

For His Children Connection

Ministering to children in Ecuador in partnership with Corporación Para Sus Niños (CPSN)

A Monthly Newsletter

September 2011

From Melinda, FHC's Director

I searched Google for a moving lead-in quotation for the story you'll read below. I couldn't decide on the right category: Determination? Perseverance? Attitude? Or maybe it should be Courage... Discipline... or Effort? Since it involves all of those, maybe the best word to describe it is **inspirational**. It will motivate you to tackle your own personal "mountain," whatever or wherever that may be...

Bill Hutchings, of Windham, NH, has visited FHC twice: the first time in 2009 with a mission team from his church. When he returned to the States, he was scheduled to ride in a series of bicycle hill climbs in the Eastern US to raise money for FHC. During the final weeks of training, he was hit by a car. As strong and fit as a human being may be, we are no match for a moving vehicle. Bill's injuries were extensive, involving his neck and spine. When Clark and I visited him and his family last fall, he told us about his long rehabilitation. While he didn't mention the word "pain" much, we could read between the lines.

Fast forward to Summer 2011. Bill and his family visited FHC for the second time as part of an 11-day mission team with Windham Presbyterian Church. (Emily, Bill's daughter, spent seven weeks volunteering at FHC this past summer.)

After returning home from Ecuador in early August, Bill sent us an amazing announcement: "Over the next 10 days, I am bicycle racing two of the highest peaks in the Northeast on successive weekends, beginning with Mt. Washington, followed by the Race to the Top of Vermont." Specifically: Mt. Washington is a gain of 4727 vertical ft. to the 6288 ft. summit. The race is 7.6 mi. long, and is known as "The Toughest Hill climb in the World TM", with an average grade of 12%, some extended sections of 18%, and the last 100 yards have a 22% grade to the finish. The following week, Bill would ride up Mt. Mansfield: 2550 vertical ft. gained over 4.3 mi. to the 4395 ft. summit.



He did it! He made it to the top of both mountains. What inspired him as he pedaled was For His Children. He had solicited co-workers, friends and family to sponsor his rides to raise awareness and financial support for the ministry of FHC. While the hill climbs had their own fundraising purposes, Bill said: "FHC is a far more deserving cause. I can't say enough good things about the organization and the positive work they do in Ecuador, where severely handicapped children who have been abandoned have few positive options."



Bill Hutchings racing to the top of Vermont, "Mt. Mansfield."

Out of 600 who registered for the race up Mt. Washington, 488 crossed the finish line; Bill finished 162nd. He was 27th of 91 riders in his age group. His time was 1:27, with the last finishers coming in at 3+ hrs. The Race to the top of Vermont (moved up a day due to hurricane Irene) saw 104 riders completing the race. Bill finished 36th.

This is an amazing physical and mental achievement in itself. It stands out even more when you consider that the two years prior to these races involved healing and recovering from a major accident, and then going beyond rehabilitation to train for a challenging athletic event.

When I asked Bill to succinctly sum up the experience, he quoted two verses from Proverbs:

**"In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord directs his steps."
"Do not withhold good from those who deserve it, when it is in your power to act."**

It's time to turn off my computer for the day, and I'm going to get on my bike and head out for a ride. There are no mountains here in the FL panhandle, but as I pedal, I'll be thinking of Bill. His story inspires me, and I hope it motivates you, no matter what the "hill" or "mountain" may be before you. Or maybe you have a goal or a dream that seems out of reach. Take a deep breath, and be inspired! Thank you, Bill, and FHC thanks you sincerely, too.



*Osvaldo
Benavides*

In August, with open arms, FHC welcomed little Osvaldo Benavides, now one month old. A local family found him, kept him warm and fed, called their priest and then the police. And that's how Osvaldo arrived at FHC. People often ask who names the children - Osvaldo was the patient police officer who held this

beautiful little one while our social worker filled out paperwork. The last name 'Benavides' is that of our preschool teacher, Lorena. Investigations are ongoing and so far no information has been discovered about his birth family. Please pray for our newest addition to FHC.

Celebrating an Adoption

Last month, Anthony (FHC-Latacunga), became the cherished son of Ileana Cruz, of Philadelphia, PA. Our staff lovingly and patiently prepared Anthony to meet his new mom. FHC's Psychologist Washington Rojas (in photo below with Anthony and Ileana) talked with Anthony



about his family and new home while they looked at photos. When Anthony and Ileana finally met, it was emotional for everyone. There were hugs and tears of emotion as Anthony presented Ileana with flowers and a card he had made. Mom and son played, chatted, interacted, and in a short while Anthony was introducing his Mom to the Tías and staff. After a few visits together, Anthony was ready to say goodbye to everyone at FHC and stay with Ileana in Quito while the adoption paperwork was completed. Saying goodbye was bittersweet... Even though



*Ileana and
Anthony*

the initial separation was hard, nothing matches the joy of having a forever family. Congratulations to Ileana and Anthony, and we hope they will send us news and lots of photos!

Love letter to FHC: Frequently visitors, volunteers and even employees will put into words what the FHC experience means to them. Mrs. Mike Hutchings (Bill's wife) was part of the Windham Presbyterian Church team that visited FHC this past summer. Mike later wrote us these encouraging words:...

"The first thing I want to share is the overall sense of adoration we all felt as we worked with the kids. It is safe to say that God is hearing a lot of prayers for those little children - and probably almost as many for the Tías (caregivers)! I have taken away from this experience what an amazing place FHC is, and what two people can do to meet a need when they dedicate their lives to it. The children are at home there, the Tías at both locations are so good at what they do, and kind, and we felt welcomed. Every night people on our team were full of stories from the day. I think we were blown away by what God can do when people give their lives to His

service--FHC is amazing. We were truly inspired."

Thank you for your letter, Mike. We appreciate your encouragement. We believe God is present at FHC and He creates those moments that forever change our lives. Thank you to all of the churches, teams, volunteers and visitors who have visited FHC and allowed God to touch your lives through the ministry of FHC.

Speaking of Teams...Eight energetic members of Glenkirk Presbyterian Church in Glendora, CA (photos below) spent

10 days at FHC in early August. The team was hosted by [Extreme Response](#).

The Glenkirk group traveled to FHC-Latacunga and also visited other ministries in Quito. Team co-planner, John Wiedmann recently wrote to us:

"The FHC-Glenkirk team returned home on August 15th, and they had a marvelous time. They had good reports about FHC's staff...the caregivers and administrative staff have been encouraged to be leaders and are making good decisions. They focus on the well-being of the children and worked to establish positive interaction between themselves. Glenkirk has already reserved a tentative date (June) for next year's visit to FHC."

Thank you, Team Glenkirk for blessing FHC, (and for the homemade cookies and brownies you shared with the staff!)



Taking the babies on a walk.



Team Glenkirk with Dan Maloy of Extreme Response (center)

You Can Help

Please pray...

Jen Schneider, of FHC-Quito, is traveling around the Eastern US this month. She's sharing about the ministry that has captivated her heart and her life – as she commits to her third year in Quito with FHC. Please pray for her during this busy travel schedule.

FHC's 2011 Matching Gift Campaign started Sept. 1!

Donations made to FHC during the months of September and October will be matched either dollar for dollar, or \$2 for every dollar donated...an amazing way to grow your contribution to FHC at a time when funds are urgently needed.

If you are a new supporter of FHC (making your first donation ever or if your last donation was made in 2009), your gift will be matched 2 for 1! If you are already a supporter of FHC, and can increase the amount of your donation over what you gave in 2010 or 2011, the incremental amount over the amount of your annual contribution will be matched 2 x 1. New Child Sponsorship contributions are eligible for 2 x 1.

If you are already a sponsor and can increase the amount of your contribution during the time of the MGC, the incremental amount over your normal monthly contribution will be matched 2 x 1.

Note - please indicate on your check or inform us at the moment of your

fund transfer that it is to be included in 2011 Matching Gift Campaign, otherwise it will not be eligible for matching.

The contributions of our supporters are humbly acknowledged, allocated with seriousness and thought, and spent with gratitude. Over 95% of every dollar is used for the care of the children. Help make our Matching Gift Campaign a success by sharing with

In October, FHC will celebrate the 10th anniversary of our Child Sponsorship Program.

Our goal is that every child will be fully sponsored.

friends about FHC and this opportunity to multiply the amount of their donation.

The FHC Child

Sponsorship Program has been a huge encouragement to the children and the ministry of FHC, as well as to the compassionate and generous people who become sponsors and personally connect with a child at FHC. Help celebrate our

Child Sponsorship Program by promoting it at your church during the month of October. Contact [Linda Sigler](#), Child Sponsorship Program Coordinator, for details and her personalized assistance. Our goal is that all of the children at FHC will be fully sponsored. Don't delay - October is just around the corner...please contact Linda right away! Thank you.

FHC is now registered with

eBay. On each listing, you can pledge to donate 10% to 100% of an item's final sale price. For more info, [follow this link](#) and please keep FHC in mind for your next transaction on [eBay](#).

FHC is also registered with

Geronimo Vacation Rentals for Charity. A portion of the proceeds from the rental of a vacation property will be donated to FHC. Keep [Geronimo](#) in mind when you start planning your next vacation!

FHC now accepts PayPal.

[PayPal](#) acts like a digital wallet where you can securely store all your payment options, such as your bank account and credit card. When you want to make a payment, you don't have to pull out your credit card or type your billing info every time. Simply click on the PayPal button on [FHC's website](#), log in to your PayPal account, and select your preferred payment method. FHC completes the donation process—with no hassle for you. There will be a small service fee for each transaction.

Thank you for your prayers and your support!

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