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QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

A Publication of International Children's Care
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A Life Full of Music, Thanks to YOU!

Your prayers are needed so Misael can realize his dream.



Misael remembers his stay at Las Palmas as a time of happiness and growth. Thank you for giving him a place to grow physically, mentally, spiritually, and musically!

Misael arrived at Las Palmas in 2013. He was full of life and had a contagious smile. He recounts that when he arrived at Las Palmas, he was very happy for the opportunity to develop himself. He did not feel sad and overwhelmed at being without his biological family, as the many activities filled his time. **It's support from ICC family members like you that provided this for him.**

Misael completed his primary and secondary education, and at the same time he became inter-

ested in studying music. It was easy for him to learn to play the recorder. He then set about learning to play the transverse flute, the euphonium and the string bass. His musical ability has allowed him to participate in several concerts with the Las Palmas orchestra, the band, and also with the band of the Adventist University. Misael is a music lover and is very talented. He wants to improve his skills in playing several instruments. His great desire is to study music professionally.

With great effort and dedication, Misael graduated from secondary school with honors in July 2024. However, an unexpected obstacle stands in the way of Misael pursuing his dream to study music at university: his immigration status! Despite being born in the Dominican Republic, the fact that his parents were Haitian prevents him from accessing Dominican citizenship. He can't start university without it.

While he waits on the immigration process to unfold, Misael is working tirelessly on the Las Palmas farm to raise the money needed for the immigration doc-

uments. His passion for music drives him to keep going, despite the challenges he faces.

Misael's story is an example of the reality of many young Haitians living in the Dominican Republic. It is a story of hope and perseverance, but also of frustration and obstacles. Misael's dream of becoming a professional musician is on hold. He is confident that God will help him resolve this situation. He is a young Christian, and efforts are being made to help him in the process. We believe that God will provide an answer. **Please pray for Misael as he waits and works and continues to fill his life with music.**



Your prayers are appreciated as Misael continues to follow God's calling on his life despite the obstacles before him.

Project Spotlight – Las Palmas, Dominican Republic

The Impact of Your Support



Las Palmas had their first Week of Prayer for this school year. A student from Southern Adventist University, Felicia, came and spoke to the children about forgiveness.

Thanks to your support, Las Palmas Children's Village is a thriving campus filled with happy and energetic children and youth. Their lives give testimony to God's blessing and the impact of your support!

Week of Prayer Blesses the Las Palmas Children – Two are Baptized

In the month of November, the first Week of Prayer at the beginning of the school year takes place. The district pastor was working with a group of young missionaries who came from different Adventist universities to carry out an evangelism program. He assigned to Las Palmas a young lady named Felicia, who studies theology and psychology at Southern Adventist University. Felicia spoke to the students with great love and spirituality. The

topics were very powerful. She talked about forgiveness and how it hurts us to hold a grudge against people who have hurt us. We should forgive them, because Satan wants to destroy us by keeping that pain in our hearts. Only God can take that pain away. Felicia told several Bible stories of people who were hurt by others and how God helped them to forgive. This gave them the freedom and the strength to be able to start a new life. It was impactful for Las Palmas children, many of whom have endured deep wounds themselves.

Every day the students wrote their petitions to God and placed them in a little box. On the last day a lovely activity was done with the petitions. They were placed inside balloons filled with helium so that they would rise. As they were launched upwards,

they disappeared into the sky. While the students watched the balloons, they prayed asking God to take away all their sadness, lift it far from their hearts, and give them a fresh start every day. It was a very beautiful and meaningful activity for the children.

The children were blessed by Felicia's ministry to them. And as a result, two of the Las Palmas girls decided to be baptized!



Petitions to God were sent up in helium balloons as students prayed.

Making an ICC House a Home

Recently, a new set of house parents arrived at Las Palmas to take up the important role of mom and dad to a group of Las Palmas Children. They needed to occupy a home that hadn't been used for a while. Alas, when the door of the home was opened, it was evident that the home needed some

TLC. However, rather than have the maintenance staff do the work, the house mother remarked, "I want to help with it. That way it will feel like my home." She then busied herself in painting and ironing the curtains. It didn't take long for the house to become a home.

This is a tiny glimpse into the heart of an ICC house mother. It captures the desire to create a loving and safe environment – a home – for the children. Your support of ICC mothers like this is making a tremendous impact on the lives of orphan and vulnerable children they serve. Since you can't be there yourself, aren't you thankful there are house mothers who feel this way?

Holiday Festivities You Made Possible

Thanks to your contributions to the gift fund ICC children like those at Las Palmas can experience a joyous Christmas and New Year Holiday. You'll also be happy to know that several of ICC's grown children in the Dominican Republic are paying forward your support as they bless their younger siblings.

On Friday the 13th of December, these older children who had graduated and became independent came as "Magi of the East." They joined the current Las Palmas family in a musical concert praising God in the Las Palmas church. There were other special activities during the Sabbath hours and into the evening.

On Sunday morning, the children received gifts of toys brought by the "Magi of the East." This was a very special day for the children. And the grown Las Palmas children were delighted to be able to make their younger brothers and sisters happy. They call them "our little brothers and sisters that we love."

On Wednesday the 24th, each of the families prepared a beautiful and delicious dinner with many tasty dishes that their mothers prepared. They ate and enjoyed



Christmas was full of joy, gratitude, family, and food this year in Las Palmas. Thank you for making this possible!

themselves immensely. The celebrations were full of joy and gratitude for all the blessings that God has given to each of these children.

The children received many gifts and enjoyed a beautiful program and end-of-year activity on Wednesday the 31st. Again, they met at the church for a special program to welcome 2025. In the evening, the Las Palmas family prepared a bonfire and enjoyed hot chocolate with bread. One of the graduated brothers surprised the children with a wonderful fireworks display. The children loved seeing all the beautiful colors in the sky. They were very happy.

Samilin Lora, Las Palmas' administrator, reflected about the holiday by saying, "God touches many hearts so that happiness and smiles are never lacking on the faces of each and every one of the children at Las Palmas. We give many thanks to our loving Father God for touching so many hearts. And many thanks to those who are touched and, with their donations and gifts, bring back a smile and happiness to each child. May God bless all of you greatly."



Felicia with two Las Palmas children who decided to be baptized.



Two hearts were given to the Lord! Praise God! And thank you for making this possible!



Congo Children Urgently Need Your Help!

In the last few weeks, violent M23 rebel forces have taken over Goma in the most significant escalation of the ongoing conflict in the DR Congo since 2012. Tens of thousands have been displaced. Supply lines are disrupted. Refugees have sought refuge on Idjwi Island. Food and supplies are difficult to find. Costs have risen because of the scarcity. The future is uncertain for the children and staff at Patmos.



Will you help provide an extra emergency fund to buy food, medicine and other supplies for the children? Use the enclosed response coupon, call in your gift (360)-573-0429, or use this web link ForHisKids.org/donate or QR code to send a gift today. Thank you!

Young People Experience the Joy of Giving – Part 2

By Wendy Clark



Kalea Nielson, 13, organized a school-wide toy drive for ICC children as a class project. What a blessing for all involved!

Last month we told the story of a young person who decided to give her birthday money as a donation to ICC to help build a home for kids in the Congo. This month we are highlighting another young donor who cares about orphans.

Kalea Nielsen, 13, is a student leader at Skagit Adventist Academy. Over the last couple of years, she has experienced what it means to give through service to others in need.

“I have always loved helping people and when a service project came up in my technology class last year, it was the perfect opportunity to help the orphanages my great-grandmother started, International Children's Care.”

When her teacher gave the project assignment in 2023, Kalea proposed doing a toy drive for the orphans, and the class agreed. Next, they placed large boxes in the school and at each church the

classmates attended. The toy drive was announced, and toys soon filled the boxes. After a couple of weeks, the boxes were brought to ICC to be sent to the orphans in the Dominican Republic.

Last fall, Kalea's teacher said they would repeat the toy drive since they had enjoyed it so much the previous year. Athletic toys, books in Spanish, and various practical items like bed sheets were collected and donated to ICC to be shipped to the orphans.

“I am very thankful that I was able to help a cause close to my heart, and I hope it makes a difference in the orphanages that we helped.”

Kalea, her classmates and teachers were blessed by the opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of orphans far away. ICC children will be blessed by receiving the toys and needed items.

See next month's Que Pasa for Part 3 of this story.



Kalea's teacher decided to repeat the toy drive another year. On behalf of the children, thank you all for your generosity!

A Story About Stocks

Jen and Jason have always been dedicated to supporting ICC orphans. After years of hard work, saving, and wise investments, they were blessed with financial success and wanted to share their abundance with those in need.

A few years ago, they invested in stocks recommended by their advisor, and the value grew significantly. When their advisor suggested selling some to lock in gains, they realized it would trigger a substantial Capital Gains Tax. They hoped to use the proceeds for home renovations, but the tax burden was a concern.

They then learned they could donate a portion of their appreciated stocks directly to charity, avoiding taxes. Even better, the charity could sell the stocks without paying taxes. Jen and Jason chose to donate stocks to ICC, reducing their tax burden while making a greater impact on vulnerable children.

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) Story

Aaron, who works for a company offering a Donor Advised Fund, created a "Giving Account" where he donates income and appreciated stocks. By doing so, he avoids taxes and can direct the funds to his favorite charities. Aaron sent stocks to ICC, knowing they would help provide essential care for orphans, making a larger impact than cash donations.

For more information about donating stock or DAF assets, contact Wendy at 1-800-422-7729.