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QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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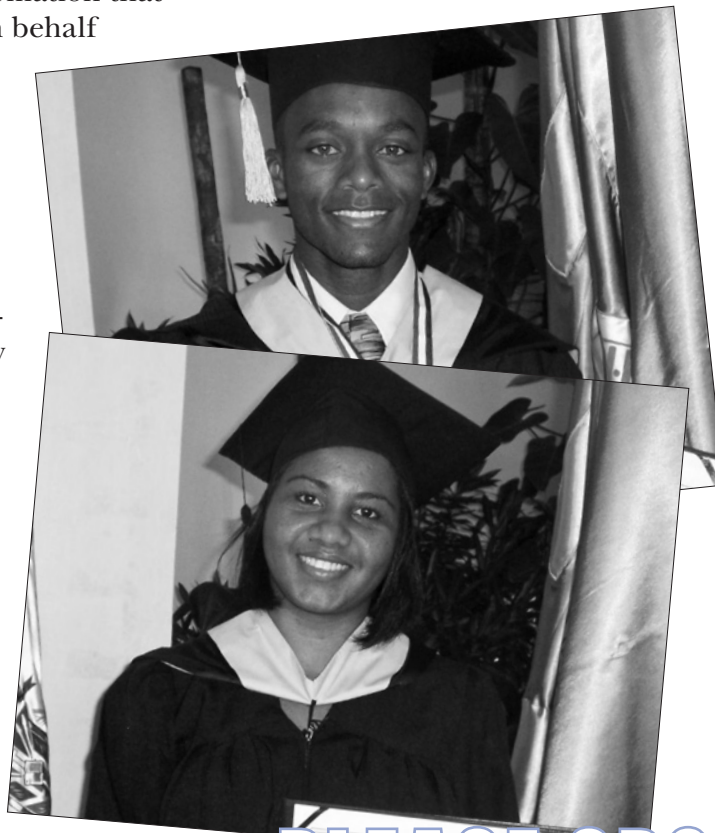
Testimonials From "HIS KIDS"

Receiving confirmation that your efforts on behalf of others have benefited their lives in a positive way is always nice. These testimonials from Julio and Fatima, two of our kids who just graduated from university in the Dominican Republic, confirm for us why we believe our ICC ministry on behalf of orphaned and abandoned children is so vital.

Julio's Testimony:

"ICC, through the Hogar Campestre [Las Palmas], has influenced my life in a marvelous way. I managed to feel prepared physically, emotionally and spiritually to face the rest of my life. I will feel eternally grateful for the professional preparation given to me and for the Christian principles that I have adopted.

"The Hogar has been a fountain for dreams and imaginings—it has been motivation for success. Thank God, the 7th of December I will graduate with



honors. I am certain that I will continue, with God's help, to fulfill His plan for my life."

Fatima's Testimony:

"The Hogar Campestre has significantly impacted my life. Through this institution I have managed to acquire an integral formation (preparation), and a healthy growth, physically, socially and spiritually. Having received the support of ICC for my development as a person is a great sign that God loves me and is interested in my salvation and myself. With my Hogar Campestre family I have learned that I can't live just for myself - there always has to be room for others; that we don't

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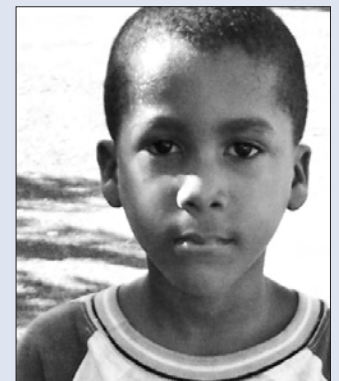
PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

My name is Erison

I need a sponsor. I am 9 years old and live in the Dominican. 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



A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

People frequently ask what it is that makes International Children's Care unique – how are we different from other organizations that care for children? I know this may be a review for some of you, but I know also that we have many new members of the ICC family who have only recently started supporting the ICC kids.

So what is the difference? What word stands out when we describe ICC? Family. Family is a basic driving need in each of us. And family is what millions of kids around the world have lost. They urgently seek to fill the gap when they lose their family, even if it is an unhealthy substitute. As a result, kids end up in gangs or in abusive relationships as they try to fit into something that seems like a family.

When my mother, Alcyon Fleck, was approached in 1977 and asked if she would consent to help start an orphanage in Guatemala, she asked, "What kind of orphanage do you have in mind?"

"Well, I guess we would build a dormitory and a cafeteria and take in as many kids as we could," was the response.

"I'm not interested in that kind of an orphanage," she said emphatically.

"What kind are you interested in?" she was asked.

"I would want to care for children in families. I would build individual homes for families, hire loving house parents to live in each home and take care of 10 to 12 children in each home. I would want them to grow up knowing what it means to have a family. That is what we all need."

"Great!" the person said enthusiastically. "I like that concept too. Let's do it!"

Over the years we have seen that her inspiration was from God, because this model of caring for children has proven to be one that is successful in helping kids to grow up to be well-adjusted adults.

What are some of the things that make up a family at an ICC Children's Village? Maybe a quick peek into the daily life would help you to understand. Each morning Mom and Dad get the children up and help them to get ready for the day. Dad gathers everyone around in the living room for morning worship, where he shares a thought for the day, and they have a prayer together before they go their separate ways.

Dad helps Mom get the kids ready for school and everyone out the door. You can imagine the hustle and bustle of the happy voices of children as they prepare for the day and run out the door to go to school. You can probably also imagine the peaceful quiet that settles over the home when Mom says good bye to Dad as he leaves to go to his work. Each father is assigned to different jobs around the campus, such as farming, maintenance, milking the cows or working in the bakery.



Yes, the home life in our children's villages is not much different maybe than how many of us grew up. And we emphasize that Jesus should be the center of every home. That means that there are a lot of fun church activities every week. Actually, the church is another center of activity on campus, besides the home and the school.

One activity that I have been privileged to participate in is the Family Olympics. Over a weekend, our activities director organizes family group activities where the children compete as a family in what they call the Family Olympic Games. The idea is to encourage each family to work together as a team, and the family that is judged to do this the best wins a chance to go out for a special meal!

Sharon and I got to serve as judges for the Olympics one year at our Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic, and we watched carefully as the families competed together in each activity. From operating a stop watch for the relay races, to judging a drawing done by the family as a group, we judged each activity according to how well the family worked together as a team. When they put a 50-piece puzzle together, the ones who did the best job were those who worked together, each member assigned a certain part of the puzzle.

At the end of the weekend, everyone celebrated as we gave out the ribbons and trophies. It was late on Sunday evening when we decided that two houses tied for first place. We said to the kids, "It's pretty late, so maybe we should go out tomorrow night."

"No! No! We want to go now!" they all chorused. So we loaded all the kids from the two winning families into the vans and went into town so they could celebrate their achievement. They had a really good time, even though we got home pretty late.

So what is that magical touch that makes a group of people a family? I think it is all these things and more, and every year we work with our ICC families to help them to give each child a real sense of belonging to a family. Of course the most important thing is for them to learn that they have a heavenly Father who will never abandon them and they are part of God's great family.

You can help us as we create families around the world. Your donation goes a long way in these countries where even the bare necessities are usually missing. As you help us create these families, you become a part of the family that we call the ICC Family.

I pray that in return God will give you so many blessings you do not have room enough to receive them!

In His service,

Rich Fleck



Testimonial- continued

have to panic about the things of this life because everything will pass. It is important to value and respect the differences in others. We each have different qualities that make us special and unique, and this is essential for the world to be dynamic and full of life. God has a purpose and plan for each life, and I am part of God's puzzle - nothing happens by chance. For those whom God loves, all things work together for good, even those things in life that seem unfair to us. I profoundly thank God for giving me the opportunity to be part of the family of ICC, who prepares and forms children and young people for the heavenly kingdom. Sincerely, with all my heart, thank-you. May God always bless you."

Your sponsorship does make a difference, one child at a time.

ICC Calenders-while they last!

In December we created an ICC Calender for the year 2009. We have a limited supply of 500 calenders. If you know someone who has been considering giving to "His Kids" but who may still be trying to decide, give them an ICC calendar. Each month our calendars show what even a small donation can do for a child in need. If you would like a

calendar to give to a potential new ICC family member, please don't hesitate to ask for one. Call us at 1-800-422-7729 and let us know how many calendars you would need but remember these extra calendars are first come, first served and there is a limited supply. Please include \$3.00 dollars for shipping with your calender request.

Vehicle Needed in Romania

Our Romanian project is currently without any reliable transportation for the children because the van we've been driving for the past ten years has become unusable and an accident has totaled the car we had been using as the van's alternative. The prices for a quality used van begin at \$10,000. Please consider any additional donation you may be able to give to help with this critical need. Designate your donations "Romanian Van" and send your check to this address: PO Box 820610, Vancouver, WA. 98682-0013.



Nicaragua Construction Project

Construction projects at our "Fountain of Life" Children's Village in Nicaragua have, until recently, been progressing nicely. The local government aided us significantly in the building of the access roadways on our campus. Volunteer groups have been helping with the construction of the family homes. We are nearing completion on three of our family homes with a fourth well under way. Unfortunately we have reached the limit of our funds to continue beyond these three homes. If you would like to help fund the completion of our

village, please send your donations to ICC at: PO Box 820610, Vancouver, WA. 98682-0013. Mark your donations "Nicaragua Construction Project." Thank you for your loving generosity that makes all this possible!



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