



QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
P.O. Box 820610 Vancouver, WA 98682-0013

(360) 573-0429 • FAX: (360) 573-0491
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LOS PINOS RECEIVING CENTER

IMPACTING CHILDREN'S LIVES

Many children who reside at our Los Pinos Receiving Center in Guatemala City have led very hard lives before their arrival. It can be difficult to believe that these children—who range in age from five-years-old down to mere infants—have suffered through such adversity. Sent to us primarily from the Adolescence Court system, we do our best to care for these children with food, medical attention, housing, and love.

Sadly, the following story is an example of what our children experience prior to arriving at the Los Pinos Receiving Center.

The insistent jangling of our doorbell broke the chilled, early-morning silence of a cold December night. A social worker from the local courts was requesting shelter for three sibling children ages six, four, and one. The children's faces reflected their deep anxiety as the trembled with cold and fear. The director of our receiving center authorized the children's admission without hesitation.

The on-duty staff immediately gave the children a careful examination. This initial evaluation revealed that the children were very dirty, they had lice, they were malnourished, and

abrasions covered their skin. Lolita, the oldest, despite being six-years-old was like a mother to her younger brothers Luisito and Carlitos. She became distressed if her brothers were not close to her for even a moment. When asked, Lolita told our staff the reasons she and her brothers were at the receiving center.



Lolita today

The police had found the children on the streets frightened and confused. The children's drunken, alcoholic parents had expelled them from their home, forcing them to wander the dark streets. The staff also learned that her parents had put Lolita in charge of caring for her brothers, one a toddler and the other an infant. Cooked noodles and tortillas were all Lolita had to feed her brothers. They ate on the floor and slept on boards in the single-room dwelling in which they lived.

Once the staff had completed their initial examination of Lolita and her brothers, they began to care for their physi-

—Continued on back page—

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Guatemalan Receiving Center

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Los Pinos - continued

cal needs. Also, addressed were their spiritual needs as the staff showed these little children the true meaning of love.

The children's adjustment to this new and very different life was problematic. The children were wary of any unfamiliar foods. Another concept that required a period of transition was sleeping in a bed, as they had never seen a bed before coming to the receiving center.

Over the months since their arrival, the children have been recovering and now look physically healthy. Lolita is learning to read and write under the tutelage of our staff teacher. On one occasion Lolita remarked to one of our nurses; "I do not want to leave, because here you dress me like a princess."



One of the children at Los Pinos

We are still waiting for the judge to decide the future of these three precious children. At ICC, we know without a doubt that even if Lolita, Luisito, and Carlitos do not stay with us at the receiving center, our purpose was and is to show these children an unwavering love.

Child sponsorships assist ICC in funding children's projects. However, because children in the Los Pinos Receiving Center stay only short-term, ICC does not offer sponsorships for individual children. We need more funds to contend with the huge challenge of keeping this valuable ministry operating. Please consider becoming a monthly sponsor for the receiving center and help ICC keep the doors open to welcome more children like Lolita and her brothers.

NATIONAL Pathfinder CAMPOREE

The Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic is blessed with an excellent pathfinder club. Last year the club was not able to attend the regional camporee because of ICC's budget constraints. This year's national camporee is fast approaching and the children of Las Palmas would like the opportunity to demonstrate their Pathfinder skills. The project has raised some funds, and another donation was recently received, but \$1,000 is still needed. If you'd like to help these pathfinders make it to the



comporee this year, please send your check to ICC marked, "Dominican Camporee."

Save the Date!

Please join us for a special concert featuring the Hogar Las Palmas Chamber Music Group from ICC's Dominican Republic Children's Village. Thanks to the generosity of a group of donors, nineteen ICC children and adults are traveling to Vancouver to perform this special program in celebration of the 30th Anniversary of International Children's Care.

Saturday, July 12, 2008 @ 4 p.m.

Admission is Free

Meadow Glade Seventh-day Adventist Church

11001 NE 189th Street

Battle Ground, WA 98604

We look forward to seeing you there!

For questions contact us at (800) 422-2279
or visit us online at www.ForHisKids.org

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A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

The Thirty-Year Celebration is over! It was a thrilling time! We saw children who have come to us through the years, and we realized what ICC has meant to so many of them. I have to tell you that many people came to me afterwards to tell me how thrilling it was. One said, "It was a program that we could never forget – inspiration for a lifetime!" I saw a lot of teary eyes.

There were several older ICC children who made plans to be here for this significant event, but there were others that we hadn't heard from. To remember their stories and then invite them to come up front and tell people what they are doing now and what ICC means to them was awesome. For me, it was a very emotional event. My mind went back through the years and I pictured again just where they were and how desperately they needed help. It isn't an exaggeration to say that many of them would not have survived without the help they received.



[The twins with Alcyon](#)

There were the eight children that Ken and I went to find whose mother had been run over by a drunken truck driver in the middle of the night. She and her two older children were pushing a crude wooden cart with food she had cooked to sell to the people coming through the village on the night bus. The picture of that family is as clear in my mind today as then. The 13-year old girl with the malnourished and sick one-year old on her hip, and a little two-year old standing by with ears oozing pus, also malnourished. The house was crude and bare with no food in sight. When we left, telling the father to think it over, the oldest girl, pulled at my skirt. With tearful eyes, she pleaded, "Please take us now!"

Six of those children had come to the program. The older boy is now a physician in the northern part of Guatemala. He told about the program he is carrying out in that area to fight malaria. One of the girls is a social worker who graduated from Walla Walla College and lives in Loma Linda now. The baby of the group, who was so sick, is a college graduate with an MA in Special Education. They have all found their place in life. The younger ones were adopted, and it was the first time for them to be together since leaving The Pines.

I finished telling the last chapter of the continued story about Milton and Griselda that had begun in the Que Pasa, and then they came to the podium to tell how they feel about The Pines and ICC.

I've been receiving letters telling what a thrill it was to be there and see these young people, and to realize just what ICC really does.

After telling some of the stories, I asked if there were any of our former children in the audience, and a young woman came right up. It was Rosie! She is the little girl that was found during the Guatemalan Civil War after the devastation of a battle with the guerrillas. The Army General, in his white helicopter, was flying low over the area when he noticed something moving down below. It was this little girl, alone. Apparently, her family had all been killed. The helicopter dropped down and picked her up. The General's helicopter landed in a field at the Pines with Rosie and several other children. He told the housefather who met them, "Tell Mrs. Fleck I brought her some more children!" When she came to us, she only knew that her name was Rosie. She was adopted by the Bartholomew family. Her father, a well driller, has recently gone to The Pines, and dug two wells, furnishing the first good water we have had there. He also dug wells for other villages to provide good water.

Also at the celebration was our very first baby that came to us thirty years ago, dying with the dreaded dysentery. She was also our first baby adopted. I personally took her to her new family.

The little twin premature baby boys brought to us, one of them dying with a blood infection, were there, two handsome young men, both studying for college degrees. Not only that, but the volun-

teer nurse, Beth Platner, was there. She was out at Poptun and carried the little sick baby on the army plane to the waiting ambulance in Guatemala City. With her at the celebration was the little girl that she and her husband recently adopted. It was Beth who helped us open the first Receiving Center in the city and was the nurse director. We realized we needed a place in town where children could get the needed medical attention.

We had planned to have a group from our recently organized orchestra at The Palms in the Dominican Republic. All the arrangements had been made, Special funds had been donated, plane tickets ready, when, at the last minute the visas didn't get out in time. The children were in the city with their instruments all ready to go. They were really disappointed. However, the visas did come out later and it was decided to bring them anyway and have a special Sabbath afternoon concert here in the Meadow Glade church in the afternoon of July 12. They will get to see some places in Washington, including snow on Mt. Hood. The information for this concert will be given in this issue of Que Pasa.

We had been planning this Anniversary for months, and of course we had planned that Ken would be there on the program too. For a time, he seemed to be rallying, and we were all hoping and praying. I had accepted the responsibility of helping to organize the program and be there to tell the stories. When Ken took a sudden turn for the worse and passed away just a little over a week before the planned event, I wondered what to do. We couldn't change anything. The night before, I was awake for hours, wondering how I could possibly be up front telling all those emotional stories. Finally, I thought of a promise that had pulled me through many hard situations. "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace whose mind is stayed on thee." I prayed earnestly, "Lord, it is Your program, Your children. You have helped us through all these years. Please give me courage, strength, peace, and above all, composure, tomorrow." It was like a miracle. That whole day I was completely relaxed, and knew that God was with me. It is the same God who delivered me from the bandits who broke into the hotel room in Romania. One had his hands around my throat with a knife in his hand that cut my finger and scratched my neck. It is the same God who protected Ken and me from the guerrillas who tried to kidnap us during the civil war in Guatemala. It is the same God who took ICC from a small beginning with one child and one house to what it is today, with over 1,000 children around the world in our care.

It is also the same God who has touched the hearts of people like you, who have made it possible to rescue so many children, give them a life, and let them know about a Father who loves them and is preparing homes for them for eternity. Thank you for all you have done to make it all possible. Let's all work and pray together to rescue hundreds more of these beautiful children.



Mrs. Fleck among just some of her ICC children

With my love and prayers,

Aleyon

PS: We need more funds for operating the children's villages. Right now we are receiving less than what it takes to give the children what they need. If you can, we will appreciate any extra gift you can send during these difficult financial times.