

## FORGOTTEN TO FRIENDSHIP

MEETING THE NEEDS OF THE DISABLED

Far too many children with disabilities are last in line for resources, especially when they are scarce to begin with. Often, these children are victims of violence, abuse, neglect, and deprivation. In many developing societies, they are forgotten.

One such example is Cesar, an adolescent boy in the Dominican Republic with mobility and language issues—he dropped out of school in the third grade because there was no way to help him learn.

When Cesar started ICC’s new adolescent program in the Santiago area, he was shy and hardly spoke at all. Kids with disabilities in the Dominican Republic are often shunned by even their own families and have very few social skills.

“These youngsters need a place to get orientation and education,” said Trudy Bekker, ICC DR National Director. “If not, the kids on the streets will take advantage of them, and they can get into gangs.”

Thanks to our donors, ICC’s innovative program can gather kids like Cesar to meet twice a week for hours at a time.



*“Somewhere, a child is being told he cannot play because he cannot walk, or another that she cannot learn because she cannot see. The path forward will be challenging. But children do not accept unnecessary limits. Neither should we.”*

**Anthony Lake**  
Executive Director  
UNICEF



*Nelbis and Cesar met in the adolescent program and quickly became best friends.*



## FORGOTTEN TO FRIENDSHIP — *continued*

Cesar works on writing skills, math, and socializing, and eats a healthy snack, too. Recently, his teachers have noticed a big change in Cesar. Now, he begins the day by walking around the table greeting everyone with a firm handshake and big smile.

But, even better, he has a new best friend named Nelbis.

Nelbis is fifteen. He is lucky enough to also attend a school for children with disabilities in the mornings, but he loves to come to ICC's program to get extra help with his writing skills and help the others in the group. He says that he dreams of working with people with disabilities in the future.

The teachers say that they often see Cesar and Nelbis walking home arm-in-arm.

These individuals' lives have been changed thanks to the support you give to International Child Care. The families are only charged \$6 to attend the group, even though this only covers the cost of the snack—not the cost of the space or the expertise of the workers. Yet so many families cannot even afford the \$6.



*María works on her writing skills at her adolescent group.*

**JUST \$6 CAN CHANGE A LIFE...** 

**A SIMPLE \$6 TO ICC WILL COVER THE COST CHARGED TO A FAMILY FOR A MONTH FOR AN ADOLESCENT TO ATTEND THE PROGRAM. DONATE TODAY TO GIVE HOPE TO CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS LIVING WITH DISABILITIES.**

**WELCOME JENNIFER  
TO THE ICC TEAM!**

**JENNIFER CRAMER — EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**"I AM HONORED TO PARTNER WITH THOSE GIVING TO ICC.  
PLEASE LET ME KNOW HOW WE CAN SERVE YOU BETTER."**

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## SNAPSHOT!

Innocent.

That's the name given to all the children abandoned at Grace Children's Hospital.

Just like Antoine. He was only 6-months old when he was found malnourished and abandoned at Grace Children's Hospital in Haiti. And, while this day marks a day that he was left by someone who could no longer care for him, it also marks the day that he was invited into Grace's large family without hesitation.

Thanks to donors, many Innocents not only receive needed healthcare—but also the love, support and safety needed to survive abandonment.

These days you can find Antoine playing with children at the hospital and tugging on someone to hold him up and fly him like a plane in the air. Just being a child. Just being...*innocent*.

## RACE FOR GRACE 2016

This year, Race for Grace was held on August 27 where 60 individuals took on the challenge of bringing health and hope to the children we serve by riding in various increments of 10k to 100 miles! It was a huge success, bringing in more than \$70,000 so far. Thanks to you, so many more children and families in Haiti and the Dominican Republic can be helped.

### WE CAN'T SAY THANKS ENOUGH!

To see photos and a thank you video from the riders, our staff, and the children at Grace Children's Hospital, visit our Facebook page:



[www.facebook.com/InternationalChildCare](http://www.facebook.com/InternationalChildCare)



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\* Thank you to Keith Mumma for providing the photography.

THANK YOU TO OUR RACE FOR GRACE 2016 SPONSORS



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Advance:  
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