

News from

For His Children

A Christian ministry to children in Ecuador

August – September 2007

Financial News - let's get the bad news over with first: FHC's financial support has decreased dramatically since April 2007.



Juan José, 2, is bummed – his favorite recreational activity, the FHC therapy pool, has been drained. Let's hope it's only for a few months!

In our last newsletter we wrote:

The level of donations has dropped considerably since April 1st, and FHC is in a serious financial deficit. We have tightened our belts and are economizing as much as possible... we are operating in the "RED"... As you are able, we pray that you will continue your generous support of this ministry. For those who are supporters of FHC in prayer only, we ask that you consider financial support as well. Thank you for your help during this crisis.

Since we sent out our last newsletter, friends and donors have responded. We are greatly encouraged. Each day brings an e-mail from an interested and concerned supporter, offering to help.

In early September Clark and Melinda met with FHC's staff and caregivers to slash spending.

Among the services and costs affected are:

- physical and language therapy are reduced to once a month;
- FHC's pre-school teacher has been laid off;
- we've drained the therapy pool;
- all salaries are cut 15%, and a 30% salary cut for FHC's Directors; and
- all non-urgent medical checkups and exams have been suspended.

Now the great news: locally, we have received encouraging support. Our pre-school teacher, when told of her layoff, offered to plan a fund-raising event! We've applied for financial aid at the schools that our nine children will be attending, and we're happy to report that the response is positive. One school has awarded scholarships to our children for three months! Our language therapist said she will continue to give therapy to the children every Tuesday at no charge. A local church is helping to supply a portion of our weekly groceries. Several physicians have agreed to give us "free" appointments for a few months. Our Tías are recruiting sponsors among friends and family to reduce the impact of their salary cuts as well as helping to increase local donations.

Nevertheless, we are still in a precarious situation. We pray our supporters will continue to keep FHC in prayer and give as God leads.

It has been difficult to cut spending, knowing that it affects the *quantity* of services at FHC, but we are doing what we can so as to not seriously affect the *quality* of care that makes FHC a very special place for children. We anticipate that our reduced spending combined with the faithful support of our donors will bring some relief to these bare-bone measures in the next three to six months.

We encourage supporters to consider making a regular giving commitment to FHC which will enable us to better predict our annual budget. Thank you again for your prayers, your financial support and encouragement.

Summertime brought many visitors. Among them were very special friends who came all the way from northern Denmark: Ole Jensen, Jane Wieben, their daughters Anna and Sara (adopted from FHC in 1992), and son Jonas (adopted from the government's children's home "María Campi de Yoder"), and Thomas Petersen and Susan Nielsen, and sons Victor (adopted from FHC in 1992) and Carl Emil.

The "Danish Invasion", as we affectionately called them, arrived in late July and spent five weeks traveling through Ecuador, reacquainting themselves with their children's birth country. One afternoon the Jensen-Wieben family came to FHC for tea with invited special guest Mrs. María Tixicuro, the very first Tía at FHC 17 years ago. María continues to work at FHC and she remembered the twins, Anna and Sara (front row in photo at right). We had a beautiful afternoon sharing stories and life experiences.



On August 24, the families accompanied Melinda to visit the Maternity Hospital where the children were born. It had been arranged for FHC to receive a newborn baby girl (at left) that same day during the visit to the hospital. We all experienced a rollercoaster of emotions that Friday afternoon touring the hospital and then carrying tiny **Julia Alicia** (in photo above in Victor's arms) to FHC. For the young Ecuadorian-Danes it was love at first sight. They were enchanted by the new baby and named her "Julia Alicia". The new addition to FHC's family is alert, beautiful and gaining weight daily. Julia Alicia's birth mother, 26, was diagnosed with serious health issues when she was in the hospital, nevertheless she gave a false name and address and left within a few hours of giving birth.

The Danish Invasion left Ecuador in early September. We miss them a lot, but know our friendship will continue via e-mail!

Five new families were made this summer: At FHC-Quito, Juan Carlos and Verónica (at right) met their new daughter **Esther**, 3, in early August. Juan Carlos is a commercial consultant and Verónica is a real estate lawyer in Quito. They think their daughter is straight from heaven. We agree!



Four children from FHC-Latacunga were adopted in August: **Dulce María, Cristian, Adán and Joselito.**



Dulce María

(at left) arrived as a newborn in May, 2005. Now two years old, she charmed her new parents, Eduardo and Rocío Elizabeth (he's a commercial engineer and she is a dentist). Dulce was known at FHC for being pretty shy most of the time, but her parents had a special magic and within a few days Dulce was ready to leave FHC and travel to her new home in Quito.

Cristian, (at right) age 2 ½, was adopted by Ms. Claudia Victoria. She was born in Colombia and is an attorney/manager of an insurance company in Quito. Cristian was more than ready to leave FHC. He clicked with his mother like they had known each other all their lives. Cristian's and Dulce Maria's parents were at FHC-Latacunga during the same week, which enabled a friendship to start up between the two families.



Adán Joaquin (at left) came to FHC as an infant in July 2005. He met his forever family in late August. Anne is Belgian and has worked as an elementary school teacher in Quito for ten years. Adán now has two sisters, 4 and 6, also adopted from Ecuador. Anne met Adán on a Friday, and the “chemistry” was so good between them that by Sunday, he was ready to leave FHC and travel to his new home in Quito.

We experienced a “first” during Adán’s adoption – receiving not one but *two* telephone calls from the wife of the president of Ecuador, Mrs. Anne Malherbe de Correa. Mrs. Correa (also Belgian) is a teacher-colleague of Anne’s at a private school in Quito. Anne was so anxious to meet Adán, that she asked her friend, the wife of President Rafael Correa, to make a few calls to FHC to

make sure everything was proceeding according to schedule.

Joselito was also adopted from FHC-Latacunga in August. His new parents, Antonio and Franca Mónaco-Babini, (photo at right) traveled all the way from Fano, Italy to meet their new son. Franca and Antonio were very patient while Joselito, 2, worked hard to make the emotional separation from his beloved Tías to his caring and attentive Mom and Dad. Antonio, Franca and Joselito are now enjoying a few weeks in Quito until the adoption paperwork is completed. The new family hopes to return to Italy by late September.



Congratulations and best wishes to these five new families. We are blessed to have had a small part in forming futures for these beautiful children.



New faces at FHC-Quito: Carlitos, (at left) 2 ½, was sent to FHC by Social Services at the children’s hospital. He is healthy and has adjusted well to life at FHC in the Harlow House.

At FHC-Latacunga: Mayurlin (photo below left) was born in June 2007, and admitted in late July. Her mother is 27 and unable to financially care for her daughter. Mayurlin was very tiny and malnourished when she was admitted to FHC. Now a little over a month later, it’s hard to believe she’s the same child. Even the Latacunga Court Social Worker was amazed when she saw Mayurlin recently. She paid FHC a very nice compliment when she said, “*THIS* is why I send children to FHC. *This* is why I trust the care FHC gives these children.”



Angélica Patricia, (at right) 2 ½, was admitted to FHC-Latacunga in early August. Neighbors called the police when Angélica was left alone in her mother’s house for seven hours. Angélica’s mother is expecting another child very soon and discrepancies in the facts of this case are causing the judge to examine it carefully. Angélica has adapted very well to life at FHC. She seems fearful and hesitant to approach her mother the few times she has visited Angélica at FHC. The photo at right shows a transformed little girl from the malnourished and neglected child that was admitted to FHC in early August. **Thank you for remembering all of these children in your prayers.**



Two teams blessed FHC this summer: “Team Vanderlaan” traveled all the way from Ontario, Canada, led by Clara Vanderlaan (in photo below, Clara is holding a red hat). The group enjoyed two weeks at FHC and were diligent caregivers in all three houses at FHC, especially at the Faith House, where our older girls and children with special needs really enjoyed the love and attention they received. Clara and her husband, Tony, were missionaries for many years in Ecuador, and adopted their 8 year old daughter, Alicia, from FHC in 2001. Below left, Alicia had great fun testing all the playground equipment at FHC and playing with the kids. Thank you, Clara and team!



Thank you also to the **Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Red Bluff, California** (below) for their recent visit to FHC. Pastor Steve Igarta (front row, third from left) and a team of 23 blessed FHC with their hard work, prayers, donations of clothing and toys, and time spent with the children. They even fit in a four-day trip to the Amazon basin where they connected with a local Quichua church. And in case you’ve never read the fine print at the end of our newsletters, the VCFRB has printed and bulk-mailed FHC’s newsletter for seven years.



Again, **thank you** .

Sometimes the words seem so easy to say – but they express what we feel in our hearts. We pause many times a day to give thanks for the encouragement that you, our friends and supporters, give to this ministry.

May God bless you.

**Clark and Melinda Vaughn
Directors**

OJO! (as we say in Spanish). Its literal translation is “eye”, but in this context it means “Heads up! Pay attention!” We would like to reduce the cost of printing this newsletter. If you are receiving a hardcopy but would agree to receive it electronically, please e-mail us so we can make the change in our records. We want to be as environmentally and economically conscientious as possible. Thank you!

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Thank you to the Vineyard Christian Fellowship of Red Bluff, CA for printing and mailing this newsletter for seven years! Please advise FHC of address changes. If you are able to receive this newsletter via e-mail, it will reduce the cost of printing and mailing. Thank you!