



# For His Children E-news November-December 2010

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*Happy Holidays from Clark, Melinda and everyone at FHC-Quito and Latacunga. This is the first edition of our E-news—it contains the latest happenings at FHC-Quito and Latacunga:*

*First – our sad news: **Carlos Aguayo**, 10, of FHC-Quito, passed away last week. Carlos had a fever and was admitted to the children’s hospital on Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>. His condition deteriorated during the night and he died the next morning of multi-organ failure.*



Carlos was seven when he was welcomed to FHC in 2007. Although he was confined to a wheelchair, unable to speak or move voluntarily, we watched his eyes and his body language and learned to understand and communicate with him. We miss Carlos’ gentle, sweet spirit. We can imagine him being welcomed to heaven where his body is now healed. Please pray for comfort for his Tías, our staff and the children. *At left: doing physical therapy together in November are Juan Carlos and Carlitos.*

*News that makes us smile: **Jessica and Fabian** (10, 6) met their adoptive family in*

mid-October (photo at right). They are scheduled to return to Italy in mid-December. Jessica and Fabian have been waiting for a stable, permanent family situation since 2004!



There have been a few “bumps” in the process of the children’s adaptation (and despite the similarities between Spanish and Italian, it’s been frustrating for Jessica to communicate with her parents). Jessica has been missing the Tías at FHC, too. FHC’s psychologist, Pilar Guzman stepped in to help and will be supporting the family for the duration of their stay in Ecuador. At home in Milan, dad Lorenzo is an electrician and mom Daniela is a secretary. Fabian has responded well to Lorenzo and is enjoying a father-son relationship – at last! In our next newsletter we’ll report on the latest with the family and their departure to Italy.

*“Those boys” in the Vaughn Infant home? They’re finally meeting their forever families: **Alfredo**, 1 ½, met his parents, Vladimir and Yolanda of Quito (in photo at left) on December 7<sup>th</sup>. On the 13<sup>th</sup>, there was a party at FHC where everyone ate cake and drank Coca-cola and sent the family off with hugs and prayers. Alfredo is their first child.*



Congratulations to Miriam and Edison of Ambato. They are the new parents of **Mateo**, 2. They met for the first time on December 14<sup>th</sup>. Mateo is their first child.

Little **Mónica**, 1 ½, said goodbye to her Tías in Latacunga on December 8th. Her new parents, Esthela and Edgar of Quito, have two other children, 7 and 6 years old. Mónica is adapting well to her new family. **Pablito** was united with his forever family on October 19th. Edwin and Mercedes live in south Quito. At left below, Mateo and his family; at right are Pablito and his mom and dad.



*Just like "Casa Vaughn" and "Casa Harlow" CPSN-Latacunga now has a name: in honor of Brent and Joyce Bourdeau who have faithfully worked alongside FHC for 17+ years, we have named CPSN Latacunga the "Bourdeau Home" or "Casa Bourdeau". We hope this conveys a small part of the gratitude we feel for Brent and Joyce and their support of FHC.*

*Changes – and we're really happy about 'em! Yet again, we have new Child Sponsorship coordinators. Alejandra resigned from the position in November due to health problems. So meet the two dedicated women who have enthusiastically taken over: **Linda Sigler** and **Jennifer Schneider**.*

That's Linda in the photo below (during her visit to Ecuador this past summer). Listen to why she is involved with FHC: *"About 13 years ago, God impressed on my heart that I was to visit Ecuador. Our church, the Red Bluff Vineyard, sends a mission team to FHC every year and I have gone on almost every trip. I have wanted to get more involved with FHC because I so strongly believe in the ministry it provides. FHC is the real deal: showing God's love in practical ways like providing love, food, shelter, medical and caring for their emotional needs so that these children can know that God created them, loves and values them. FHC isn't just a 'children's home'. FHC is planting seeds in the lives of every one of the children that pass through its doors. I was adopted as a young child, so FHC is especially meaningful to me.*



*I live in Northern California, am a Registered Dental Hygienist, and married to Jerry who is retired from the US Postal Service. We have 3 grown boys. I love to read, spend time with family and my three pets that have special needs. During much of my free time I work on*

*fund raising events at our church for FHC and missions. So being involved in the Child Sponsorship Program comes as a natural progression to my commitment to FHC."*

Jennifer (in photo with new baby Viviana) writes: *"I am from Long Island, NY. After graduating Gordon College in 2007 with a degree in elementary education and Spanish, I taught 5<sup>th</sup> grade for two years before coming to Ecuador. I first heard of FHC through my church. I*



visited in March 2009 and decided I wanted to come back as a volunteer. I returned in July'09 for one year and then I returned for another year of volunteer service in September 2010. God has called me here to Ecuador and specifically to FHC. (I'm living on-site at FHC.) I am excited to be a part of the ministry in new ways. I love this quote from Sen. David Vitter: 'I continue to believe that if children are given the necessary tools to succeed, they will succeed beyond their wildest dreams!'. I see daily evidence of how sponsors help FHC give children the necessary tools they need to succeed and I'm honored to be working with the Child Sponsorship Program."

Don't forget – if you're looking for a creative, thoughtful "keeps on giving" gift for Christmas, consider a Child Sponsorship! It's a flexible gift – for the length of time you indicate, for the monthly amount you can contribute. We have beautiful gift-acknowledgement cards ready to send to you via mail or email, or directly to the recipient you designate, for the gift of a child sponsorship made in their name. Contact us right away! [sponsorship@forhischildren-ecuador.org](mailto:sponsorship@forhischildren-ecuador.org).

There are new faces in the Vaughn Infant home: **Viviana** was born in mid-October and arrived at FHC-Quito at just 12 days old. She came from the northern province of Carchi. She was found in the doorway of a house, and was taken to the local hospital. Viviana is healthy and doing well, and who wouldn't with Tía María Tixicuro's loving attention? (at right).

**Jennifer** (below) is now two months old. She was born at the government maternity hospital in mid-October and admitted November 17<sup>th</sup>. A maternal grandmother has been located, but is unable to care for her as she already has two grandchildren she is raising. Jennifer's mother is struggling with substance abuse



issues and hopes to receive treatment at a rehabilitation center close to FHC. Jennifer is beautiful and healthy – and enjoying being pampered at the Vaughn House. And if YOU were looking down in her crib at this sweet little face, don't your arms just ACHE to pick her up and cuddle her?



**Edgar** (below) arrived in December at just 8 days old. His mother is 13, and brought the baby to FHC as she knew our psychologist, Pilar. The young mother is receiving counseling from Pilar, and hopefully ... goodness, is it impossible to think that a 13 year old girl could be a parent to a newborn? ANYWAY, our very capable and compassionate staff is at work in this case. Please pray with us for this precious little one and his mother.

Christmas parties are on the FHC calendar for December. Thanks to the coordination of our staff, the collaboration of friends, visitors, volunteers, local businesses and churches, and the participation of the children in skits, choirs and decorating the homes, there are going to be celebrations at FHC-Latacunga (Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>) and Quito (22<sup>nd</sup>). We wish you all could join us!

*Wrapping it up:* In late December, our FHC staff in Ecuador will meet to evaluate what we've done in 2010 and the progress made towards our Strategic Goals (we shared them with you in our May Newsletter). In preparation for the meeting, our



staff compiled some interesting facts about our FHC **Ecuador operations** in 2010: Here's a just a small selection from their report:

**Adoptions** - 22 total: 14 at FHC-Quito, 8 at FHC-Latacunga (oops, "Casa Bourdeau"!)

**New admittances:** 10 total: 5 Latacunga, 5 Quito.

Look at how so many people in Ecuador are pitching in and supporting this ministry:

FHC held **33 "orientation" meetings** in Quito for visitors and new volunteers in which we shared our mission, vision – the how and why we do what we do. Throughout the year, **75 visitors** passed through our doors (and we only counted those who stayed long enough to feed and burp a baby!) We provided community service opportunities for **46 local university students** at FHC-Quito. **Fourteen mission teams** from the U.S. and Canada visited FHC in 2010. And thanks to FHC's "chief of pediatrics", Alfredo Naranjo, the children benefited by two week rotations all year long of **13 pediatric residents**.

And it wasn't all work and no play: the children enjoyed an outing to national parks, malls, movies, historical sites and more at least once a month. For the first time, we had a summer vacation exchange between the Quito and Latacunga children. And we started dancing on Saturday mornings, thanks to Mrs. Amparo, who takes us through all sorts of rhythms, from Latin to modern, folk dance to hip hop!

And when we HAD to work (☺), we accomplished a lot: Nine workshops for our caregivers were presented by our professional staff covering such topics as: medication administration to children with special needs, grieving the death of a child, sexuality in children with special needs, setting limits and developing responsibility in children, psychological and emotional needs of children with special needs, infant massage, early infant stimulation, neurological development in the child with normal needs, and workplace organization and procedures. Numerous productive staff meetings, interdisciplinary meetings (all the professionals involved in the care of our children) were held, in addition to FHC's leading the meetings of a newly formed organization involving other children's programs in Quito and surrounding areas.

We started a class for our children with special needs at FHC to give them specialized attention and follow their progress more closely. Our preschool is going strong in its fifth year. Full scholarships were awarded our school-aged children at Casa Bourdeau-Latacunga (Carlos Ayovi and Alejandra Mina), and Casa Bourdeau now has a preschool operating, thanks to the organization of our staff and the encouragement of a local university.

There is much more we could report – but most impressive is that our Quito and Latacunga staff determined that **80% of the goals** they established last Spring for 2010 have been completed. And a lot of great things happened that weren't included in our goals, but they just happened! That's God – in all of it.

Thanks to teamwork – YOUR prayers and financial support, our visitors, volunteers and mission teams together with our Quito and Latacunga staff's hard work and dedication.

*Our hope is that you will take time* this holiday season to appreciate and give thanks for the Gift that was given to us on that first Christmas night. All of us at FHC wish YOU a very happy holiday season! We give thanks for you, our partners in this ministry, and your encouragement this past year and always.

**To make a contribution to FHC:** FHC P.O. Box 1095, Conifer, CO 80433

[jerry@forhischildren-ecuador.org](mailto:jerry@forhischildren-ecuador.org) or to make an e-donation, go to [www.forhischildren-ecuador.org](http://www.forhischildren-ecuador.org) and click on "how we are supported".

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