



Casa de Luz

Project Child

JULY 2007

Bringing hope to children in the Dominican Republic.

New season brings changes for Project Child and children by Frank Valladares

It's official! Effective August 4, 2007, we are moving our home and our offices to St. Petersburg, Florida. We will be living temporarily at D&D Missionary Homes and we've placed a deposit on office space for my law practice and Project Child's office. Additionally, our daughters are now enrolled at Northside Christian School in St. Petersburg. We are really excited about this move in a much as it is a sort of homecoming for Lourdes. Project Child got its start in September of 1999 in St. Petersburg after her return from a two-month trip to the Dominican Republic and coming back broken and determined not to forget the children that she found living in subhuman conditions. After sharing her heart with anyone who would listen, and through an initial donation of close to \$3,000 from several members of Northside Baptist Church (NBC), Project Child was founded on September 1, 1999. They have been faithful supporters of Project Child over the years, as have countless other supporters who have been loyal to the children and their needs for the last eight years. Lourdes lived in St. Petersburg from 1993 through 2000 and attended NBC and taught school there too. We have always had a strong base of support from this area. We are particularly excited about the fact that our newly constituted Board of Directors is from the Tampa/St. Petersburg area and they are a group of devoted people filled with the Holy Spirit, and dedicated to the vision of Project Child. This is truly a turning point for our ministry; one that will take us to a new level that we only dreamed and prayed about in the past. We are looking forward to opening our new office, introducing Project Child to other churches, businesses, and people in the community, and working with our good friends in St Petersburg.

Speaking of new horizons, we are starting a new Film Ministry in conjunction with the Billy Graham Evangelical Association's International Film Ministries. This is just one project along with numerous other projects we will undertake during our July mission trip (see page 2).

Speaking of changes, what could be better than to see a child transformed before our eyes after receiving love, tender care, nutritious meals, and medical attention? Remember Juanita from our January 07 newsletter in Lourdes' arms? This is Juanita today! (photo at right) Even though she suffered meningitis at a very early age, after just 6 months of care in Casa de Luz Juanita's legs and arms are not thin as sticks anymore. Juanita now smiles, is interacting with the caregivers and the other children, and is even learning to speak.



Juanita on her mother's lap as her sisters stand by.



Juanita today (July 2007)

She has been transformed into a happy, healthy child who for the first time, is able to sit because of the benefits of physical therapy she's receiving in Casa de Luz.

This summer season we also welcomed four new children: Rosandra, age 3 and Juan Jose, age 2 (pictured on page 2). Also, Lunier, age 10, and Tania, age 7. Through your monthly support of \$20, \$30, \$50 or any amount that you can contribute, together we can help save more children and give them hope and a life.

Who We Are

Project ChildHelp, Inc (dba Project Child) is a Christian, non-profit 501c3 corporation 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, physical 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, and other items).

Contact us at (305) 271-0467

after Aug.4th:

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To everything there is a season, and a time for every purpose under the heaven.

Ecclesiastes 3:1



Film Ministry to kick off in this summer

There is a great need for evangelism in the Dominican Republic. The people of DR are hungry to hear the Gospel and we feel privileged to be part of it. As a result of a generous donation from the Jorge Rivera Family Foundation, we have been able to purchase a digital projector, large screen, and a public address system to implement our film ministry. We will be working in conjunction with the Billy Graham Evangelical Association's International Film Ministries to show Christian films outdoors at Casa de Luz several times a month. This will take place in an open-air environment (similar to a drive-in movie) and the films will be in plain view for the community. Before the films are shown, our staff will go to the surrounding neighborhoods, visiting local churches and handing out tracts to people in the streets, both children and adults, and inviting them to come view the films. The tracts are important because even if they do not come to the program, they will have a tract in their homes that outlines the plan of salvation.

Since the films are full length feature films, we can break for an intermission to do skits, testimonies and praise and worship songs. We will provide seating for about 80 to 100 people initially with plans to accommodate larger numbers in the future.

After the movies are shown there will be an invitation for those who want to accept Jesus Christ into their lives. They will also be invited to a local Bible-teaching church or our own worship time at Casa de Luz. Our film ministry will be inaugurated during our July 14-21, 2007 mission trip.



Massiel and Tia rejoice at part of the donated equipment as they eagerly await the visit from their American friends

Save the Date: Friday, November 9th, 2007

Project Child's 5th Annual Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction "A Time to Love"

St. Petersburg, Florida

Welcome siblings Rosandra and Juan Jose



Casa de Luz opened its doors on Sept. 20, 06 to children like Rosandra and Juan Jose who arrived in June. We believe it is time to start an Adoption Program.

We invite you to visit our home.



Pablo Diaz joins our staff in Casa de Luz as construction supervisor. He will direct our mission team projects and ongoing work.

Team of 39 prepare for mission trip

We have 39 people lined up for our July 14-21, 2007 mission trip, comprised of 24 adults, 11 youths and 4 children. The main goal of our trip is to be a blessing to our own children in Casa de Luz by spending time with them and nurturing them. Also, we want to be helpers to our dedicated staff and caregivers who continually provide loving care to the children. Additionally, we have a very ambitious list of construction projects to accomplish during this week. We are installing a donated generator as well as building a housing unit for it. We are continuing with the construction of the Dining/Multipurpose Room. We will also be laying blocks on the second floor and pouring concrete in several areas of this floor.

This task will be made much easier given the fact that we received a donation of a gasoline-powered cement mixer. We will be constructing a walkway from the front entrance of Casa de Luz to the side entrance leading to the administrative office.

We will be preparing a parcel 50' X 80' for planting a fruit and vegetable garden. We will work on a chicken coop with a capacity for 500 chickens. The first 50 chickens are already laying plenty of eggs that are being consumed by the children. We are also raising pigs. We had 11 of them and we sold our first pig last

week which brought a profit of US\$40.00. This provides a need in the community while at the same time raising funds for our needs. We also have plans to visit a Haitian bakery (a very poor community inhabited by sugarcane field workers) and distributing school supplies to the children. In our own community, we will be helping to prepare a three-room school to open its door for the first time in August. Many children living in this area have never attended school. Yes, the need is great and often we feel overwhelmed, but if we don't join together to help the children, who will?