



PROJECT Child

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Little Steps Toward Brighter Future

By Lourdes Valladares

I did not know what I would accomplish on my 50- hour trip to the Dominican Republic last month. What I did know was that after eight months of not being able to go back, I was deeply missing our children's faces and smiles. I waited on God's timing to put everything in place in my family's life that would allow me to return. On the way, I wondered if the children would still remember me. But immediately inside Casa de Luz, I was greeted warmly with lots of hugs and smiles from the children and staff. It was as if I had never been away and I was back in my 'home away from home'.

Casa de Luz *is a home*. It's more than just a structure with nurses and doctor, caregivers and cooks for the children. It is a place where children hear about Jesus' love for them around the clock and where they can see with their own eyes God's daily provision for their needs through the many people who support the work with finances, volunteer time, or prayers—and sometimes all three both in the Dominican Republic and in the U.S. It is a place where a child can have dreams, like Tania, age 9, who talks about being Casa de Luz's doctor herself someday. It is a home where a child can hope to walk someday, like Maria Elisa whose 4th birthday we will celebrate on April 10, 2009.

Project Child Mission Trip July 11—18, 2009 to the Dominican Republic

Open Registration for teens through seniors You will make some good friends on the team during this week!



- **Four Areas of Ministry:**
 - Loving the Kids at Casa de Luz
 - Outreach in communities
 - Medical Missions
 - Construction /physical helps attuned to your capabilities
- **Cost:** Your airfare to/from Santo Domingo (airport code SDQ), passport, and shopping funds **PLUS** approximately \$600 for the hotel, meals, in-country transport, travel insurance, etc. purchased thru Project Child.
- **Hotel:** Stay in a double room at the Quality Inn, Santo Domingo which features pool, cable TV, exercise room and full breakfast buffet.
- **Information:** <http://www.projectchild.org> , Missions Page
- **Questions?** Email info@projectchild.org or call us at 727-526-2578 or toll free 877-807-5050.

Maria Elisa and Lourdes
March, 2009



It seems just a short time ago when I shared in previous newsletters about Maria Elisa's arrival to Casa de Luz and the surgeries performed on her legs (December 2006, August 2008, respectively).

However, as Maria Elisa's fourth birthday approaches, I realize that time is running out for her to be able to walk someday. I'm not a medical doctor by any means, but as a mother I have the intuition to realize that the time has come to take action if we are ever going to see this special little girl walk and have the gift of mobility using her own legs. Yes, using our own legs to walk is a gift.

Seeing Maria Elisa on this trip, I have come to believe that the previous surgeries have done little to improve her chances of walking. As I write this, I am carrying the burden of getting the help she needs here in the U.S. We are contacting the Shriners' Hospital in Tampa and we are open to any and all possibilities to bring Maria Elisa here for an evaluation and possible surgery on her legs. Perhaps even her arms and hands might benefit from surgery as the physical therapy that she has been receiving appears to have done little for her bones and limbs.

I thank all of you who give regularly to the children and ask that you continue to do so even when our economy doesn't look very promising. God will multiply your gifts! If you're reading this and wonder how your monetary gift or frequent flyer miles can help children like Maria Elisa and our other children in Casa de Luz, I would love to speak with you. Call us or write for more information.

Thank you!



American Airlines miles needed! Consider allowing Project Child to use 30,000 of your miles to purchase a needed airline ticket for children or administrative needs.

Mission Team from Calvary Christian High School, Clearwater, FL doing outreach in the Dominican Republic along with their time at Casa de Luz March 22-27, 2009



Calvary student Zach bonds with Lunier after weeks of praying for him before their meeting.

Team poses for photo with young woman at Paraiso community after distributing hundreds of school supplies, toothpastes and toothbrushes to local children.

Meet Us in Miami on April 17 !

You Are Invited
to our
10th Anniversary Celebration
Casual, Come-and-Go Reception

Frank & Lourdes Valladares will say "Hello" and "Thank You" to our **South Florida friends**. They will share how the mission at *Casa de Luz* in the Dominican Republic has progressed, and show how you have blessed the children of Casa de Luz.

DATE: Friday, April 17, 2009
TIME: Come anytime 2 PM to 6:30 PM
PLACE: Courtyard Hotel, El Cortez Room
ADDRESS: 2051 LeJeune Rd
Coral Gables, FL 33134
HOTEL PHONE: 305-443-2301



Take a look at the ALL NEW Project Child Website at www.projectchild.org

Mission Trips
Testimonies
and More!

New Photos
How you can help
Project Child History



Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability

A higher standard.
A higher purpose.

Project Child is an Accredited Member of ECFA.

Fresh Dominican
Coffee is Here!



Lourdes Valladares just returned from a trip to Santo Domingo and brought back a supply of fresh, rich Dominican Republic coffee, both Whole Bean and Ground.

Call the Project Child office to order your coffee and/or 16 oz. insulated travel mug with PC logo. The amount over our cost is a donation for you and a blessing for the Casa de Luz children!

One pound coffee + 16 oz. Travel Mug = \$30.
One pound Coffee only is \$15.

WHO WE ARE: Project Child is a Christian, non-profit 501(c)3 incorporation in Florida since 1999. Donations are Tax Deductible. We are dedicated to assisting and loving abandoned, orphaned, and neglected **special needs children in the Dominican Republic (DR)** by meeting their medical, physical and spiritual needs. We also seek opportunities to do individual/group evangelism and to support local church work among the poor in the Dominican Republic.

We operate "Casa de Luz" (House of Light) in a suburb of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. We have 20 full-time (resident) special needs children and a paid staff of 16 caregivers, nurses, therapist, and doctor providing 24-hour care and facility management. Monthly operating budget is \$8,700. We lead several Mission Teams per year to the DR. See examples of activities and opportunities for involvement on our **new** website at www.projectchild.org

Project Child is registered as #CH12258 with the Florida Division of Consumer Services. A COPY OF THE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION AND FINANCIAL INFORMATION MAY BE OBTAINED FROM THE DIVISION OF CONSUMER SERVICES BY CALLING TOLL-FREE (800-435-7352) WITHIN THE STATE. REGISTRATION DOES NOT IMPLY ENDORSEMENT, APPROVAL, OR RECOMMENDATION BY THE STATE.

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