This month, FHC pays tribute to our volunteers. Hundreds of volunteers have given their time and talent to the ministry, and have helped to shape FHC into an internationally-known Christian children’s relief organization. Traveling from Europe, Australia, North America and South America, our volunteers have dedicated their heart and souls to FHC.

In many instances FHC has contributed to shaping the lives of those volunteers. The volunteer experience is used by God to grow, challenge and change those who come in contact with the ministry.

Our volunteers invest in the children’s emotional bank account every time they establish eye contact with a child, share a smile, give a hug, dry a tear or hold a bottle. They are saying to a child, “God created you, you are unique. You matter.” Those values are transferred to the child, and we believe they enhance self-esteem and confidence, and strengthen a child’s resilience. In the future, these God-fueled emotional reserves are available when a child faces challenges or obstacles in life.

The presence of volunteers at FHC/HPSN speaks clearly to the caregivers, our staff and the Ecuadorian community, that the ministry of FHC is important; these children are precious and God has a plan for their lives. He calls us to come alongside and help each other on our journeys.

We are blessed to have had many volunteers over the years. For His Children Connection can only highlight a few - however, we hope all who have volunteered at FHC/HPSN will pause and remember; that when you gave to these children, you gave to Him.
Local volunteers are usually Ecuadorian, but we welcome international university exchange students as well, from the U.S., Canada and Europe. They may be fulfilling school or university community service hours. Others are part of church groups, such as Comunidad de Fe (Faith Community Church) in Quito. Others have simply heard about the ministry and want to help.

MARÍA FERNANDA

María Fernanda Gómez is Ecuadorian, and heard about FHC eight years ago through her aunt. María enjoys children and wanted to volunteer in the community. She was deeply impacted when she first came to FHC:

“The children are surrounded by so much love from their caregivers – and they truly are part of a family while they are at FHC. It’s a 5-star home for children, for sure!”

Because of her experience at FHC, María Fernanda is studying child development and soon will travel to Sweden for a year’s study abroad. She’s excited that her former career in architecture and interior design, is taking an entirely different path. Thank you, María Fernanda, and thank you to all our local volunteers.

FERNANDO

Fernando Rodríguez (Los Angeles, CA) volunteered at FHC for a few months in 2006, but feels his life was greatly influenced and forever changed by the experience. He now lives and works in L.A., keeping in touch periodically and supporting the ministry financially.

“In 2006, I approached my university in Quito about volunteering. They provided me with a list of organizations. Not recognizing any of them, I prayed that God would show me where He wanted me to serve. With eyes closed, I pointed to a name on the list - it was FHC. At first I was hesitant, because I wasn’t confident my spiritual gifting was with children. But I knew that God’s plan would always take me where I needed to go.

“The children’s love stole my heart and the dedication of the caregivers encouraged me. I’ll never forget the impact it made when I held a newborn baby girl at FHC. She slept the entire afternoon cuddled on my chest, over my heart. I felt she trusted and depended on me with every cell of her being. I was, for that moment, her entire world. I think those strong feelings were the first stirrings of what being a father is like.

“Be ashamed to die, without winning a battle for humanity.’ Of all the deeds I consider worthy that I have accomplished in my life so far, the noblest of all and closest to fulfilling this was volunteering at FHC. My life has been blessed ever since. I highly encourage everyone to place your lives in God’s service through FHC. In my experience, nothing brings such heavenly blessings as caring for these children.”

KELLY

Kelly Canfield (Bishop, CA) was a volunteer at FHC for seven months in 2006. Kelly recently wrote to us:

“Thank you for the beautiful story you wrote about Lisseth [FHC Connection newsletter, January 2012]. Lisseth is perhaps the reason I am a special education teacher in my fourth year, in the town where I grew up. When I came to volunteer at FHC, it was after I had turned down an offer by an attorney to join him as an associate, and one day assume the practice. The offer was hard to refuse considering that being a lawyer was my life-long dream. One of my goals while at FHC was to observe how a non-profit organization was managed. I never thought that I would leave FHC with a strong desire to work with children.

“Taking Lisseth to her speech classes twice a week, helping in the therapy pool and assisting the Tías changed my perspective. On my last day at FHC, Tía Maritza cried, gave me a big hug and pulled off the bracelet she wore every day, putting it on my wrist. She said she recognized that the love I had for the kids was the same as her love for them. I still remember her words today. Yes, FHC really does change the lives of those who visit!”
KAYCEE
Kaycee Vandenberg (Vancouver, Canada), learned about FHC through the DeGroot family, who adopted their son from FHC a few years ago. Kaycee dedicated her time and love to FHC in early 2011. The highlight of her visit was basking in the joy she experienced when spending time with the children, pretty evident in the photo at left! She also enjoyed exploring Ecuador and meeting new friends while serving at FHC.

DINA
Dina Schulz (Meinerzhagen, Germany), heard about FHC through a German missionary, Birgit Schmale, in Shell, Ecuador. Birgit described FHC as a well-organized Christian organization, so Dina contacted us and filled out an application. From August through December of 2011, Dina worked on the multimedia projects for adoption agencies, assisted with music class and developed a project based on basal stimulation for the children with special needs. Her experience at FHC strengthened her faith and enabled her to share that faith with others, teaching them that “all things are possible through Christ.”

MARCUS
Marcus Sorensen (Ecuador and Copenhagen, Denmark) arrived in August 2011 and will be volunteering through April 2012. Marcus was adopted as an infant from FHC by his Danish family.

“I lived at FHC the first six months of my life and now I am able to work here as a volunteer, alongside one of my former Tías (caregivers). This is the experience of a lifetime!”

Marcus says he wants to travel and help children worldwide. We have no doubt that he will! We are excited that Marcus is serving and learning at FHC. His unique presence, as a former FHC graduate and as a young man, has had a special impact on the children.
Jennifer Schneider (Sayville, New York) is now well into her third year of service at FHC. As a licensed school teacher by trade, she has chosen to use her expertise to bless and minister the children at FHC/HPSN. She has found her niche: welcoming FHC’s mission teams, helping with psychological therapy, providing oversight for our international volunteers, traveling Stateside to establish contacts with new churches and keeping in touch with long-time supporters – among her many other projects and responsibilities. Thank you, Jen!

Jillian Comrie is HPSN’s music teacher since August 2011. She provides the wonderful stimulation and enrichment that the world of music is - for all of the children at FHC/HPSN.

Visit her blog-site, http://jilliancomrie.blogspot.com, and sign up for her newsletter - you can read about the other ministries Jillian is involved in - as well as catching a few photos of Jillian with our HPSN/FHC kids.

Jennifer Schneider is FHC’s mobile ambassador, and plans about two trips a year to the States to share about FHC/HPSN. Wherever you live, U.S., Canada or Europe, if you would like to invite Jen to visit you, your church or community, let her know as she plans her future travel itinerary. Formal or informal, a group of friends, a school class, a church gathering - any setting can easily and effortlessly provide an opportunity to share about FHC. We need you to make that possible. Jen’s next travel plans are tentatively scheduled for August-September 2012. Contact her at jennifer@forhischildren-ecuador.org.

Rahel Orth (Frankfurt, Germany) also heard about FHC through Birgit Schmale. Rahel was looking for a 6-month volunteer internship and arrived at FHC in May, 2011. She says she was a little nervous at first, but quickly learned that with God’s help, her talents could be used in amazing ways. While at FHC, she personally experienced how God always provides. She says her faith has been strengthened and encouraged by her service at FHC.

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Although it happened in October 2011, it’s still worth mentioning: FHC-Latacunga’s First Annual Open House provided the community a chance to learn about HPSN, to meet our staff and volunteers, and spend some time with the children. A local church provided fun activities for the children and guests - including games, music and puppets. Visitors were given a tour that showcased our primary areas of focus: psychology, early infant and childhood stimulation, physical therapy, education, and nutrition. It was a beautiful day, and we were thrilled to connect in a meaningful way with neighbors, community members, and supporters.

What are all these initials? CPSN, FHC, HPSN... As many of our supporters know, For His Children (FHC) is the U.S. non-profit 501 c 3 organization founded by Clark and Melinda Vaughn in 1990. Clark and Melinda had to form an Ecuadorian non-profit organization in order to care for children in Ecuador - Corporacion Para Sus Ninos (CPSN). Recently, our staff at CPSN decided that we need to drop the Corporacion and use the Spanish word Hogar (“home” in English) as it immediately identifies what we do - for the local community. However legally and technically, HPSN is a non-profit corporacion in Ecuador.

So when you travel to Ecuador, read our newsletter and Facebook page, you’ll hear or see these initials from time to time. Now you know why we often refer to the ministry as FHC/HPSN - it’s a collaboration of two organizations - in the U.S. and Ecuador.

Corresponding with FHC: We’re always working to be more efficient - please note our new addresses as of November 2011:

Donations (no notes or letters, as we will not receive them – sorry!) should be sent to: For His Children, P.O. Box 912412, Denver, CO 80291-2412.

General correspondence (now you can send us some notes and letters!) is received at: For His Children, P.O. Box 29, Conifer, CO 80433.

Thank you for your prayer and financial support. How wonderful that our heavenly Father mobilizes each of us to be His agents of positive impact and change in the world. Your financial contributions are vital and we are thankful for your faithful donations. Your prayer support takes only a few moments to give thanks for FHC and to pray for the Lord’s guidance and wisdom for FHC and HPSN. Pray that we all will love Him more, and will hear and respond to His leading. Thank you for standing together with us on behalf of His children.

Melinda Vaughn, Director
For His Children, HPSN