



Asociación Hogar de Vida Para La Niñez

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

- ✠ for God's perfect plan in the lives of each of the children and staff.
- ✠ for the many details involved in the expansion of ministry leadership positions for 2010.
- ✠ for additional monthly supporters for faith missionaries: Cherie, Merla, Barb, Olga, Noemy.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

Searching out a hunch that a Christian children's home existed on the outskirts of Atenas, late one morning faith missionary **Cherie McCullah**

wandered through the front gate of Hogar de Vida. Amazed and awed at the sight of such a beautiful home, Cherie very quickly came to realize that it was not just a hunch that had directed her, but it was God who had led her to Hogar de Vida.

For the previous year Cherie had served in a children's home in poverty stricken Nicaragua. With the national government

pushing to close all children's home in Nicaragua, Cherie felt the Lord calling her to leave Nicaragua and start a children's home in Costa Rica.

Burning in her heart was the passion and vision to open a permanent home for children who had unfortunately run out of options to have their own adoptive family. Knowing nothing of Tim and Dena's longing desire to have a permanent home for older kids, Cherie shared her vision with the Hogar de Vida leadership team. What for years had seemed to Tim and Dena to be just a dream on the back burner was being spelled out in detail as Cherie shared her heart and desire.

With kindred spirits, Cherie and the leadership team knew that working together to birth the permanent home was definitely in the Lord's plan. With Hogar de Vida's respected reputation to build on and Cherie's deep passion, the legal process of initiating a children's home would be less complicated if they worked together as a united effort.

Cherie is working the rest of this year in each of the three Hogar de Vida homes, learning the Costa Rican ropes and the culture. She is also becoming acquainted with the Costa Rican Child Protection officials and social workers under whose supervision and licensure the permanent home will operate.

As a faith missionary, Cherie receives no salary from Hogar de Vida but depends solely on the Lord to provide through faithful supporters. To become one of Cherie's supporters, email info@homesoflife.org.



FRUIT FROM THE FIELD

- ✠ God brought Cherie with the vision & passion for a permanent home for the older kids.
- ✠ Hearts were touched and lives changed for eternity in team members from all 3 teams.
- ✠ Grant (with his wife Michelle and children) will serve as property manager in 2010.

UNITED -o- REUNITED

Hogar de Vida provides a Christ centered temporary home for "at-risk" children during which time the Costa Rican child protection services investigates the reasons necessitating the removal of the children from their home. Following the investigation and depending on the findings, the children are returned to their family, placed with extended family or made available for adoption into a new family.

When precious, little Mia (pictured with pigtails and a huge smile, sitting on her daddy's lap) first met her new family she was rather hesitant about these four strangers who wanted to love and hug on her. By nature Mia is shy and rather reserved, especially around people she does not know. But God was the One who had chosen her new family and He knew exactly the family Mia needed! God chose Mia's biological aunt, uncle and two cousins to be her family.

God also opened Mia's heart allowing her to quickly bond with her new mommy, daddy and sisters. The transformation in Mia was nothing short of a miracle. In just a few visits the new confident, secure Mia was laughing and enjoying being with her family; Mia was ready to go home! Mia's parents are mature Christians and are raising their daughters to love Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior.



Thank you Lord for this wonderful blessing and miracle for Mia.

CASA UNO ¿ QUE PASA ?

The big girls in Casa Uno are always excited when Sunday rolls around because that means it's church day. They love going to church and



participating in worship with singing, dancing and lots of joy. After worship they are off to Sunday School with great zeal and enthusiasm. The girls love listening to their favorite Bible stories and often are one step ahead in relating the stories.

During the week, the seven oldest, Anghela, Rachel, Priscila, Hannia, Tania, Esmeralda and Ana, attend school in the mornings, leaving only the babies and toddlers to keep the tias busy. Naidelyn and Gypsy think they are big girls too and want to go to school with the others. Shelsy, Emmanuel and Brittany are crawling and pulling themselves up to a standing position making them quite the busy trio. And Mar Darling and Brenda are into everything their fast, little hands can reach.

When Melina left to study at the university, Kimberly came on board as a much needed weekend tia. Olga, Coni, Rosa and Noemy are all involved in a weekly Bible Study examining the fruits of the Holy Spirit.

Sara came from Minnesota for two months as a live-in tia to help with the kids and the many household chores. Maggie and Maria continue to volunteer on a regular basis every week.

CASA DOS ¿ QUE PASA ?

With Marielos out on medical leave for three months, missionary Cherie with her calm, serene manner stepped in as the head of the household. All the tias, Yorlenny, Nancy, Denia and Veronica are enjoying the women staff's Bible Study on the fruits of the spirit, finding the study practical and the information very pertinent to every day life.

In Kinder, Genesis and Dorian are learning to write their names and their numbers. Kevin in the Bigger class at preschool is thrilled that he also is learning to write his name, just like the big kids. Jacsael and Juan Pablo enjoy playing trucks in their class at preschool. When the order of the day is outside play, the superheroes don their plastic garbage bag capes, and save the world from who knows what all! Roxanna and Alexis are moving machines often seen escaping down the sidewalk with a tia in close pursuit. Armando is running trying to keep up!!



Good-byes and blessings were said to Mia as she left with her new family. A short time later four little ones arrived. First to join the family was nine month old Jose, then three month old Coni. A few days later 2 1/2 year old Nazareth

and her one year old brother Deiler arrived filling the house to capacity with kids, laughter, a few minor spats, lots of love and activity.

Catalina returned for her third time as a live in tia for six weeks offering much needed energy and help to the tias and kids.

CASA TRES ¿ QUE PASA ?



Tia Merla is putting her University training in Christian Education to good use by presenting a weekly devotion geared specifically at the children's level. Lourdes and Lindsey continue to pour out their patience and love on this busy household of kids.

Kimberly, Natalie and Jousephine aced their school exams this term and Michelle is working really hard to do

some catch up learning. She is quite the trooper. Julio is as always enjoying school, working on his sums in math. Tatiana is still not quite sure what all this studying and homework is about in Kinder, but sure loves the social aspect. Axel and Jhurgin enjoy going to school with Barbi in the mornings and are both quite inquisitive about all of life. Sweet Dayanna left to go live with her mom and two month old Anyendall came, delighting all with his piercing brown eyes. Xinia followed a month later making the house joyfully full.

Elena volunteers three days a week helping in which ever house needs her loving presence. Missionary Cindy continues to be a great blessing maintaining health records for the kids and running kids to medical appointments.

PROJECT PROGRESS

Two teams from Minnesota and one from Omaha came bearing gifts and hours of hard work as they meticulously painted the cement tables and benches, untiringly hauled wheelbarrows of wet cement, picked up oozing, rotting mangos, installed ceiling fans in all the rooms in the cabins and exhausted the kids and them selves by rambunctiously playing every afternoon until supertime.



Lester came from Nicaragua for a few months to earn money for his family, working his normal schedule of nonstop, hard hours. It's a blessing to have him here.

Finances continue to come in for the wall and security system. The urgent need for the wall was once again made apparent when one of the guard dogs was found poisoned by an unknown source.

Construction on the wall will begin soon, installing section by section as finances come in.

To give towards this important project email info@homesoflife.org