



Asociación Hogar de Vida Para La Niñez

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2010 VOLUME 6 No. 4

Financial Donations Administered by Partnering Ministry:

Children of Promise International: Hogar de Vida Costa Rica
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PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

- ✝ for God's choice of children to live here.
- ✝ for a faith missionary for the position of remedial teacher.
- ✝ for Tim, Dena and Maria Stromstad to finish up in the USA and return to Hogar with joy and peace.
- ✝ for God's wisdom and perfect plan for the coming year 2011 and the future of His ministry - Hogar de Vida.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT



The team at Hogar de Vida sends their love to all of our faithful newsletter readers, and to all of those whose desire to bless the ministry has translated into giving and supporting us this year.

You have enabled us to fulfill God's call to love the Costa Rican children and provide a home away from home, until their circumstances change. Join in prayer for the precious little ones He places in our care.

We wish you a Merry Christmas, and a great New Year!

For last minute gifts, check us out on the web: www.homesoflife.org.

FRUIT FROM THE FIELD

- ✝ God gave five of "our" kids a new family this year: Jose Francisco, Anyendhal, Juan Pablo, Maria del Mar and Britany,
- ✝ This year the Lord brought several Godly women to work as Tias: Rosa, Lis, Evelyn, and Emileth.
- ✝ The many concerned friends that heeded the challenge to "secure the wall" need to know that the project is alive and well, and will continue in 2011.

UNITED -o- REUNITED

Today, after we took the Christmas picture up at House No. 1, we found out that Britany would leave us to go with her adoptive parents to her new home. Mommy "G" and Daddy "M" had painted a room pink in their house and the theme they chose was Disney's Princesses. When they saw the photo of her for the first time, in her princess outfit, they both cried. Then when they came to Hogar de Vida to meet her, and were told that she lives in House No. 1, "The House of the Princesses" (as it is commonly known around here) they both cried again. God has had his hand in choosing them for Britany and in choosing Britany for them. She will be their first child. She is a delightful 2 ½ year old that loves to sing. This is part of the bittersweet experience of raising some of these children from babyhood, caring for them, helping them learn to walk, teaching them to pray and then releasing them to them to their new situations. God answers prayer and wants these children to be in families. We wish Britany and her new family the very best, and hope they'll come back to visit us in the future.



Perhaps you know that we usually have thirty-five children at any given time. This year, all told, we had a total of fifty-three children come and go in our three homes. Twelve of the children went back to their biological families and five of our children went to adoptive families within

Costa Rica. We finish out the year of 2010 with thirty-two children in our care. We'll be "growing" again soon!

CASA UNO ¿ QUE PASA ?

Casa Uno, formally called “the upstairs house” is filled to capacity with girls that are growing into young ladies and the one lone baby boy, Emanuel, who is now two years old, is holding his own. (The king of the castle).

Some of the princesses, Priscila, Hannia, Tania, Esmeralda, Rachel and Anghela spent some very special moments with our remedial teacher, Lucrecia, who gained their love and trust in a very short time. With pencil and paper in hand they thought they were having fun, but were really learning necessary skills.

Mar Darling and Brenda are busy young ladies staking their claim in the kitchen area in preschool. Gypsy and Naidelyn keep Mami Olga amused with their questions. “Why” is a word she hears often!

Yacksure, a ten month old baby girl is now crawling. To see her in the “rancho” on her hands and knees making determined strides forward reminds us all that long pants are now in order. In the photo, Britany is in Papi Enrique’s arms – for the last time today. Kerry, the blonde girl, is tía Vanessa’s daughter. They all send their love and best wishes for a great Christmas and an even better New Year!



CASA DOS ¿ QUE PASA ?

Casa Dos is still resounding with the sound of little feet. Sometimes the chorus of little ones demanding their own way fills the air between House 2 and the office where I work. At other times, especially at night, the sound of children in their devotional hour reminds us of the real reason we are here. Deiler, Jacsel and Alex are the older boys now and keep trying to prove it. Boy twins, Abdul and Vahit exert themselves and try hard to be big boys but are still our babies at one and a half years old. Coni now talks some and is no longer the littlest one because Zeidy has taken “over” at 6 months of age and she is getting ready to crawl, at least in her crib. Wilber, our 6 month old baby boy smiles his best smiles and is a very happy baby. Jose Armando has settled in now and has made friends with the other kids in the house. Carlos calls from the window, “Nenna” which means Elena (or Helen of course!).



CASA TRES ¿ QUE PASA ?

Casa Tres has just said goodbye to Jasser and Jeremy, two boys who added to the lively household that kept the tia’s Noemy, Rosa and Evelyn jumping. Tatiana and Axel are not as “bouncy” as before – growing older has something to do with it.



Julio tops the list as the oldest child at Hogar, now a 15 year old teenager, is still sweet tempered and has learned to communicate well. Kimberly comes in second at 11 years old. She is learning to cook and we have great expectations of her. Natalie follows in age and her 9 years spell serious and lovable to the rest of us. Three siblings, Katherin, Juan and Cristopher are good kids and even though they’ve been with us less than a year it feels like they truly belong. Ana, Noemy’s daughter, is holding Cristopher in the photo. She is a bright student and along with several of our kids, graduated this year to the next grade level. Alina is our youngest child and is the epitome of “all things sugar and spice and everything nice”. She has the luxury of several caregivers and doesn’t suffer from a lack of attention from everyone that comes close. The older children are still excited about Christmas and the possibility of a new toy.

FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

This year has been a good one. The Lord provided several new team members to fill the large hole that the Stromstad family created by leaving for a year’s sabbatical rest.

With a “gringo” at the head of Maintenance we built new offices and a conference room, made changes to some of the houses, spruced up the school building and attacked a septic tank problem. Thanks Grant! We’ll miss you and Michele and your four blonde “Tico’s”. (Their kids now speak great Spanish!)

Cherie undertook the P.R. end of things by greeting teams and visitors and doing the sponsorship and newsletter tasks. She also ran the Costa Rican version of Headstart which has been important to all the children that she loves so much.

Our two “gringa” nurses, Cindy and Christy have met the paperwork challenges, done all the clinic and hospital visits and have gone the “extra mile” by facing every obstacle in a godly manner.

Each “auntie” that spends time here daily caring for the children is an absolute God-send. This ministry of loving and raising other people’s kids, who quickly become “our kids” can only be achieved because of Christ’s love.

And my part as director (I’m from New Zealand and am not a “gringa”) has been to orchestrate and appreciate each person shining in their calling and this year I’ve seen God have His way in us all. It has been a GREAT year.

Thanks for your prayers and your giving. This ministry does not take YOU for granted. Thank you indeed, Helen