

For His Children

A Christian ministry to homeless children in Ecuador

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Greetings to our friends from For His Children in Quito, Ecuador.

We are caring for 42 children as we write this letter; a newborn waits in the hospital to come to FHC tomorrow, and there are four in foster care with local families. Child protection programs in other provinces and hospitals continue to call on FHC because they trust our care. *For the first time in the history of FHC, we have reached our maximum capacity.* Our Vaughn (infant) Home is caring for 17 babies, all under the age of six months. The Snyder (toddler) Home is full with 16 children, the Faith House is caring for five girls, and in addition provides kitchen and dining space for four boys who sleep in our therapy center-converted-into-a-bedroom. We do not plan to significantly increase the size of FHC in Quito in the future as we do not want to risk losing the personal touch and individualized attention that has always characterized the ministry.

But we do believe God is calling us to grow and expand to another province: to establish a children's program in Latacunga, the capital of the province of Cotopaxi. Its population of 50,000, plus many thousands more in this rural province, are among the most underserved and poverty-affected people in the country. (In the map below, follow the red line south of Quito, the nation's capital, to Latacunga, a two-hour drive.) There are no homes or programs for abandoned babies and very young children in the province.

The children's court in Latacunga has sent six children to FHC-Quito since January of this year. In the photo above taken in July, the Court's social worker and a nurse at the Latacunga Hospital present Estefanía Nicole, one of FHC's newest additions.



Latacunga police recently shared the tragic story of a baby abandoned in a cardboard box on the side



of the highway in July. Before the baby could be rescued, marauding dogs had taken the baby's life. The police asked when FHC was going to open a safe haven for these children in Latacunga. The need for a children's home is very serious.

Gratefully recognizing that our supporters have faithfully given to this ministry during the 14 years since it was started, we sense God urging us to share with you the plans for FHC's growth and to ask you to pray and give as you can to support this new ministry.

We are already 1/10 of the way toward our goal of \$50,000 for the first year, thanks to the generosity of a friend in Sonora, California. As soon as we receive the rest of the funding, we can rent a home and begin to care for babies and young children ages newborn

to three years. We plan to operate the same program as FHC-Quito: working to prevent abandonment by supporting families at risk, and caring for children who have been abandoned and abused.



In the photo at left, Clark inspects a home we would like to rent in Latacunga. Its four bedrooms and huge playroom, plus ½ acre-size property are perfect for the ministry.

We have interviewed and started training staff for the new home: a child psychologist and a social worker who live in Latacunga. Under our direction,

these women would be the key people in the ministry in Latacunga. They are enthusiastic, motivated, and are spending time in Quito observing how the ministry operates here.

We would like to ask you: Will you pray for the FHC home in Latacunga? Will you make a commitment in addition to your usual giving to support this new outreach of FHC? We sense that this new work will start before the end of 2004. We are excited and expectant to see God move through our friends and supporters to plant the first seeds of this new ministry for His children. *But we can't proceed until we have funding commitments.* Please let us know if you can help as we grow to love and serve the children of the province of Cotopaxi.

Thank you so very much for your continued prayer and support.

Sincerely,

Clark and Melinda Vaughn
Directors



At right, Melinda enjoys a moment with five children born in Latacunga and cared for at FHC. These children were sent by the Juvenile Court and Hospital of Latacunga. When FHC-Latacunga begins receiving children, all five can return to their "home town", which will make more space available for children at FHC-Quito. L-R: Galo, Estefanía, Mario, Erika Paola, and María de los Ángeles in front.