



Casa de Luz

Project Child

MAY 2007

Bringing hope to children in the Dominican Republic.

Our family grows as we welcome 5 new children

by Lourdes Valladares

As the date of our March 19-24 mission trip approached, our Executive Director at Casa de Luz, (Lucas Carvajal) informed me that new cases were being referred to him for children needing a home. As I heard a brief story of each one of the children, my heart broke as I thought of how I was going to make the selection of which child qualified, and which child didn't. These are tough choices that are never easy to make. Due to the fact that our trip was only days away, he told me that he would prefer that I make the decision.

This is one of those times when nothing less than seeking God's guidance will do.

The ladies on this trip experienced alongside with me the visits to see these dear children. We saw first-hand the conditions in which these children were living in. We listened to heartbreaking stories of sisters, ages 8 and 11, having to care for their special needs younger brother because their dad, the only caregiver is their lives, needed to be out looking for work and food from dawn to dusk.

We listened to the grandmother who was raising her three young grandchildren by herself and could no longer care for her handicapped grandson. We listened to the two young mothers who lived in despair of not being able to provide for the needs of their special needs child. One received Jesus as her Savior; one chose to wait. One by one, we welcomed Maicol, Alex, Ulises, and Avinadad (Avi) to our family of children that week. Another child, Quique (see story below) arrived just days after we returned to the states. Please help us welcome these children and pray for them, as they join the other children at Casa de Luz.



The children pose for photos on our last night.

Bright future awaits Quique

Suane Alex, a one-year-old burn victim, arrived in Casa de Luz April 4th. He's the newest and youngest child in Casa de Luz. (Suane was featured in our Jan. 07 newsletter). Suane, or "Quique" as he was affectionately named at the hospital where he was abandoned as an infant, will be the first resident of Casa de Luz to participate in our Burn Project. To date Project Child has sent 12 children to Shriners Burn Hospital in Boston. All we do is coordinate the admission, provide the round trip airfare Sto. Domingo-Boston, visas, and passports, while Shriners does the rest. Please help support our Burn Project by making a tax deductible gift and/or by donating your frequent flyer miles.



Lourdes and Quique (March 2007)

Who We Are

Project ChildHelp, Inc (dba Project Child) is a Christian, non-profit 501c3 organization and your **donations are tax-deductible.**

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 a loving home and meeting their medical and spiritual needs.

What We Do

Hogar Casa de Luz (Casa de Luz Children's Home) is located in Los Frailes neighborhood of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. We provide a loving, Christian home and meet the children's most basic needs (food, clothing, diapers, vitamins, medical care, and other items).

How to contact us:

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Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, for the rights of all who are destitute.
Speak up and judge fairly, defend the rights of the poor and needy.

Proverbs 31:8-9



Sponsorships reach the most needy

Meet Yoani, Yoani is a 22 years old who lives with his mother Matilde in Los Alcarizos, a very poor section of Santo Domingo. Yoani's father abandoned Matilde and her son at his birth after learning that he was born severely disabled; both neurologically and physically. Matilde cares for him around the clock and relies on the kindness of neighbors and strangers to survive.

Starting this month, Yoani will receive a care package of food, diapers, hygiene items and what the mom feels is the greatest need for that particular month. This is made possible by a caring person who and is willing to make a monthly donation of \$20 for Yoani through our Sponsorship Program. To sponsor a child, contact us at 305.271.0467.



God's Children

by Ashely Rudolph

As Christians we're all God's children,
but recently I met a few
who were outcast and poor and broken,
much different than me and you.

In the world's eyes these children are hopeless
and helpless, no good, no fun,
but in God's eyes they are priceless.
Through them I saw His Son.

I pray my vision is changing.
I want to see as God sees.
Help me minister daily, Lord,
and thank you for the "least of these."

3/07

Wheelchair van needed

If you could see the pure joy in the children during their first trip ever to the beach, you would understand the need for a wheelchair accessible van!

We have a great need for a special van to transport the children on outings, special doctor's appointments and to offer day care services to other children.

Cost: US\$35,353



Wish & Prayer: '06 Ford E250 or similar



Boca Chica Beach

Who says missions can't include some fun?
Part of the group takes six of the children to
the beach for the first time in their lives!

El Parque de la Alegría

Lourdes lead a team from March 19-24, which included ladies from St. Petersburg, FL, New Florence, MO, and Miami, FL. Through several of these ladies, sponsorship is now being provided for our four newest children in Casa de Luz as well as three other children outside of the children's home. The ladies from St. Petersburg were also moved to undertake a new project and have proposed to build a playground which they have given the name *El Parque De La Alegría* (Park of Happiness). This will be a playground specifically designed for children with physical disabilities. We are told that

the wheelchair-accessible playground will be the first of its kind in the Dominican Republic. It will be situated under the two mango trees we have on the property, which will provide a cool shaded area for the children to frolic in. The specially-designed equipment will allow children with special needs the opportunity to experience the fun and excitement of playing in a playground similarly to other children. Perhaps you wish to hold a fundraising event, or make a donation toward *El Parque de la Alegría*. You may do so by designating your gift to the "Park" fund. Thank you.



March 2007 Mission Team