



PROJECT Child

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December, 2008

Reflections on 2008 from Frank & Lourdes Valladares

Isaiah 46:11b *“What I have said, that I will bring about; what I have planned, that I will do.”* God’s word through this verse makes it possible for us not to lose sight of the vision that we were given many years ago. Though our financial struggles to stay afloat sometimes feel as though we can’t go on, it is God’s promise that keeps us going forward. As 2008 comes to a close, we reflect back on the past twelve months. It has been a time of learning and growth that has brought much joy but also many trials.

During 2008, we opened our doors of *Casa de Luz* to an additional three children, bringing the census to 20 children. They were Ivan, Ruth and Starlin. What joy to see the children smile in gratitude for having a warm home and people around them who love them!

Ruth



However, it is with much sadness that we share that our latest arrival, Starlin, died. His heart failed at age 3, just weeks after arriving at *Casa de Luz* during the July 2008 mission trip. When we brought Starlin, our physician shared with us how delicate his health was. Yet, we had to do everything possible to give him the best medical care and to see that he felt loved. We are thankful to have provided for him, and we know that he is with Jesus now.

Also during the year, two of our children, Maria Elisa and Lunier, received orthopedic surgeries to improve their health and quality of life. Maria Elisa had surgeries on her legs to enable her to walk in the future. Lunier’s surgery released some muscles to facilitate his ability to sit up.



In 2008, we organized three mission trips to *Casa de Luz* comprising over 80 children, adolescents and adults from different parts of the U.S. They enjoyed playing with the children, feeding them, taking them on outings to a swimming pool, singing praise songs with them and praying over them. The sound of joy, of children laughing and playing and having fun filled the hallways of *Casa de Luz*. It still rings in our ears and motivates us in the next year to rescue more children and love them.

Children with special needs in the Dominican Republic face a grim future and a greatly reduced life expectancy. Although we have the space right now for 50 children, we are limited by a tight budget. **We want to provide early intervention and therapy services to help more children to achieve the best possible quality of life.** We believe that all children, including orphans and children with special needs, deserve the opportunity to live, learn, and grow knowing God’s love and the love and warmth of His “family”.

We extend our warmest and heartfelt “Thank You” to each of you who have given to His children in both monetary gifts and through your prayers. It is **you** who have made it possible for the ministry of Project Child to move forward in spite of the challenges. Please continue with us in 2009 to bring to reality the vision of helping more children. May you and your families be blessed abundantly in all areas of your life in this New Year!

Information for all 2008 Contributors:

For donors who wish to claim a charitable contribution on their federal tax return, we will be mailing your 2008 Receipt by the last week of January. If you need a receipt sooner, contact us and we will expedite the process.

We encourage **monthly donations!** We can send you donation envelopes and a Cuddly Reminder Animal or we can set up a recurring credit charge. Please call, write, or email. Contact information is on Page Four

Want More Photos and in Color?

If you did not receive our emailed “Bring the Light” E-Magazine on December 5, you are missing out!

It’s free, so send an email request to: **info@projectchild.org**

Fall Mission Teams Bring Love and Energy to Casa de Luz in the Dominican Republic



Ruth, Massiel and Tania join the dance

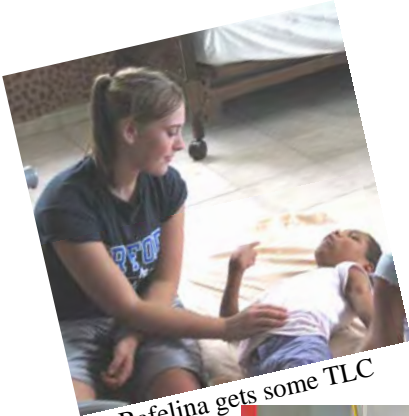


Alex enjoys music

Formerly malnourished Ruth is getting heavy!



Luis David excited



Rafelina gets some TLC

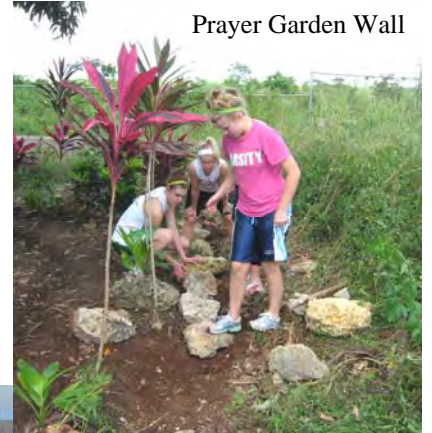


Shoveling

Construction



Mixing Mortar



Prayer Garden Wall



New Therapy Equipment

- ^ Elisa swings for 1st time
- < Massiel on therapy ball & floor mat
- > Lydia tries Jump-O-Lene



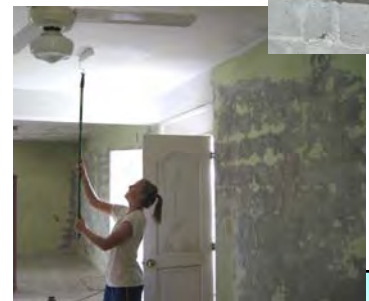
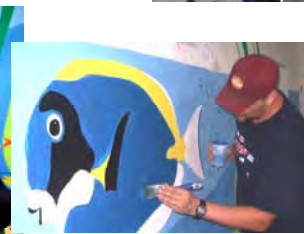
Future Dining Room

Hallway Wall Mural



New Shine for the "House of Light" Casa de Luz

Aquarium Bedroom Paint Team



Kitchen



Exterior

Create your OWN Fundraising Webpage for Project Child ! This is Project Child's BIG EVENT for December !

- You've been supporting Project Child, but how about an easy way to suggest that your friends also donate?
- Project Child is registered with **FirstGiving**, a very secure on-line donation conduit used by many non-profits for fundraising.
- **You may now open your own personal FirstGiving webpage related to Project Child.**
- On your personal webpage, you have the option to place a photo and write your experiences with Project Child or your testimony about why you are involved with Project Child. Included is a simple invitation to others to "Donate" through the mail or through FirstGiving.
- You will let your friends and family know of your new Project Child webpage and your desire for them to visit your webpage.
- Credit Card donations by your friends or family through your FirstGiving page will go to Project Child's bank account, minus normal credit card and administrative fee totaling only 7.5%. Your webpage will also get recognition and you will know who gave!

INSTRUCTIONS: START NOW!

1. On the web, go to <http://www.firstgiving.com/18108>
2. For **What Sort of Webpage do you want?**, select "Use Your Imagination"

That is all you need, but for detailed guidance, go to <http://www.projectchild.org/> and then click on the **Special Events** button on the left . Open the file named "Step by Step Companion". If trouble, right click on file & "Save Target As" to your computer.

The **FIRST TWENTY** people with a Project Child FirstGiving webpage and their first donation will be congratulated in our future E-Newsletters!

Here are some Project Child/Casa de Luz expenses for you to pray over as you consider regular monthly giving by check or automatic credit card debit. Contact us for assistance!

- \$187 is monthly salary of nurse or physical therapist
- \$100 buys one child's food and vitamins for one month
- \$85 supplies disposable gloves for caregivers
- \$60 purchases a new mattress for a child
- \$50 will cover a dental checkup for a child
- \$40 will buy clothes and shoes for one child for one year
- \$30 one child's share of the electric bill at *Casa de Luz*
- \$20 pays the doctor's salary for one child for one month
- \$10 buys one round of antibiotics for a sick child

**Memory from a Night at Casa de Luz
"Surely the Lord is in this Place!"**

Because I was leading a group who were staying across town in Santo Domingo, I had the privilege to sleep at *Casa de Luz* for a few nights. Before supper, Tanya, our only child that attends school, lay in bed reading her 3rd Grade storybooks in Spanish for over an hour to an very attentive audience - 15 year old Tia and 16 year old Massiel. They are not mentally able to attend school but they know a good story when they hear it!

After supper, I decided to take a nap since it was getting dark and only the emergency lights were on as the caregivers bathed and prepared the children for bed in the bedrooms across the hall. I was somewhat amazed not to hear at least some screaming from 19 children but I heard laughter and joyful sounds instead.

At 8PM, I awakened to the sound of obviously Christian recorded music in Spanish. Then, the music stopped and the caregivers began singing over the children for 20 minutes. I recognized some of the gospel and hymn melodies. As the singing stopped, the praying began! Several caregivers were praying at once, out loud over the children! This went on for about 30 minutes! What a blessing on those children! It is no wonder that they are generally well behaved and so sweet!

That evening, in the dark, the Light of God was certainly shining in *Casa de Luz* - the "House of Light". Like Jacob, I thought, "Surely the Lord is in this place!"

-- by Jay Graves, Program Administrator



**Massiel and Tia apply morning lotion
We had a sunflower-counting class later. We got to seven!**

PROJECT CHILD INFORMATION

Who We Are

Project ChildHelp, Inc (dba 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.

What We Do

Current Activities include:

- We operate "Casa de Luz" (House of Light) in a suburb of Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. We have 19 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 in this newsletter.
- A forty-five foot shipping container is sent periodically to the DR from Florida, full of donated appliances, medical supplies, clothing, etc.

Goals for 2009

How you can participate:

- Additional regular donors needed to fund staffing and food to care for current children and 12 additional children. We have the room!
- Construction Funds needed to complete the second floor of Casa de Luz, plus other projects.
- Join us on a future Mission Trip! All ages are welcome.
- Donations of domestic appliances, medical supplies, clothing, etc in St. Petersburg, FL to fill the next container going to the DR.
- Contact us to see how you can partner with us in this work.



Local school children receive supplies in November brought by a Project Child Mission group.

Project Child is an Accredited Member of ECFA.
See our ECFA Financial Statement at:
<http://www.ecfa.org/MemberProfile.aspx?ID=22861>

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.



Our Casa de Luz Director Lucas Carvajal with Facility Supervisor Tempora Perez (left) and Secretary Magnolia Carvajal (right)

Project Child Contact Information

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