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QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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Hidden Wounds

**TATTERED CLOTHING
LITTLE BODIES NEEDING A BATH
EVIDENCE OF MALNUTRITION
EYES THAT SHOW FEAR AND EMIT TEARS**

These are outward appearances of orphaned, abandoned and vulnerable children when they first arrive at an ICC children's village. Immediately our staff provide for their obvious physical needs: the children are bathed and dressed in clean clothes, food is offered, and the children are given abundant assurance that they are in a safe place where they will be happy.

However, even with all these efforts to provide for the apparent needs of the children, underneath, lying hidden perhaps for months and even years, are wounds and scars from a past life that in many cases was filled with neglect, abuse and fear. As a child grows and develops within the children's village, these wounds and scars begin to manifest themselves in attitudes and behaviors that require intervention.

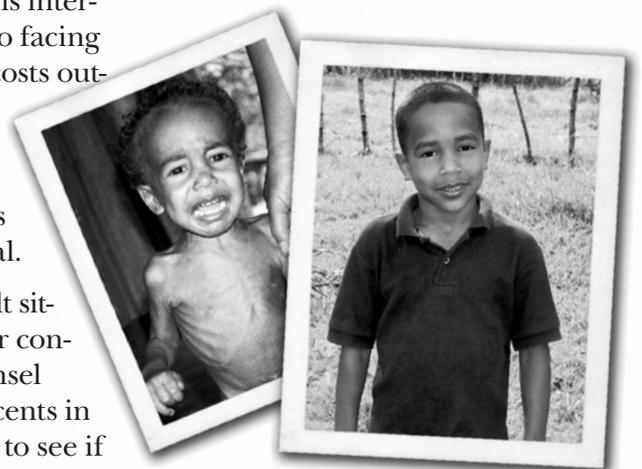
At the Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican

Republic, several of our children have undergone psychological evaluations and are now receiving psychotherapy and pharmacological treatment. Critical to the success of such intervention for these children is correct follow-up to this process and that involves ensuring that the children continue the medical treatment without interruption and without missing the established appointments as part of their therapy.

At a time when there is a great need at the project for this intervention, the project is also facing economic challenges as costs outpace ICC's ability to provide for all the needs at the project. The medications and general process are expensive yet essential.

Being placed in a difficult situation, our administrator contacted the National Counsel for Children and Adolescents in the Dominican Republic to see if

they would offer assistance. Here are the results, according to our administrator. "After satisfying all the requirements of that institution and a long waiting period, we obtained, by the grace of God, a satisfactory response from them in the sense that they will commit to providing monthly the needed medications for the treatment of the boys and girls in our program." What a blessing this is and a cost savings to ICC of nearly \$600 each month.



[Treating mind and body is key.](#)

Christmas Gift Fund

Christmas is always a time of excitement for our children in the ICC villages. To see the children's eyes wide open with the excitement of learning all about the Christmas season is always such an amazing blessing for those who are lucky enough to witness it. We do our best here at ICC to make sure that we have a gift for every child and a special Christmas meal for the families to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Those of us in the office at ICC are concerned about this coming Christmas. With all the difficulties that we have faced this past year, the Christmas Gift Fund has been something that very few people have been able to help with. We have a desperate need for funds to provide a real Christmas to all of our children. If this is something that you would be open to helping with, please mark a special donation "Christmas Gift Fund," and it will be appreciated so much. You will be providing a blessed Christmas to the children of ICC that they couldn't have without you.



ONE MORE TIME

It just wasn't big enough. We filled it till there was no room to spare, but there were still so many needs remaining for the Guatemala children's village. So we're going to do it once again and try to cram the stuff that was left behind into another very large metal box and ship it to Guatemala.



Even though not all the items we needed to send were included in the shipment, everything we did send was deeply appreciated and put to use. In some cases they were used within minutes of being unloaded from the container. E.g., the two refrigerators were a huge blessing and no time was wasted in getting them installed in the homes

Even with all that we did send in the last container, there are many needs still to be met at Los Pinos. A few examples are good quality

used sofas, a brush hog with PTO, mechanics hand tools for auto, truck and farm repair and even more refrigerators. As always, financial contributions to defray direct costs are appreciated.

So we've started the process of shipping a second container to Los Pinos in January, 2011. This means that once again we need your generous contributions so we can meet the needs of our Los Pinos Children's Village. Please contact Doug Congleton here at ICC HQ to let him how you can help. Here's our phone number: 800.422.7729. Thanks for all you do for "His Kids!"

Aiding Neighbors In Need

On Friday, September 24th, 2010, tropical storm Matthew blew in from the Caribbean to make landfall on the eastern coasts of Honduras and Nicaragua headed for Belize and Guatemala.

Our campus was spared but sadly the people in the region surrounding our Fuente de Vida Children's Village in Nicaragua were not so fortunate. Many of the villages in the area were left isolated without food, drinking water or communication.

Félix Almendarez, our administrator in Nicaragua, and the families of Fuente de Vida have responded to this disaster by taking what drinking water and household items they could spare. They have also given what milk and crops they could spare from our farm and dairy.

It is this kind of selfless response to neighbors in need that we want the children to see and from which we hope they will learn to adopt the same values.

A Personal Note

Purposeful Purses

The soft music of the flute soothed my mind as I lay on the table at Marie's. Marie is a gifted massage therapist who I go to often in an effort to sooth my tight aching muscles. I, like too many others, have a disease that is causing my body to not work any longer.

As I lay on the table I talked to Marie about my love of serving God. More specifically, I told Marie how serving as a volunteer for International Children's Care has been so rewarding for me. Being able to see in person and talk with the orphan and needy children in their home countries is very vivid in my mind. Hearing their own life stories and seeing how each of them is doing now really pushes me to help even more.

As Marie continued to work each of my muscles, I continued thinking. "Marie," I said, "I want to come up with an idea to raise money for ICC. ICC is experiencing the difficult world economy and needs additional support."

As we brainstormed, we talked of many ideas. I had been praying for the Lord to give me just the right idea. What about that credit card commercial: "What's in your wallet?" Or from a women's perspective, "What's in your purse?"

Women love to look at and buy purses. "Why don't we ask the women we know to donate a purse? We will pick an evening and invite all the women over and have a small auction."

Marie said: "Why don't we put a gift in each purse? I'll donate a massage. How about haircuts, pedicures, lotions etc.?"

As the ideas started coming together, the excitement escalated. I love how the Lord works. Lori, a good friend of mine who has gone on many ICC trips, joined in the excitement. "We can have the auction at my home if you want."

I said, "Thanks, Lori!" Lori helped a lot, as did many others.

As the weeks passed closing in on the auction date, a lot happened. A lady at one store gave us three purses. But I would not be giving a full account if I did not talk about the negatives. There were those who said, "This won't work. The economy is terrible."

In my daily prayer time I talked to God about these negatives. I said, "Lord this is Your fund raiser. Give me the words and attitude to tackle these issues."

The gifts we received – Wow! It was amazing! "I'll be there, I'm coming!" I heard from almost everyone. "What a great idea!" Another said.

My husband was buying me a bottle of perfume at Macy's. After making the purchase, the sales lady asked him if he wanted a gift. She said they had some promotional gifts. He said, "Sure!"

She said, "How about a purse!" He had not even told her about the fund raiser yet.

With the wheat come the thistles. The afternoon of the big event we were preparing the food at Lori's house – fruit, vegetables, etc., and



Janet in Romania



guess what? The garbage disposal backed up, and then the drain pipe came undone, and it all drained on the kitchen, dining and family room floors! What should we do? Pray! That's what we did. We got the mess cleaned up just as the first ladies began arriving!

Prior to starting, I told the group the personal story of one of the children I had met while on an ICC trip in Romania. Lori told of one of the children she had met in Cambodia. We told the ladies how we love these children and how they have changed our lives. AND we told them how these children needed their support too.

Then we started to call out: "Twenty dollars, thirty dollars, who will give forty dollars!" Each purse also contained a special gift. Those who said this wouldn't work should have seen this! I donated a purse I bought in Australia for \$15. It sold for \$110!

As I think back to the aches and pains that day on the message table at Marie's, I thank God for answering my prayer. Well, you are probably wondering how the auction turned out. Forty-five ladies now know more about ICC, and we raised just over \$3,000! Praise God! Romans 8:28.

By Janet Edgren, ICC Board Member

Note: If you would like to organize a "Purse Auction" in your town, contact Doug Congleton at (800) 422-7729 for complete instructions.

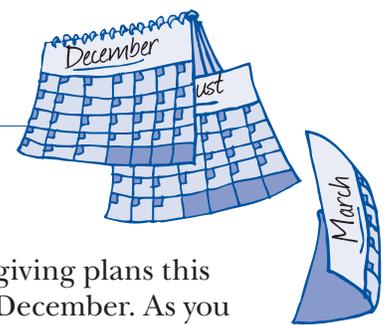
Year End Giving

Each one of us has our ups and our downs in life as we travel our own journey each day. Well, ICC is no different. Our projects have their ups and downs as well, and they have their ebbs and flows of financial support throughout the year. The idea is that by the end of the year, it will all break even and our children will continue to be able to live their lives with the hope of a future because of all the many caring people in our ICC Family.

Well, this year has been an increasingly difficult one for the finances of ICC and your ICC Family has had to do without in

many cases. We understand that this has been a difficult time in our economy, but we also realize that our children still need a safe haven in which to grow.

Are you aware that about 20% of the yearly income needed to provide for the children of ICC is realized during the month of December? That is an amazing figure! It is also something that is desperately needed since the other months in the year fall short for project needs. Because of this fact, we are asking you to prayerfully consider sending in a "special" offering to the children of ICC in your year-end



giving plans this December. As you can see, December is a "make or break" month for our projects and they count on this month above all others to help with their needs. So please, pray with us that this Christmas season our ICC family will answer His call for a special giving of thanks to provide for His kids as we enter the most important financial month of this year.

God bless each one!