



Casa de Luz

Project Child

DECEMBER 2007

Bringing hope to children in the Dominican Republic.

New Friends From Minnesota Bring Christmas Joy Early by Lourdes Valladares

With a month away before Thanksgiving Day, those who make up Project Child, the Casa de Luz family and I had already received enough blessings this year that are too numerous to count. Then tropical storm Noel passed through the Dominican Republic the last two days of October and the heavy and prolonged heavy rainfall caused major flooding, landslides and the destruction of bridges throughout the country, killing close to 100 persons and leaving thousands more homeless. However, just *one day before the storm*, I received an email from Tim Craiger of SCORE International asking if we had work for a team of 49 persons who would be in the DR during the week of Nov 14-21. Incidentally, I had purchased my airline ticket weeks before and planned to be in DR part of that week. Never being one to pass up an opportunity to help the ministry and the children, I immediately replied that I was sure that we had projects for them. Being low on funds, I thought of our children, and how happy they would be to receive visitors. Then we began receiving the photos and reports from our Director, Lucas, of the water damage caused at Casa de Luz by tropical storm Noel. It brought tears to my eyes when I saw knee-deep water on the unfinished second floor, and how it seeped to the first floor through the ceiling and walls. It has been almost two years since the second floor's wall have been erected, yet because of lack of funds we have not been able to place a roof over Casa de Luz. Just a few days after the storm, the dampness mixed with the tropical heat and humidity caused mold and mildew to grow rapidly on the walls.

When the beautiful team of students (Senior Class of 2008) and faculty from Southwest Christian High School from Minneapolis, Minnesota arrived, they immediately started with servants' hands and feet, scrubbed the walls by hand with brushes, buckets of water and ammonia, shoveled mounds and mounds of dirt to level our ground, and even painted a stunning mural of the beach in one of the dormitories. They also played with the children, and helped our caregivers with their feeding. As if this wasn't enough, they also bought close to 30 gallons of paint and painted the exterior of Casa de Luz in my favorite shade of yellow (it was called "Joyful Yellow" I was to later learn, which made it all the more special). Southwest Christian HS, thank you for your servant hearts. You're always welcome back! "Mi Casa es Su Casa". God bless you all.



Three seniors from Southwest Christian HS , Minnesota play with Tania, Lidia, Massiel and Rafelina.



Damage caused by Tropical Storm Noel, Oct 07 07



Casa de Luz after a visit from Southwest Christian High School , Chaska, Minnesota.

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).

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The Project Child Fund : Innovative ways to give

Did you know that 96% of all giving is done in the form of cash and only 4% in the form of non-cash assets? On the other hand, did you know that 91% of wealth is in the form of non-cash assets and only 9% in the form of cash (or other high liquid assets)?

What if these figures were *reversed*?

By donating your appreciated non-cash assets to Project Child *before* the sale - rather than selling first and then donating the proceeds - less money goes to the Federal government in taxes, more money goes to the **Project Child Fund**, and more money stays in your pocket.

Will you consider giving to Project Child in one of these suggested ways?

Perhaps the funds for Casa de Luz's second floor can be obtained through one of these innovative ways!

Real estate – land, houses and other properties

Restricted Securities - publicly traded securities with sales restrictions

Estate gifts - proceeds from wills, trust or life insurance policies

Life insurance - term, whole, universal or variable

Retirement plan interests - 401-K's IRA's or pension plan

Loan Notes - money owed through loan notes

Personal property - royalties, copyrights, patents, precious metals, etc.

We invite you to experience putting more of your dollars to the work of God's Kingdom, to **The Project Child Fund**.

You may contact Frank & Lourdes Valladares at 727.526.2578, or

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A child's prayer and ours, too

It was a day last June when we received a phone call from our Director in Casa de Luz, Lucas, asking if we could bring to the home a little girl who was severely undernourished and ill. Her name is Tania and Lucas met her when he went to assess the case of her brother, Leunier, age 10, as a possible new child for Casa de Luz. Leunier and Tania are siblings. Leunier is handicapped but Tania is not. That day, both Leunier and Tania joined the family of Casa de Luz. They are children of Haitian parents who live in extreme poverty in a *batey* about one hour outside of the capitol. Because of the deplorable conditions that they lived in, we immediately accepted Leunier



Tania & her new coloring book-Nov. 07

and initially, the plan was for Tania to stay with us on a temporary basis—to nurse her to good health through nutritious meals, medical care, clean surroundings and lots of love—always hoping to keep the unity of the family. However, though to look at her today you would see a beautifully transformed child after six months, doctors tell us that she is a very sick little girl. We first heard of this when our physician took her for various diagnostic tests in a local hospital when her frequent vomiting and fever would not stop. Tania was admitted for 9 weeks of

grueling tests and was discharged with doctors stating that they cannot help her. We're told she required five different specialists which their hospital is unable to provide. A second hospital which we had our hope set on has just told us the same thing. We now have her records in the States and after having them translated, we will be sending them to various hospitals in the hope that we can bring her to the US. We're talking to anyone who will listen and who can guide us, all the while praying to God to open the doors for Tania to receive what she needs. A miracle would be an answer to prayers, for sure.

Not sure what to give? Give a meaningful gift.

By purchasing a gift basket, you will be helping to support Project Child and the children in *Casa de Luz*.

Many of us are uncertain as to what to give our friends, relatives, and coworkers as a gift.

We would be honored and grateful if you would choose to give our **Cup of Love** gift basket. It comes complete with one pound of Café Santo Domingo and a travel mug.

All who see it will know that you are a supporter of our children. The coffee is a rich and strong gourmet Dominican coffee recognized around the world for its distinctive flavor and aroma, with your choice of ground or bean. The 16 oz. custom travel

coffee mug features a beautiful, red acrylic surface with a stainless steel interior that will keep your coffee hot for hours of enjoyment.

The cost of each gift basket or box (better method for shipping) is \$30, for local delivery, additional shipping cost if outside of St. Petersburg, FL (U.S. only).

Not sure if the basket will arrive by Christmas?

We can send you an announcement by email or mail which you can print and give, letting the person know that a gift will be arriving soon in

PROJECT Child's

**A Cup
of Love**



their name. What better way to help children?

The perfect gift for *any occasion*. Call us or visit www.projectchild.org/

donations.html. Thank you.

