



# Casa de Luz

Project Child

SEPTEMBER 2007

*Bringing hope to children in the Dominican Republic.*

## July '07 Mission Trip share family ties with our children

by Frank Valladares

The July 2007 Mission Trip was a family affair of sorts. We brought 24 adults, 11 teens and 4 children. There were 8 parents on the trip who brought their kids. The work we did was a blessing to both parents and children, and it brought us all closer. It was also a beautiful sight to see the joy in the faces of the children in Casa de Luz as they saw some familiar faces from other trips and made new friends, too. Construction played an important role in this trip. We cranked up the cement mixer that was donated for this trip and managed to fill in with cement all the columns and put up the blocks needed to complete the walls on the second floor of Casa de Luz. The jobs left to complete on the second floor now is a roof, tile flooring, doors, windows, plumbing and electric. There was a tremendous amount of work involved in moving earth. We needed to move a huge mound of about 6 truckloads of earth and gravel to fill in the terrace area adjacent to the multipurpose room, and the housing unit for the generator. This was slow, arduous, backbreaking work in the hot tropical sun using shovels and wheel barrels. With one day left on the trip it seemed as if we hadn't made a dent on this task and we were not going to finish it. We would need at least another week to complete the work. However, God slipped in a miracle. As we were getting ready to break for lunch on the sixth day, a man in an excavating machine just happened to drive by Casa de Luz. He saw the backbreaking work we were doing and offered to give us a hand. The only cost to us was feeding him lunch. In less than half an hour the mountain of dirt we struggled so much with disappeared and the terrace and the housing unit for the generator were filled! The group was so amazed at what had transpired that they dropped to their knees and praised God for the miracle of moving "our mountain." However, this was not the only mountain that was moved on this trip. The women worked inside sorting through a mountain of donated clothes, shoes and school supplies. They managed to sort them all and prepare packages of clothing that were donated to over 150 children we visited at a Haitian *batey*. We did a children's program, sang praise songs and presented the plan of salvation through the use of an *Evangelcube*. We also visited a local school, which we painted on the school with live music and singing, and dis-



**Team hard at work.**

tributed shoes and 58 backpacks to the children filled with school supplies. Whether it was sharing the plan of salvation with 3 boys on the beach, or with a young pregnant woman named Adalgisa whose desire is to turn away from a life of drugs, or leading a teenager in our own group to Jesus, this trip will be unforgettable.



**Mike Stofer of St. Petersburg, FL and Quique (pg. 2)**

## 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).

### Street address:

Project Child  
3147 49th St. N  
St. Petersburg, FL 33710

Tel (727) 526-2578  
Toll Free (877) 807-5050  
Fax (727) 526-2569

### Mailing address:

Project Child  
4604 49th St. North - #44  
St. Petersburg, FL 33709

info@projectchild.org  
www.projectchild.org

Save the Date: **Friday, November 9th, 2007**

## Project Child's 5th Annual Fundraising Dinner & Silent Auction "A Time to Love" St. Petersburg, Florida



### **Project Child and Free Wheelchair Mission team up to bring mobility to DR's poor** by Lourdes Valladares

Project Child and Free Wheelchair Mission (FWM) have many things in common. Both were founded in 1999 and believe that Jesus Christ has a special love for the sick, physically disabled, and poor. When I first learned about FWM last year, it was clear that our partnering together would bring many in the Dominican Republic the gift of mobility. With FWM's development of an inexpensive wheelchair using simple common parts, easily assembled with little instruction, and dispensing them to the physically disabled poor, it was an opportunity that I did not want to pass up to bless many adults and children in need of mobility. Given the fact that the wheelchairs and the ocean freight to DR were donated by FWM and that all that

we were financially responsible for was getting the shipment out of customs, I realized that it would be a missed opportunity to be of blessing to others if we did **not** apply. Well, our shipment of 550 chairs just arrived from China! Though our work ahead is hard, the fruits will be without measure. In the next months, we will partner with local churches to rally local volunteers to help assemble the chairs as well as determine the need in their churches and community, so that they too, will play an important role in helping their own. This is also a perfect opportunity to plan future mission trips. Stay tuned for future dates to be announced to serve in this amazing opportunity to assemble and distribute the wheelchairs.

Imagine witnessing with your own eyes the joy of those receiving a wheelchair for the first time in their lives...



Five hundred and fifty chairs arrive in Casa de Luz.

### **Joyous reunion for Quique and his parents**

Many of you might recall the tearful photo of little Suane Alex or "Quique" in our Jan '07 newsletter as he lay wrapped in bandages after receiving burns. We wrote that if no family member came for him, we would bring Quique to live in Casa de Luz. Then later in our May '07 newsletter, I shared a photo of Quique and me as the youngest arrival at the home and about our plans to bring him to Shriners Burn Hospital in Boston to treat his scars. I couldn't be more pleased to share the joyous news that Quique was not abandoned after all, and that he is very much loved by dear parents. He is loved so much, that his poor young parents have been searching for

him for months. What happened in the fall of '06 after a fire destroyed the family's humble hut is not one that one might expect to read about in a newspaper in the island of the Dominican Republic, only because it happens so often. When the fire occurred, the father was in his country of Haiti tending to a family matter. Both Quique and his mother received extensive burns, but each was sent to a different hospital in San Juan de la Managua. When Quique was transferred to the Sto. Domingo hospital, records were not properly kept and the couple was told that their child had died. But the young couple listened to their hearts and would not give up their search. Eventually,

someone found a document about the transfer to the Santo Domingo hospital, and their search was over when the nun in the second hospital told them that their child was alive and well, and being loved and cared for in Casa de Luz. Quique would be greatly missed by all in Casa de Luz, yet we know that he is where he belongs. Project Child's offer to help Quique through Shriners Burn Hospital in Boston will always remain open. I believe that someday his parents will accept this opportunity for their child.

**(See page 1 for photo of Quique in July).**

### **Start of Film Ministry brings hope to the community**

We kicked off our Film Ministry during our July '07 Mission Trip. We have coordinated with the Billy Graham Evangelical Association to show several of their films that carry the message of salvation in addition to showing The Jesus Film, outdoors at Casa de Luz. The first film to be shown was the Jesus Film on Sunday July 15, 2007. Although it rained most of the day, the rains subsided as soon as we started the film, and we had over 80 men, women and children in attendance. The Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund of the Jorge Rivera Family who generously donated the equipment for the Film Ministry have also committed to fund a full time Outreach Missionary for at least 3

months in order to fully implement the Film Ministry. The Outreach Missionary will be in charge of coordinating the project. Initially the films will be shown on Saturday nights in an open-air environment at Casa de Luz. Before the films are shown, the Outreach Missionary will go into the surrounding community, visiting local churches and handing out tracts to people in the streets and inviting them to come view the films on Saturday night. The tracts that will be handed out will also serve as a ticket to gain admission to the Casa de Luz property and reserve a seat to watch the movie comfortably. Although we

will be providing seating for about 80 to 100 people, the films will be shown in such a way that anyone walking or driving by Casa de Luz will also be able to enjoy the films (from the street). This will also be an opportunity for the Outreach Missionary to preach the Gospel. Then at the conclusion of the film we will reinforce the message of salvation and the Outreach Missionary will make an invitation for those who want to accept Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. Please keep this ministry in your prayers as we attempt to penetrate the world for Jesus.