

Summer 2013

International Child Care Canada | ca.internationalchildcare.org

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!

Health and wholeness for children and families in empowered communities.

Meet Liana...

Liana is a sweet girl who is always smiling. She just turned 12 and lives in a small community outside the city of Santiago in the Dominican Republic. Soon after Liana was born, her mother Angela realized that something was wrong. Liana showed no movement and had no control of her neck. When they visited a neurologist who diagnosed her with a form of Cerebral Palsy, Angela was devastated because of the financial cost of treatment. ***They returned home with no hope*** – Liana was not expected to walk or talk, BUT thanks to the CBR program, **Liana is now doing both!!** Imagine the happiness in their home! ***A true miracle story!***

Our community rehab workers (CRWs) have been visiting their home once a week since Liana was 7 months old, working both with Liana and her mother to equip them with the skills they need to allow Liana to



progress and THRIVE. By using physical and language therapies, life skills and motor development, Liana slowly learned how to do things for herself. Angela also learned how to provide this therapy and is part of a parental support group that advocates on behalf of the disabled, addressing issues of stigma and discrimination on a larger scale. **Thank you for helping to make a difference in the life of Liana and her mother Angela!**

TAKE ME WITH YOU ON VACATION...

The men and women who partner together with you to ensure ICC continues to impact lives...

Board of Directors:

Terry Gray, Board Chair (ON)

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Dawn Magee (BC)

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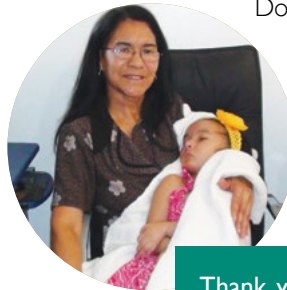
FOCUS ON OUR HERITAGE

BY: LORNA ROGALSKI (STAFF 1980–1997)

As I reflect on my years with ICC, I remember fondly a particular trip to Haiti. Someone had sent along a gift for a specific child. When I arrived, I was told that the child had been released from hospital. "How wonderful!" I thought. But then wondered how on earth I would be able to find the child to deliver this gift. Without a last name—or even a forwarding address – it seemed like finding a needle in a haystack. But, thankfully, after driving around with some of our ground staff we were able to locate the child and deliver the gift! Oh, what a happy day that was!

It was a privilege to work alongside so many volunteers to help raise funds for various projects. I am delighted that now, after all these years, some of the events are still happening, like the Niagara Dinner, Lasagna Dinner and the St. Jacob's Plant Sale.

It was both a joy and a blessing to be a part of this ministry for so many years, and I am pleased that the programs are continuing in both Haiti and the Dominican Republic. I trust that many Canadians will continue to support ICC to help make a difference in many lives.



Thank you for all you've done in the past 40 years! We still need you today!

HELPING KIDS WITH DISABILITIES REACH NEW ABILITIES!

ICC's Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program is all about breaking down the stigma attached to disabilities in the Dominican Republic and helping children reach their full potential. Our trained community rehabilitation workers work on an individual basis with children with disabilities and their families – providing therapy for the unique needs of each child and training parents on simple techniques they can use to help their children develop. Organizing grassroots advocacy groups for the rights of persons with disabilities and helping children access public education are other ways we are touching communities.

The impact reaches children, families and entire communities!



Advocacy groups raise awareness for needs and abilities of people with disabilities



Daily therapy improves developmental function & quality of life



Families are equipped and empowered to address the needs of their child



Children are successfully integrated into public education





THE HAITI EARTHQUAKE JANUARY 10, 2010

THREE YEARS LATER

It was one of the most devastating days in recent history – many people lost their lives, so much destruction happened – but thankfully ICC was there. Although the hospital was over 80% destroyed, and subsequently had to be totally demolished because of safety issues, ICC was able to continue providing care for those who needed it the most. Your giving, along with partnerships with World Vision Canada and CIDA, resulted in **\$2,118,492** being raised to assist with the aftermath!

Today we are happy to report that with all of your help, the hospital site has been cleared. The clinics are housed in temporary, but strong, structures located across the road from the original hospital site where

the Eye Clinic is located, and approximately 100 children and mothers are seen by doctors every day. **Imagine their relief knowing that Grace Children's Hospital is there!**

The goal is to begin construction on the new hospital as quickly as funding permits. **Thank you for your help in ensuring that essential health care was available to those who needed it the most after the earthquake!**



Conceptual Drawing



OUR PARTNERS

We are *honoured* to have such a large group of individuals, churches, corporations, foundations and community groups that have generously supported International Child Care Canada over the last 40 years. These gifts have gone towards supporting children and their families to live lives of dignity and hope in Hispaniola.

Our dream would be to list everyone who has given, but we are restricted by space limitations.

To all of you who have given so faithfully and sacrificially over the years – whether of your finances, your time or your talents - **we thank you!** Your giving has made a difference in the lives of children who are suffering and your continued dedication to our mission of *responding to Jesus Christ through caring service, by sharing and promoting health and wholeness for those in need, especially children*, inspire many people today.

THANK YOU! We salute you....

Here's What You've Done:

In September 2012 we sent out a request for urgent funds for our CBR program in the Dominican – your giving raised **\$11,550** for this worthwhile and impactful program!

Your response to our Christmas gift guide was overwhelming – raising **\$34,816** for our programs in Haiti and the Dominican! You were a blessing to many families during that special time of year.

And our most recent appeal for our Maternal Health program in Northern Haiti has so far raised **\$5,226!** We still need \$37,540 for our CIDA match.

Your generosity is inspiring!

“I was very nervous and excited on that first day of school. I wasn't sure if it was real... but thank God and the CBR program for helping convert my child's dream into a reality!” —Yarielis' mother, Dominican Republic

REFLECTIONS FROM THE PAST

By Randy Schmidt, Vancouver, B.C.
(Staff: 1991-1994, Haiti; Board
member: 2010-present)

I excitedly arrived in Haiti in 1991 to work as an ICC grants coordinator, wanting to do something meaningful.

Within a week of my arrival I came down with typhoid fever, and three weeks later, awoke to find smoke over Port-au-Prince, discovering that a military regime had ousted Haiti's elected president. With support from Haitian staff and friends, I persevered. Five months later, we had succeeded in gaining a new \$600,000 grant from USAID for community health programs!

How did I see God at work in my three years?

My fondest memories were of the small gifts of His grace given to me by those I was privileged to meet. I recall my visits with children in the ward of Grace Children's Hospital, the hugs and the playful teasing where the outside world seemed to fade away. I remember moments of inspiration watching national staff serving people in need with great commitment. I recall unexpected friendships, and kindnesses shared.

I left with a sense that the greatest gift we can give is to honour the God-given dignity of those we meet, by listening to their stories, by sharing in their struggle, and by being present in the joys and sorrows we are confronted with, as Jesus was to those he met and served. **Thank you for sharing in that struggle... for your commitment to helping bring health, joy and love into the lives of those we serve.**

I am thankful to still be involved with ICC Canada by serving as a volunteer board member, doing what I can to make sure that the stories and dignity of those I met in Haiti and the Dominican continue to be heard.



“So in everything, do to others what you would have them do to you...” —Matthew 7:12

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Saturday, August 17th – **Ottawa River cruise**

August/September (TBD) – **Manitoba golf tournament**

Saturday, October 5th – **Ride for Refuge (bike ride for ICC)**

Tuesday, November 19th – **Niagara dinner**

For information on any of these events, or for more information on organizing your own event on behalf of ICC, please visit the website at ca.internationalchildcare.org or contact us at canada@internationalchildcare.org or 1-888-722-4453.

RIDE FOR REFUGE

There is still room... **grab your helmet and jump on your bike!** There is a Ride happening in your neighbourhood on the weekend of October 5th. Name your captain, arrange your team, raise the funds – and RIDE like the wind for children in Haiti and the Dominican Republic!!

Contact us to get started or visit www.rideforrefuge.org for more information! See you there...

Get Involved!

We still need your help!

Organize an event, make a planned gift, become a monthly donor, support our mothers and children by donating today! Phone us, donate online, or send a cheque to our office in Markham.

Visit the website for more information.

MEDIA CORNER

**Be part of the
movement towards
better health
for families in
Hispaniola!**

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WHEN YOU HAVE FINISHED READING THIS GOOD NEWS, PLEASE
SHARE THE NEWSLETTER WITH FAMILY AND FRIENDS!!
