



QUÉ PASA

What's Happening

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P.O. Box 820610 Vancouver, WA 98682-0013

(360) 573-0429 • (800) 422-7729
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Following Our Father – Step by Step

Dahiana Story, Las Palmas Children's Village



Your support made it possible for Dahiana to go from falling two years behind in grade school, to now earning top marks as a nursing student. Thank you for transforming the lives of orphaned and abandoned children!

What a privilege it is for a child to be supported by healthy and loving parents. That kind of care should be an expectation of life. Yet, as you — with a heart for orphaned and abandoned children — know, that is not always the case.

Many children are faced with seemingly endless barriers. They lack the basic support and love needed to thrive. Thankfully, people like you care enough to make a difference. Your support transforms lives! Just take a look at the story of Dahiana Eusebio from the Dominican Republic.

At thirteen years old, setbacks defined Dahiana's life trajectory. With an ailing mother and an absent father, she did not receive adequate care.

At her hometown, a church leader had taken an interest in supporting Dahiana and her three sisters. He taught them about Jesus. So, although she lacked a father's protection, she trusted in her Heavenly Father's protection.

Dahiana arrived at Las Palmas Children's Village on August 21, 2016. She placed in 5th grade, two years behind the other 13-year-old children. Yet, she kept determination and hope in her heart.

Thanks to the support of a house family, which you helped to provide, Dahiana began to improve in studies. She even requested the opportunity to take on double the classload, hoping to "catch up" with other students her age.

"When she expressed her immense desire to take two courses in one year, the principal gave some advice," said Samilin Wilimas, Las Palmas Director.

"It is better to do things step by step. Time would pass, and she would achieve all her dreams and ideals with God's help. It was better not to rush, because God has everything under His absolute control."

In addition, educational laws no longer allowed students to take two courses in one year. Dahiana came to understand that, with God's help, she would achieve her goals *in His time*.

"Dahiana is a determined and hard-working young woman," said Samilin. "Always willing to do things the right way."

Now, Dahiana studies to become a nurse at Universidad Adventista Dominicana.

"I feel very grateful to God for this opportunity," said Dahiana. "And above all, I feel happy to be part of this family... Everyone who wants to take advantage of this opportunity can do so if they set their mind to it. And to my sponsors, God will reward you for all the good you have done for me and for all those who are in need of this great opportunity. Thank you!"

Project Spotlight – Las Palmas Children's Village

Dominican Republic

The Impact of Your Support

Editor's Note: Celebration is in the air at Las Palmas Children's Village. While special events are not a necessity of life, they do have an important impact. They give kids a reason to dream, encourage confidence, and demonstrate how much the children are valued. Considering that many of these children have experienced poverty before arriving at Las Palmas, this is very impactful! Special events and celebrations go beyond baseline care, which is what makes the support you provide so special. Thank you! And life at Las Palmas consists of more than special celebrations, as you'll see in the following update from Samilin Williams, Las Palmas director.

Creative workshops, a Pathfinder event, and even a quinceañera stand out as campus highlights.

"God has chosen you to bring hope to kids who, thanks to your generous help, can now write a different story in their lives," says Samilin. "A story full of beautiful experiences, with the greatest gift of all: knowing Jesus. Thank you so much."

Creative Workshops

From March 21 to April 1, Las Palmas enjoyed a reading and

writing workshop with Professor Rita. The children worked on a special project: writing a short book. This activity inspired several children to realize that they could become writers in the future!

In addition, the reading program experienced a boost. Thanks to the generosity of people like you, many books were purchased for the Las Palmas classrooms and library.

Music is another favorite activity at Las Palmas. The campus received a renowned musician for a workshop, all the way from Michigan. Students of all levels received specialized classes that improved their music education, thanks to a sponsorship from Harmonic World Music.

Pathfinder Camporee and Graduation

At the end of April, seventeen Las Palmas young people participated in the national Pathfinder Camporee.

"It was a wonderful experience for each one of them," said Samilin. "We are very grateful for all the support that made it possible for the kids to attend this great activity."

The school year ended in June. At that time, four young people graduated from high school. With such an eventful school year, the students did not know that the best was yet to come.

Quinceañera

In July, Las Palmas celebrated the 15th birthdays of Orianny Eusebio and Charlyn Mateo. A quinceañera is more than just a birthday party. It is a special right of passage, and a chance to dedicate the girls to God as they transition into adulthood.

Many girls look forward to this celebration for years in advance. Yet, Orianny and Charlyn did not know if they would be able to celebrate.

"In April, when Orianny turned 15, she was very happy," said Samilin. "But, she still did not have a date for her dedication and celebration. Months passed, and she began to think that her dream would not come true."

Charlyn also turned 15 in April. The girls continued to work hard, displaying maturity and thankfulness, despite the fact that their dream of a quinceañera seemed more and more unlikely. But, praise God, your donations made it possible for the girls to celebrate! The dedication took place on July 27.

Charlyn shares that she is very grateful to all her sponsors for everything they have done for her and will continue to do as she moves forward in life. She intends to be a young woman of great value, and to study medicine and music at university. Orianny loves



Each member of the Las Palmas family takes part in the celebration of a quinceañera. This banquet and party turned into the highlight of the summer. Thank you for helping to provide celebration and life to the children!

Project Spotlight – Las Palmas Children's Village Dominican Republic

The Impact of Your Support

working with young children. She teaches Bible stories at Sabbath School and helps with the Adventurer club. She is also interested in music and dressmaking.

“I am grateful to God for allowing me to arrive at the Hogar and for the education I receive every day,” says Orianny. “Thank you to my sponsors for all the effort they made to make my dream come true!”

Thank you for providing such wonderful opportunities for the children. Your support is the spark that ignites hope for a bright future. Thank you!

To enjoy a special video message from Samilin Williams, Director of Las Palmas, scan the QR code or find it at:

<https://vimeo.com/1110339374>



Faces are blurred to protect the identities of the children.

Your heartfelt support goes beyond base-line care. As a result, Charlyn Mateo (left) and Orianny Eusebio (right) realized their dream of celebrating a quinceañera. More than just a birthday party, this celebration is a cultural right of passage into womanhood. It's also a chance to dedicate the lives of these young women to God. Thank you for making that possible!

You Can Make a Difference

Dahiana Eusebio – *continued from page 1*



Dahiana arrived at Las Palmas Children's Village at age thirteen, as pictured left. Despite the difficulties she faced at such a young age, Dahiana came to Las Palmas with an eagerness to learn. Many orphaned and abandoned children share this eagerness, but lack the support needed to succeed in life. You can help to provide the support that a child needs! Your gift, today, can change a life – for good. Thank you for making a difference!

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Memorials

In Memory of Ginny Allen

Richard & Sharon Fleck
Carolyn & Richard Karlstrom
John & Darlene Kelley
Jannelle & Thomas Noller
Roy & Christina Price
Cynthia Stubbs

In Memory of Shari Booth – Birthday

Marsha Booth

In Memory of Bernadine Carr

Clifford Carr

In Memory of Donald Downey

Carl G. & Katherine Swenson

In Memory of Helen Downey

Carl G. & Katherine Swenson

In Memory of Thomas Downey

Carl G. & Katherine Swenson

In Memory of Dr. Ghanim Elias

Clare Kwan

In Memory of Larry Feters

Charlie Feters

In Memory of Danny Harrom

Richard & Charleen Gerlic

In Memory of Jill Heisler

Theodore & Carleen Flaiz

In Memory of Darlene Knapp

Constance Carman

In Memory of Eugene & Esther Krause

James & Karen Snyder

In Memory of Rosemary Heck Lewis

Lou & Marion Michaels

In Memory of Stephanie Marsh

Don & Vickie Marsh

In Memory of Michael

Jan Truttman

In Memory of Bruce Moyer

Janet Cowan

In Memory of Shirel Ogle

Fred & Berniece Smith

In Memory of Greg Parker

Fred & Berniece Smith

In Memory of Lois Pegel

LaVerne Rudolf

In Memory of Ron & Judy Regester

Stephen & Irytta Regester

In Memory of Chaplain Wilfred Reyna

Gloria Reyna

In Memory of Roy's Daddy

Fred & Berniece Smith

In Memory of Dr. Edgar Shiroma

Bonnie Creitz

In Memory of Brian Smith

Fred & Berniece Smith

In Memory of Dick Smith

Fred & Berniece Smith

In Memory of Midge Stenger

LaVerne Rudolf

In Memory of Carl Swenson

Carl G. & Katherine Swenson

In Memory of Nellie Swenson

Carl G. & Katherine Swenson

In Memory of Juan Carlos Way – Birthday

Debra & Michael Case

In Honor of Yousuf Asghar

Ambreen Asghar

In Honor of Mike & Sharon Harrell

Karyn Harrell

In Honor of LaRenne Lacey – 80th Birthday

Doris Christianson
Stephen & Christine Chung
Andrea & George Rohm

In Honor of Nathalie

Nancy & Dale Wolcott

In Honor of Dedra Ottley's Birthday

Jackie Adiele
Samoa Green
Diane Hall
Sonia Williams

In Honor of Kevin Elvis Tobosaru

John & Merry Walker

**In Honor of Don Wells – Birthday
(from wife, JoAnn Wells)**

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