



THANK YOU, MERCI, GRACIAS, MESI!

Those of you, who have visited any of ICC projects in the Dominican Republic or Haiti, can easily recognize these words. If this isn't the case, consider this article your first pre-departure lesson, as you prepare for your next MEET visit. Everyone you encounter, will thank you from the bottom of their hearts, using these words.

ICC would like to Thank You, by sharing an example of one of ICC's youngest constituents' efforts to create resources to better the health of our beloved Dominican and Haitian children.

It is our pleasure to introduce you to Sarah Thomas. Here is a note Sarah wrote about her fundraiser for Grace Children Hospital (GCH).

"Hi! My name is Sarah Thomas and I am 10 years old. I live in Gallipolis, Ohio. I spent some time at my friend Megan's house last fall. While I was there she taught me how to sew, and for Christmas, my parents' bought me a sewing machine.

My Dad is a pastor in the West Ohio Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and each summer we go to Lakeside, Ohio for our Annual Conference. For the past 6 years I have been attending the VBS that International Child Care puts on for those children attending Conference. Each year the children collect money for Grace Children's Hospital in Haiti. This year, I decided that I wanted to raise lots of money for Grace Children's Hospital. So, I decided to make pillows and sell them as a fundraiser. I sold them at my local church, in my community, and throughout the Foothills District, where our church is located. **I was able to raise \$1,372.83.** I presented this money to International Child Care at West Ohio's Annual Conference in June."

...no matter your age, ICC's supporters are an excellent group of committed, smart and generous people.



Sarah, thank you for all your efforts, making and selling those cool pillows to provide for the medical needs of the children at Grace. Your hard work gave kids, like you, the opportunity to start living a healthier childhood. God bless you! ICC is grateful for you.

Sarah demonstrates that no matter your age, ICC's supporters are an excellent group of committed, smart and generous people. Each of you can find your own way of helping ICC's work in the Dominican Republic and Haiti.

Thank you, Merci, Gracias, Mesi!

And now we thank you, our God, and praise your glorious name



AN EARLY START TO A BLOOMING JOURNEY

The morning of May 9 2013, Anabella Dimas woke up crying, very warm and sweating quite a bit. Her mother took her to Grace Children's Hospital (GCH). After evaluation, staff admitted the 9 month old to the in-patient ward to monitor her dehydration and high fever.

Anabella is a Cerebral Palsy patient. The GCH's staff believed she was a great candidate for the Community Inclusion Program (CIP). Why? The earlier Anabella receives treatment for her disorder, the easier her inclusion into society could be.

ICC-Haiti runs the CIP with the aid of former ICC-DR now FCID, National Director and Physiotherapist, Trudy Bekker, who started this program in the early 90s in the Dominican Republic. The CIP uses the Portage Model of Early Intervention and Developmental Disabilities-Therapy, in which women from the communities receive training as *Promotrices* and visit the homes of about 70 children with disabilities. They start visiting the children several times a week during the introduction phases, and continue weekly depending on the child's progress and needs.

...women from the communities receive training as Promotrices and visit the homes of about 70 children with disabilities.

ICC-Haiti trains the *Promotrices* to teach steps needed to achieve a particular skill, evaluate the progress and move on to a new goal. The children's caregivers learn how to follow up with exercises and the use of simple items around the house to ensure the correct technique application.

CIP's staff receives continuous training to manage a variety of children's disabilities. In September, they will participate in a physical therapy seminar, prepared and taught by physical therapy specialists visiting from the Epworth United Methodist Church in Ohio.

Thanks to your generosity, children like Anabella are receiving treatment, early on, instead of delaying it until it is, in many cases, too late. The Community Inclusion Program needs your help to continue providing indispensable care to many more children with disabilities, so they can have a chance in life. Please visit our website or call our offices for giving options.



CONNECTION MEDI@ CORNER

TO STAY CONNECTED @ ICC



www.facebook.com/internationalchildcare



us.www.internationalchildcare.org

ONLINE GIVING



From our website click on



a percent of your purchases supports ICC-USA.



A CELEBRATION OF AMAZING PROGRESS

Mariana was born premature and severely underweight. She spent her first ten years dependent on her parents for her every need. She could not sit, move her right side, or straighten her legs. Her parents cared for her as best they could, but they had difficulties managing it all. Mariana’s family couldn’t afford the medical care necessary to treat her symptoms.

A *Promotora* from *Fundacion del Cuidado Infantil Dominicano* (FCID), the Dominican International Child Care office, visited Mariana’s home while conducting community outreach in Santiago for the Community Based Rehabilitation program (CBR). During this visit, Mariana received the first diagnosis of her condition; it was Moderate Cerebral Palsy.

The CBR’s treatment plan combined weekly sessions at the Martinez’s, specific physical therapy and training for her mother so, she can repeat a customized series of exercises with Mariana.

Today, after four years of repeating exercises three times a day and seeing her CBR *Promotora* once a week, Mariana is enjoying the beauty of sitting down, holding objects with her good hand; dressing by herself and helping mom sweep the floors. Yes, even sweeping the floors! Mariana knows now, how wonderful it feels to be helpful. She also has more playtime with her siblings and, as older sisters do, bosses them a little now and then.

FCID plans to work on her cognitive development and continue with physical therapy so, she can start standing up with support and increase her mobility.

ICC is grateful for those who provided the resources to make every step of Mariana’s amazing progress a success story. We encourage our donors to continue supporting the CBR program in the Dominican Republic and invite others to do the same.

Mariana knows now, how wonderful it feels to be helpful.

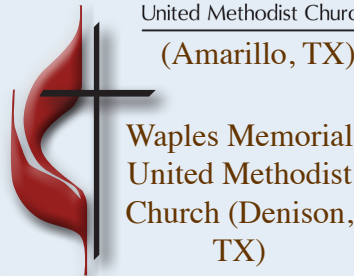
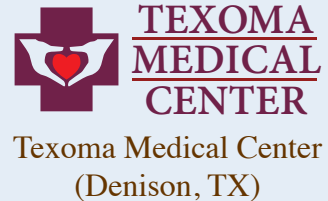


RACE FOR GRACE 2013

ICC’s 7th Annual Race for Grace was held on August 24th. This year, 65 riders took on the challenge of bringing health and hope to the children we serve by riding 25, 50 and 100 mile increments. Haven’t sponsored a rider yet? There is still time to show your support. Please check ICC’s Facebook page for fundraising totals and giving details.



We wish to extend our gratitude and thanks to the 2013 Race for Grace Corporate Sponsors.



ICC/USA
 240 W. Michigan Avenue
 Kalamazoo, Michigan 49007
 (269) 382-9960
 (800) 722-4453
 iccusa@InternationalChildCare.org

www.InternationalChildCare.org

Advance:
 Grace Children's Hospital: 418520
 Integrated Community Health (Haiti): 418847
 Community Health Development Program (D.R.): 410215
 Child to Child Health Promotion: 418242

