



QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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Volunteering In The Dominican

Comprised of members of the Adventist-Layman's Services & Industries (ASI) organization from the Lake Union of the Seventh-Day Adventist church, including the president of the Lake Union chapter of ASI, a mission group of volunteers traveled in January 2012 to one of the children's villages of International Children's Care, Las Palmas, in the Dominican Republic.

This group learned of ICC through Mayelin Lora who's parents are the administrators of the Las Palmas Children's Village. Mayelin stayed with one of the families that became part of the group while she was visiting Michigan.

Through Mayelin's relating her experiences of living at Las Palmas, these folks became interested in ICC and being part of a group who would travel to the Dominican Republic to do volunteer work at Las Palmas.

In all, 34 people were included in the group who made the trek to the Dominican Republic. While there they painted the three school buildings, repaired playground equipment and put a new floor in House Eight.



They also purchased new window panes for two of the school buildings, a pressure washer for cleaning the roofs of the children's homes and supplied a new part for the farm tractor which was a great help as the tractor could not be used without that part.

The group also gave to each of the children a beautifully hand-decorated towel. Samilin, Mayelin's mother and our administrator at Las Palmas, had this to say about the group from

—Continued on back page —

PLEASE SPONSOR ME!

I need a sponsor. I am 7 years old and live in Dominican Republic. 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



Volunteering - Continued

ASI; "This was a really great group in the way that they related to everyone. They were very respectful and hard workers. They were happy about their visit, and said they plan to come again in two years to work on an even bigger project. They would like to work on the sidewalks and the repair of the roads."

Volunteers such as those from the Lake Union chapter of ASI really are an immeasurable asset to the children and organization that are ICC. Without them, much of the construction, maintenance and improvement work that needs to be accomplished at our projects would be either delayed or left undone due to costs and/or insufficient manpower.

As a volunteer you will make a direct, positive impact on the lives of the children of ICC. Consider, won't you, creating or joining a volunteer mission group and making a difference for "His Kids?"

It's Graduation Season

Beginning in June, our students at our various projects will begin graduating from a number of different education levels. First will be our kids from India, Mexico and Romania graduating from the elementary, high school and university levels in June.

In July our children in the Dominican Republic will be passing through commencement from both the elementary and high school programs.

In Central America, the beginning and end of each school year varies by country. Depending upon in which countries our projects reside, graduations begin in October and carry on through December where the children will be graduating from the elementary, high school and university levels.

A Christian education is a vital component of our ministry. We believe that each child should receive a complete education so

they can be best prepared to contribute to their culture in a positive manner.

Without your support many of our kids would not have the level of opportunity for education that they have at ICC. So, thank you for your invaluable support that allows us, through education, to provide our kids with the best chance of life-long success.

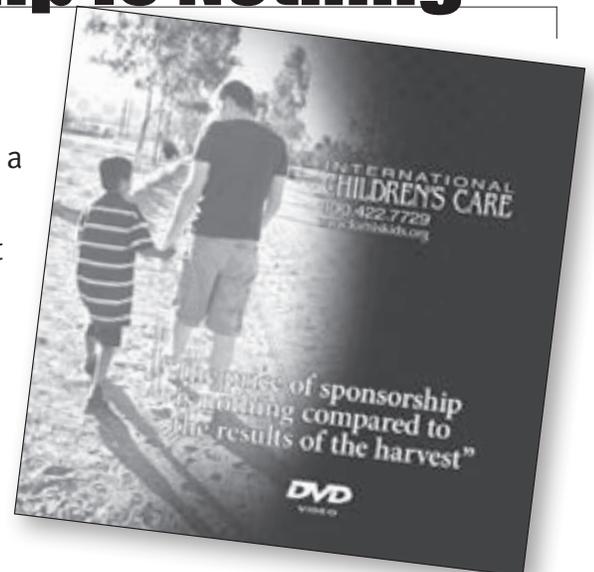


"The Price Of Sponsorship Is Nothing"

There's nothing better than hearing first-hand how those folks who support ICC are affected and influenced by their support of our children. You can now hear directly from a number of our sponsors about how their lives have changed since becoming a sponsor through ICC.

ICC's latest video is now available free for the asking. In this short film we hear from a number of our sponsors about the positive change in their lives and how their involvement with ICC has changed and even saved the lives of the children they sponsor.

To get your free copy of our most recent video, call ICC at (800) 422-7729 and ask for our sponsorship video. Or write to us at P.O. Box 820610, Vancouver, WA, 98682. Get your free copy today!



A Personal Note

New arrivals at Las Palmas

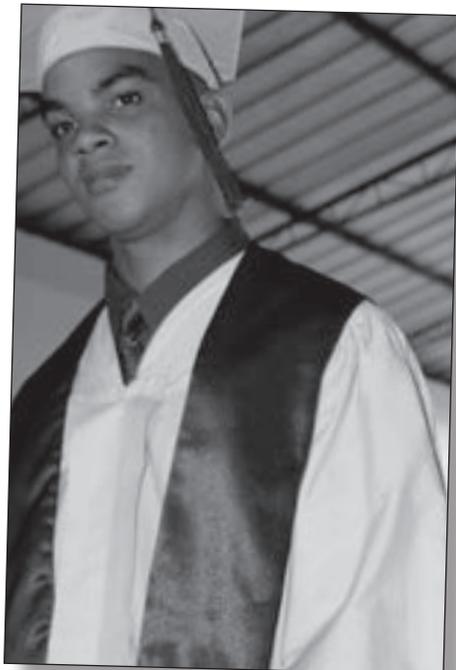
Organizations like International Children's Care are often referred to as "Faith-Based Organizations" due to their affiliations and the type of work they do. As I meditate about the way the Lord has led ICC throughout the years, I cannot help but realize that no other description fits ICC better than "Faith-Based." Every time a new child comes through our doors and we introduce that child to our family, that dear person becomes an integral member of our family. From that day forward that child becomes "our kid," and we his parents, not for a season, but for a lifetime. It's an unconditional and enduring promise we make. "When you wake up in the morning, I will be here for you..." That promise is made based on plain faith--faith that at the end of the day, we will have sufficient resources to provide for all the needs of that child.



Families

ICC doesn't have the latitude that other organizations may have to adjust the scope of their programs based on the funds they have received. We cannot go and look at our children and decide who we are going to help and who we are going to cut based on the funds we have received. When our budget fluctuates, our only resources are faith and prayer.

The past few years have been very critical to our programs. The cost of living has doubled and many times quadrupled in some of the countries where we serve. We have spent many hours in prayer during this time, pleading with the Lord for the very lives of our children. After much consideration we decided that in order to continue to provide for the children already under our care, we needed to restrict the number of new arrivals. That was a very painful decision, especially for our administrators in the field. They are the ones who have to give an answer to the needy and abandoned who come to their doors. However, the situation has been such that we could not continue to provide the basics for those already in the program if we allowed more in.



As children grown up and become independent, many project administrators have been asking us to allow them to take in new ones. Toward the end of last year we had the joy of welcoming a few new children into our homes in Guatemala and the Dominican Republic. You can't imagine the joy it brings to the ICC family to be able to open the doors to a sick and abandoned child, to wipe their tears and hold them tight. It is what ICC is all about.

Just a few weeks ago we received a progress report from our administrator in the Dominican Republic regarding the children they rescued toward the end of last year. There were three boys ages 8, 7, and 3. Their father had died a while back. The mother, not having any skills, tried to provide for them by hiring herself out as a house maid. The problem with working as a house maid is that in

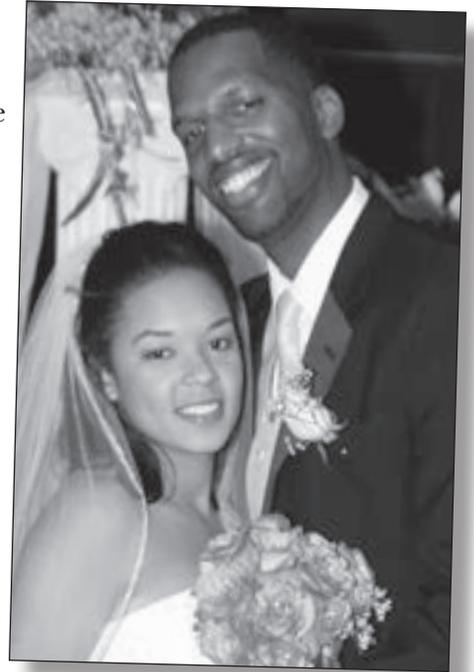
Graduations

many third world countries maids are regarded as 24 hour servants. They live in the home where they work, and obviously they cannot have children with them. This presented a problem for this mother. So she would go into the street and offer herself to anyone who would hire her, but without any skills, no one would hire her. In her desperation she resorted to selling pirated CDs and DVDs produced by a bootlegger, but in order to do this, she had to leave the children at home the whole day as she prowled the streets selling the merchandise. As you might imagine, the children soon became sick due to malnutrition and lack of care. The mother realized that unless something miraculous happened, her children would die. Somebody told her about the ICC children's village and encouraged her to look for help there.

Some children come to us because their parents had no regard for them. This mother however, loved her boys and tried everything she could think of to save them, but just couldn't make it happen. When they arrived at Las Palmas it was evident that they needed immediate help. They were dirty, sick and hungry. The first thing the administrator did was provide them with food, then proceeded to clean each of them up before taking them for a medical exam. The administrator tells us that the first days were very rough for the children. As is usually the case with children who have been victims of neglect or abandonment, they were suspicious of everyone. They rejected those who tried to give them love. They were not used to behaving and playing like normal children, and often resorted to violence to deal with situations they didn't like. Our staff was not surprised at all by the behavior of the children. They have been in this battlefield for many years and have dealt with this type of challenge many times. They continued to love and respect them and treat them as if they were their own. Soon the barriers began to break and the children began to allow them into their lives. Soon mutual hugs began to be exchanged, followed by "I love you" and "Thank you."

Our Las Palmas family in the Dominican Republic has reason to celebrate. They have saved the lives of three more children, three more children who sit around the table today, three more children who sit around the family worship circle before going to bed, three more children who join hands as they walk to church on Sabbath morning.

Children don't come through our doors by accident. Every one of them is a miracle and we praise our Lord for miracles. These special miracles are the result of the ICC family of donors and staff who combine their resources and skills to bring hope to the hopeless. We praise our God for these miracles and for you, our loving and generous supporters who help to make these miracles possible. We are very grateful for all you do to contribute to the love and care of "His kids."



Weddings

Joel Reyes

Director of Public Relations