



February 2008

QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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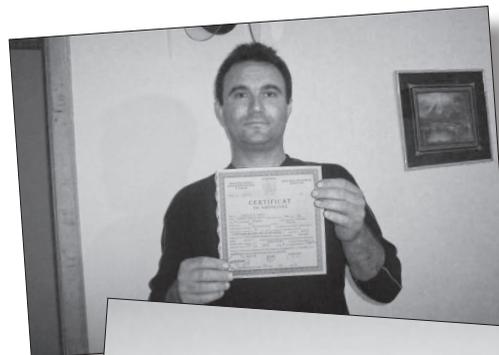
BUSINESS FOR KIDS

Romania

ICC Romania has successfully established a for-profit company in Romania. This business, known as "Business For Kids" or BFK, will give its proceeds to the operating budget of our children's village in Romania. BFK is comprised of four different businesses working under one banner: a construction firm, an accounting firm, a modern bakery and a business growing and selling organic vegetables raised in greenhouses.

One of our house fathers has become certified in the installation of heating systems, and BFK Construction recently completed a renovation of the offices that will house BFK Accounting. The bakery will convert one of the buildings on our campus for its use, and the greenhouses have been set up on our campus farm.

The startup costs and expenses for BFK Construction and Accounting, the greenhouses and the remodeling of the offices for BFK Accounting have been donated by ICC's European donors. Sixty percent of the funds needed for the



Certificate for installing heat systems _____
and our green houses _____

BFK Bakery have already been raised. The construction of the bakery will be done by BFK Construction.

Not only will these businesses contribute to the monthly operating needs of the children's village, they will in time, provide vital training for our children as they learn to become productive adults. Special recognition goes to Gabi and the staff of ICC Romania for their hard work in starting this initiative as well as to Lambro Triantos in the ICC Netherlands office for spearheading much of the major fund raising needed to bring this dream to a reality.

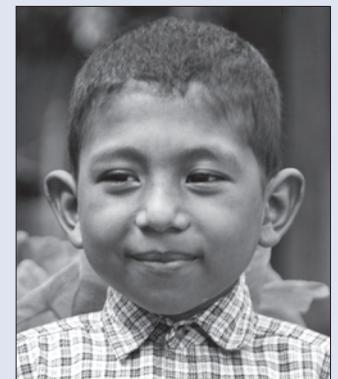
PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My name is Pedro

I need a sponsor. I am 6 years old and live in Nicaragua. Please return this coupon to sponsor me each month. God bless you for helping me have a chance.

\$30 \$60 \$ _____

(800) 422-7729
Sponsorship Department



CHRISTMAS CONTAINER *for El Salvador.*

Well, it made it! On Monday, December 24th, the container for El Salvador arrived on our campus after leaving Vancouver on November 5th.

On Christmas Day, the El Salvador staff and children opened what may have been the biggest Christmas gift ever in the history of ICC. The container we shipped had: eight washing machines, a zero turn commercial lawn mower, four air conditioner units, one used tractor, and a golf cart. These are just some of the larger items.

For a while we thought we might not get the container out of customs without paying a substantial amount. We also thought that the container might have to be unloaded for inspection. You have to understand that the

staff here in Vancouver left no room in that container. For them to have unloaded it in customs would have been a nightmare, plus, there is a greater chance of losing items.

Well, not only did we make it through customs without having to unload the container, in the end we only had to pay \$500, which was mainly storage fees.

Now we would like you to hear a few words from our campus administrator in El Salvador, Joel Reyes.



The Container leaves Vancouver

"Thank you for helping us make this a reality. Everything that came in that container was very precious because it had your effort and your love for our children. Thanks to all of you, our children now have a lot of good clean clothes to wear, and shoes for their feet. Thanks to you our kids are growing all kinds of stuff in their newly planted gardens prepared with the tractor you donated and the gardening tools you sent us. Washing the children's clothes will now be an easier task for the house mothers. Cutting our large lawn will not take a whole week as it used to, thanks to the commercial lawn mower you sent us. Now we can transport our sick ones to the clinic in the club car rather than making them walk all the way there. Thank you for being so supportive and thank you for helping us make a difference in the lives of all these children."

Save the Date

Don't miss this program. ICC will be celebrating it's 30th anniversary at Meadow Glade Church in Battle Ground, Washington. We will have some special guest speakers along with a few of the very first children at ICC. More information will be available in the coming months. Please reserve this date!

*MAY
4th*

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25 years of service!

Karen Thornton began working with ICC in January of 1983 participating in many different aspects of the organization. Karen now works in our finance department.

To celebrate her 25th year here at ICC we made her Queen for a day. The staff at ICC would like to thank Karen for her dedication and service!



Karen Thornton and Rick Fleck



A Legacy of Love

*P*roviding for the future through planned giving

Contact Doug Congleton at ICC for more information on how you can become part of the "Legacy of Love"

(800) 422-7729
Doug@ForHisKids.org

A Personal Note continued from last month

Dear ICC Family,

After hearing about the Children's Village, Florencia thought long and hard. After losing their father, would it be too hard for the children to be separated from her too? A local fisherman had helped her to establish a little business of her own, finding markets for the fish. But she found that it was taking her away from home more and more. The two older boys were in school, and she paid her aunt to baby sit the two younger ones. The first school year was coming to a close, and from the stories the children brought home, and watching their progress, she realized that this government school, though free, was not a very good school. She kept thinking about the Children's Village she had heard about and the excellent reputation of the school they operated.

Florencia realized that her present situation was not working. I'm going to write to Bernie.

When Bernie approached Juana, the Director at The Pines, she listened to the tragic story of this little family torn apart by the war. "Actually, we don't usually accept children on a temporary basis, because our homes are established to give homeless children a permanent home. At this moment our homes are all full." Bernie waited while Juana thought the situation over. Finally, she said, "We are building another house. It isn't finished yet, but should be in a few weeks. We will have space then, so maybe we can help. Come back in a couple weeks, and I can give you an answer."

Juana called me after Bernie had visited her. "I know these children aren't abandoned, like most of our children are. What do you think I should do?"

When I heard their story I felt for this young mother. Maybe we should make an exception and help her. "If you have room and they won't be taking the place of children in more need, go ahead," I told her.

"By the way," she went on, "A young woman knocked on my door the other day with a small girl in her arms. She seemed to be in a hurry. 'Please take my baby. I can't take care of her and she is so sick all the time.' I asked her to come in, but she said she couldn't. I noticed a car outside waiting for her. I told her we needed her documents, but she insisted on leaving the child and promised she would come back with the documents."

"How old is she?" I asked.

"I don't know, but we think she must be between one and two years. It is hard to tell, she is so malnourished. I took her to the doctor and he gave me medicine for her. The girl that brought her must be her mother, but she hasn't come back yet. She just told me that her name is Grizelda."

"Well, that's interesting," I said. "Let me know when you hear more about her."

When Bernie was finally able to let Florencia know that she could bring the children, she was happy to feel that she finally had some solution to her problem, but dreaded to be separated from them. She asked Estuardo and Milton one evening, "How would you like to go to a new school, a real good school?" And she continued describing the Children's Village, The Pines. "You will live in a nice house with other children. It is in the country in a beautiful place with trees, and there is a river where the children can swim, too."

Milton, especially, didn't want to go back to the government school and it wasn't hard to persuade the boys. Florencia began preparing her trip with the children.

When Juana answered the knock to her door one afternoon, she saw a young woman, with four little children. "Come in!" she invited, ushering them into her sitting room. "So these are the children from Livingstone," she smiled giving the boys each a hug. She found seats for them and began to explain what Los Pinos was all about. She noticed that the two boys were well behaved and polite, sitting quietly as the adults talked.

She asked Florencia, "How long do you think you want us to keep the children?"

"I wish I knew, Senorita, but I have to find a way to prepare myself to support them. If I stay in Guatemala, I would come to see them when I could." Florencia intimated that she had hopes of going to the United States to establish herself.

Juana took the group just down the road a few steps from the office apartment, where the new house was waiting. "You can all stay here tonight," she told Florencia. "You can eat at my place tonight and in the morning." The house parents for this home have not arrived yet, but we have someone to take their place for now. Walking in

the door, Florencia stood in amazement. The new house was ready for children, with furniture in the living area with a nice kitchen in the back of the large room.

The two boys were looking around with wonderment in their eyes. "Is this going to be our new home?" Milton asked.

"Yes, this will be your home," Juana replied as she led them into the hall on the left. There were two rooms with bunk beds, and a bathroom between. "This is the boy's side," she explained. "You can each choose your bed."

They approached one of the bunks. "I'll take the top one," Estuardo said, "because I'm the oldest." They each climbed onto their bed to try it out.

"You can use the other bedroom for yourself and the little ones," Juana told Florencia. "Come on down to my place for supper."

The next morning when Florencia prepared to leave, first little Melvin and then Lizeth, began to cry and cling to their mother. She was crying too, and soon she turned to the boys, "I don't think I can leave the little ones. Do you want to stay?"

"Oh yes, Mama, this is such a nice place." Milton responded. "I can't wait to go to this new school. I see a lot of children around the homes. I'm sure we'll be fine." The boys were already wanting to go and explore their new surroundings. They wanted to stay! Milton remembers a first impression; This is a beautiful, big house! I've never seen one like this before, and this will be my house! Milton and Estuardo had already unpacked their few belongings. When Florencia told them goodbye, she was relieved to see that they were happy. "Be good boys, now. I'll write you a letter soon."

They were among the first children to call House Ten their home. Soon the new house parents came, and other little children, until there was a family of twelve children. They learned that they could call the house parents Mommy and Poppy, and the other children would be their brothers and sisters. The first night after the new parents arrived, they were introduced to what was called, Evening Worship. Milton had never heard a prayer before except in a church. We have church right in our house!

There were new things to see and learn every day. But the school was the best! Milton loved school. They had morning worship in their house but they also had it at school the first thing. Milton remembers the difference in this new school. Soon he was reading well. The teacher took time to help each child. He noticed that there were other children in his room that were older and bigger than he was. One of them explained, "I never could go to school before. I didn't have a home like this one either."

Those first days were full of surprises for the two boys. After the new house parents came, the regular schedule was implemented. The three meals were at specific times, and no one began to eat until they all bowed their heads to thank Jesus for the food. There were chores, too, according to the ages of the children. Before long, the house was full of children, and Milton and Estuardo had ten other brothers and sisters. One of the times they liked best was just before bedtime. The father would call, "Come, children, it's time for worship." As they gathered around the parents, the children eagerly waited for the Bible story hour, and the singing.

The children in this new house were new, like Milton and Estuardo, and there were many things to learn. There were new songs about Jesus and heaven, and they learned how to pray. These children had all suffered tragedies that had deprived them of their own families and homes and some of them had been abused. They all needed a lot of love that these new parents knew how to give. The news about Jesus, who loved the little children and who had gone to Heaven to prepare permanent homes for them, was a source of wonderment. Little by little the pains of the past began to sink into the background, and bright eyes and happy smiles took their place.

With our love and prayers,

Aleyou and Jen

This story will continue over the next several months, concluding as ICC celebrates it's 30th year anniversary May 4th, 2008. For back issues of this story you can download them at our website: www.forhiskids.org/newsletters.php.