for *Casa de Luz's* doors to open.

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While the focus of our mission has temporarily shifted, we are still doing community outreach for special needs children in Santo Domingo through our sponsorship program. Our workers visit families with special needs children that are sponsored by donors like you to provide them with groceries, diapers vitamins and medical care. Though Project Child's goal is to keep the family together and be a source of humanitarian and spiritual support for them, the reality is that we already have several children waiting for *Casa de Luz* to open because the extreme poverty in which many families live prevent them from meeting the needs of their special needs sons or daughters. To help with this need, *Casa de Luz* will also offer daycare for those children whose families want their child to be in a loving environment while they are at work, and at the same time receive meals, physical, occupational, speech therapies, and medical attention.



Bringing electricity to Casa de Luz: electrical poles erected this month

We are also continuing our *Burn Project* work with Shriners Hospital to bring children with

severe, disfiguring burns to the United States for treatment at the Shriners Burn Hospital in Boston, MA. We coordinate the travel visas for the children and their guardian, and through your donations of American Airlines frequent flyer miles, we are able to provide the airfare. Shriners Hospital does the rest.

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Yes, the task ahead is great and every day brings new challenges and obstacles. God deals with impossibilities, and though at times it may seem that completing *Casa de Luz* is at the top of these impossibilities, a kind, still voice whispers in my ear: "Believe ye that I am able to do this?"

Matthew 9:28

Yes, I believe.

We are reaching out to you, our faithful friends and supporters, to send a special gift this Christmas season to complete Phase 1 of *Casa de Luz* in the coming year. May you also join us in *believing* and may you have the gift of faith, hope, and the peace of His love with you this Christmas and always. ■

American Airlines®

FREQUENT FLIER MILES NEEDED

Do you have American Airlines frequent flyer miles you are not using or participate in a points program that can be transferred to airline vouchers? Put them to good use before they expire. Thirty thousand frequent flyer miles (30,000) represents a round trip ticket. There are many ways your frequent flyer miles can be put to good use. They could go towards the round trip airfare for a child to travel to Boston to receive badly needed treatment for burns at the Shriners Burn Hospital. They could also go toward the airfare of the child's guardian to accompany the child. Or they could also be used for our ongoing mission trips to defray the costs of travel. Whatever way your frequent flyer miles are used, you can be sure that they will bring new hope to the lives of some very special children. Donate your miles today. For more information call us at (305) 271-0467 or e-mail us at info@projectchild.org.

Make 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: (check one)
 - Monthly envelope kit.
 - An authorization form for deductions.
- Yes. I would like to donate items/services for auctioning. Contact me.
- Yes. I wish to volunteer for fundraising events.
- Yes. I would like to be a part of your July 2006 mission trip.

Donation By: Check Money Order

Credit Card: Visa Mastercard Amex Discover

Account No.: _____ Exp. Date _____ / _____

Name _____

Address _____

State _____ City _____ Zip _____

Tel: _____ E-mail Address _____