

Director's Reflections on Being Still and Listening

I imagine it is a real stretch for anyone who knows me to think of me being still..... Yet I have been and I've really been listening. Listening to the needs of the children we serve and sometimes just being patient enough to let the true direction of our programming lead me. As someone who strives to be a doer rather than a talker, that in and of itself can push the inner strength and faith.

I have been blessed with the undeniable support of my family, my partner in Grime- Amanda French, and an ever strengthening relationship with Maria Elena de Paz and her husband, Anthony, our true Honduran family and partners. As I walk the streets of the remote mountain village of Concepcion del Norte, I know that this path has been chosen for me and I accept it with deep gratitude. Gratitude for a place that can both bring tears to my eyes and a smile to my face as I hear a greeting from a hillside shouted in my acquired second language. A gamut of emotions is found in this physical place as well as the place it holds in my heart; from uncertainty to unconditional love, to abject fear as we once again drive down the narrow mountainous road with a child in medical crisis. These are often the moments where the human side of 'Why me?' gives way to the quieter 'Just show me how.'

As Amanda and I sat pondering through our 2009 expenditures, sorting them into expense categories, translating and exchanging both languages and currency something just short of astonishment came over both of us. What began as a tragic tale of a 24 year old woman who died due to complications of malnutrition, possibly even true starvation, has become a foundation of sustenance, opportunity, hope and love for our first twenty eight children. Since its inception in August of 2008, Daisy's Children has:

- Consistently provided nutritious meals to twenty eight children in the village of Concepcion del Norte. (A long way from meeting three children on a wooden bench in a church yard thousands of miles from our former reality.)
- Purchased and dispersed potable water on a weekly basis to families involved in our project.
- Provided uniforms, leather shoes, backpacks, and school supplies to all school aged children in our families to include 11 year old Sindy, attending for the first time as well as 5 kindergarteners who began school February 2010.
- Spent well over \$1000 USD in emergency medical interventions , medications, and follow up consultations. Daisy's also provides daily nutritional supplementation and vitamins along with regular lice treatments and needed hygiene supplies.
- Established an initial chicken flock to provide eggs as a protein source.
- Set up an equipped sewing center complete with fabric, notions, and electric sewing machines; open to any woman in the village who wishes to learn this trade. The center is open three afternoons a week for a period of three hours. Instruction is provided by one of our Moms who was accustomed to using an older treadle Singer model.

Our recent February 2010 visit netted:

- An agreement for land purchase for the construction of an enrichment center to include a future food bank, operational kitchen with a bakery set up and several classrooms.
- The rental of a four bedroom home proximal to the center of the village to be used as a Guarderia for our preschoolers. Our goal is to bring our first volunteer group to the village this summer to clean, paint, fence in, and build a playground for 'Los Angelitos'- a cooperative daycare facility which will contract with our current Moms as well as other moms in the village to provide childcare so that they can go to school, work, or participate in our sewing center. The guarderia will allow us a safe environment to provide food, and potable water, as well as hygiene and early medical intervention, not to mention the long term benefit of being able to funnel these children into an education- the true road out of poverty.



Naun Torres, 2008



Naun Torres, 2010

A \$50/month sponsorship or a single fundraiser netting \$600 is the difference between



and



Thank you one and all for your ongoing interest and support of our efforts on behalf of Los Ninos de Deysi, Daisy's Children!

Sharon Beckwith, Director



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