



QUE PASA

WHAT'S HAPPENING

A Publication of International Children's Care
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GUATEMALA UPDATE

The unsung heroes of ICC are those folks who have dedicated their lives to directly caring for our kids. These are the people who serve as houseparents, administrators, teachers and all the staff positions at our children's villages around the world. They often work in difficult situations and conditions. But it's their resourcefulness and tenacity that really makes our children's programs a success.

Charged with caring for children who have so very often come from terribly difficult situations, the staff members at each of our projects faithfully provide unsurpassed care for our kids. Houseparents provide a loving home, teachers provide an exceptional education and the staff and administrators keep it all functioning.

We have one couple who have been houseparents at Los Pinos for twenty years. They are now on their third 'generation' of



Recently Rick and Sharon (center) visited Los Pinos with Kent Greve and Karen Wecker (right). They visited our administrative team, Joel and Sonia Carpio, and Anabela Alejos.



children. Their home was chosen as the one in which the most recent arrivals at Los Pinos have been placed. This steadfast couple has been serving at ICC longer than all but a few of us in the ICC family.

Our children's village in Guatemala—our first and longest running project—is a good example of the outstanding efforts on behalf of our kids. Each of our projects strives—as best it can—to be a self-sustaining enterprise. This helps to reduce direct operating costs and can actually provide an income for the project.

There are a number of ways that our Los Pinos Children's Village is working towards locally providing staple items for the children. One is the campus farm. In spite of rather poor soil, the crops supply fresh vegetables for the homes and the surplus can be sold at market.

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GUATEMALA UPDATE - Continued

We have a growing project at Los Pinos that is providing eggs for the campus with the surplus being sold at the local markets again providing local income for our project. The chickens have been so successful that an expansion of the industry is in the works.

Thanks to two of our own ICC kids, our Los Pinos dairy is growing steadily. Currently our dairy herd comprises thirty cows which supply both milk and cheese for the homes. The manager of our dairy is one of our own kids. He grew up at our Las Palmas Children's Village in the Dominican Republic and married one of our girls from Los Pinos. She is also working at Los Pinos as our staff psychologist.

We are also in the process of establishing a bakery (as we have at other projects) at Los Pinos. Our bakery's production is at this time limited to what is necessary for the homes at Los Pinos and our boarding academy ICAP. We are considering several options that will allow us to increase production so the bakery can become a viable regional business.

Without the selfless perseverance of our houseparents, administrators and staff at our children's villages, our projects and the very success of ICC would not be possible. Your contributions to ICC make it feasible for the wonderful people who care for our children to engage in their mission. Thanks for all you do for "His Kids!"



Our egg & dairy industry



Super Mosquito Nets Needed in Congo

Malaria is becoming a major problem on our Congo campus since the mosquito nets which we purchased quite a few years ago have worn out. Twelve children have recently suffered from malaria including one young man who was in the hospital for two weeks. Désiré, our project director, is requesting emergency intervention to fight against a malaria epidemic. He calculates that 59 pieces of super mosquito netting are needed to help protect the children. A concerned donor has already contributed to this project. An additional sum of \$600 will help to satisfy this current need.

If you choose to help, please send your contribution marked "Congo Netting" to ICC HQ's P.O. Box 820610, Vancouver, WA. 98662-0013. If you would like to donate by credit card you can reach us at 800.422.7729 and be sure to mention that your contribution is for the Congo nets. Our children in Congo appreciate any help you can provide for them. And as always, thanks for all you do for "His Kids."

A Personal Note

Dear ICC Family,

A beautiful thing about the ministry of ICC is that even though our focus is on offering a new life to orphaned and abandoned children, there is a tremendous windfall of blessings that reach beyond the children we seek to serve. As we work to help our children rebuild their broken lives and reclaim their sense of dignity, we encourage them to reach out to their communities. Our goal is not only to save the children from death and starvation, but to mold them into useful and productive members of the society they will one day return to. Our administrators are always looking for opportunities to involve the children in service projects within their local communities. Some time ago we shared with you how our Pathfinder Club from our children's village in El Salvador, went out into a camp for families left homeless by a tropical storm and fed several hundred people. It was very significant for the children to be able to share of their blessings with others in dire need.



[Pathfinder outreach](#)

A few weeks ago, we received a letter from Felix Almendarez, our administrator in Nicaragua. Felix has found a very unique way of reaching out to the local community. I would like to share with you part of Felix's letter.

Children come to our children's village for various sad reasons. Sometimes their parents are put in prison for hurting them. That is the case for a group of children we have. By judicial decree we are required to take them to see their mother at the local women's prison, where she is serving a 20 year sentence. The prison administrators are very good people and they allow the children to see their mother in the office of the prison warden, so they don't have to see the interior of the prison and be exposed to such a horrific environment.

In this country, like in many other Latin-American nations, prisons are over-populated. Many of them don't even offer the minimum conditions for life. This is a prison with a capacity for 600 inmates but at this time it houses about 1,000.

On one of the visits, we learned how the inmates were looking for opportunities to do something to generate funds to provide themselves with basic things such as toothpaste, soap, and shampoo. [The prison does not provide these luxuries to prisoners.] Since the prison has a clay baking oven, they thought that perhaps they could make some simple pastries to sell during visitation day. The main question now was, how would they get the materials for baking? We remembered at that moment the Biblical passage from Hebrews 13:3 that tells us about remembering those in prison as if we were together with them, and decided to take it upon ourselves to find a way to help them. It fills us with joy to share with you today that with our Lord's help, with the help of a few ICC friends, and with a little effort on our part, we were able to deliver to the prison a significant donation of baking supplies that will allow the prisoners to start their project.



[Baking materials](#)

We would like to also visit the men's prison and help them get a similar project started. We found out that one of the prisoners at the men's prison is a baker and he would like to start a project with the other inmates making corn bread. This year the Lord blessed us with a very good corn harvest and we would be happy to share some of it with them. This year we have also been sharing some of our cheese with the inmates of both prisons, as the prison diet is very deficient.

We are so happy that the Lord has opened doors for our children to be able to give to the less fortunate. Oh how we wait for that day when the Lord will call each one of our children by name and say, "Come, you who are blessed of my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared

for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me." Matt. 25: 34-36.



The Flecks, Prison Administration, Felix & Angelica

The Bible tells us in Ecclesiastes 11:1 to "Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days." It is rewarding to see how the gift goes on, and it encourages us to continue doing what we do with the children. Many times, especially when funds are tight like they are now, we wonder if we need to re-evaluate our programs and take a "more economic" approach to raising our children. And yes, it would be cheaper to eliminate houses, and parents, and put children in large dorms and feed them through a cafeteria system. It would be much cheaper if we sent children away once they turn 18, but could we do that honestly believing we have completed the task delegated to us? NO!

We are very grateful to all of you for being the fuel that energizes our program. Thank you for allowing ICC to see children not as temporary strangers in a shelter program, but as sons and daughters in a productive community. There is nothing more empowering to a child than to feel that he or she is strong enough to give a hand to the weak and needy. It builds in them respect, and self-esteem, and teaches them love, compassion, and dignity; all those vital elements that abandonment takes away from an individual. It makes us very happy to know that our children's villages are not only little cities of refuge for the hopeless, the orphaned and the abandoned, but also bright lights that burn in the darkness telling others about the love of Jesus by doing what Jesus would; feeding the hungry, healing the sick, loving the unloved, and yes visiting those who are in prison.

May the Lord bless you.

Joel Reyes

Director of Public Relations