



SUMMER 2012

Children in the School Inclusion program are paired with a buddy in their class as a way to help them with their work and to introduce them to friends

UPCOMING FUNDRAISER

Riders in the 6th annual Race for Grace biked up to 100 miles in Wichita Falls, TX, on Aug. 25 to raise funds and awareness for the work of ICC. If you missed out, don't worry! We will collect donations until the end of September online at www.razoo.com/team/Race-4-Grace-2012 or by mail.



WILLIAM DE JESÚS AQUINO —NEVER LOSE HOPE

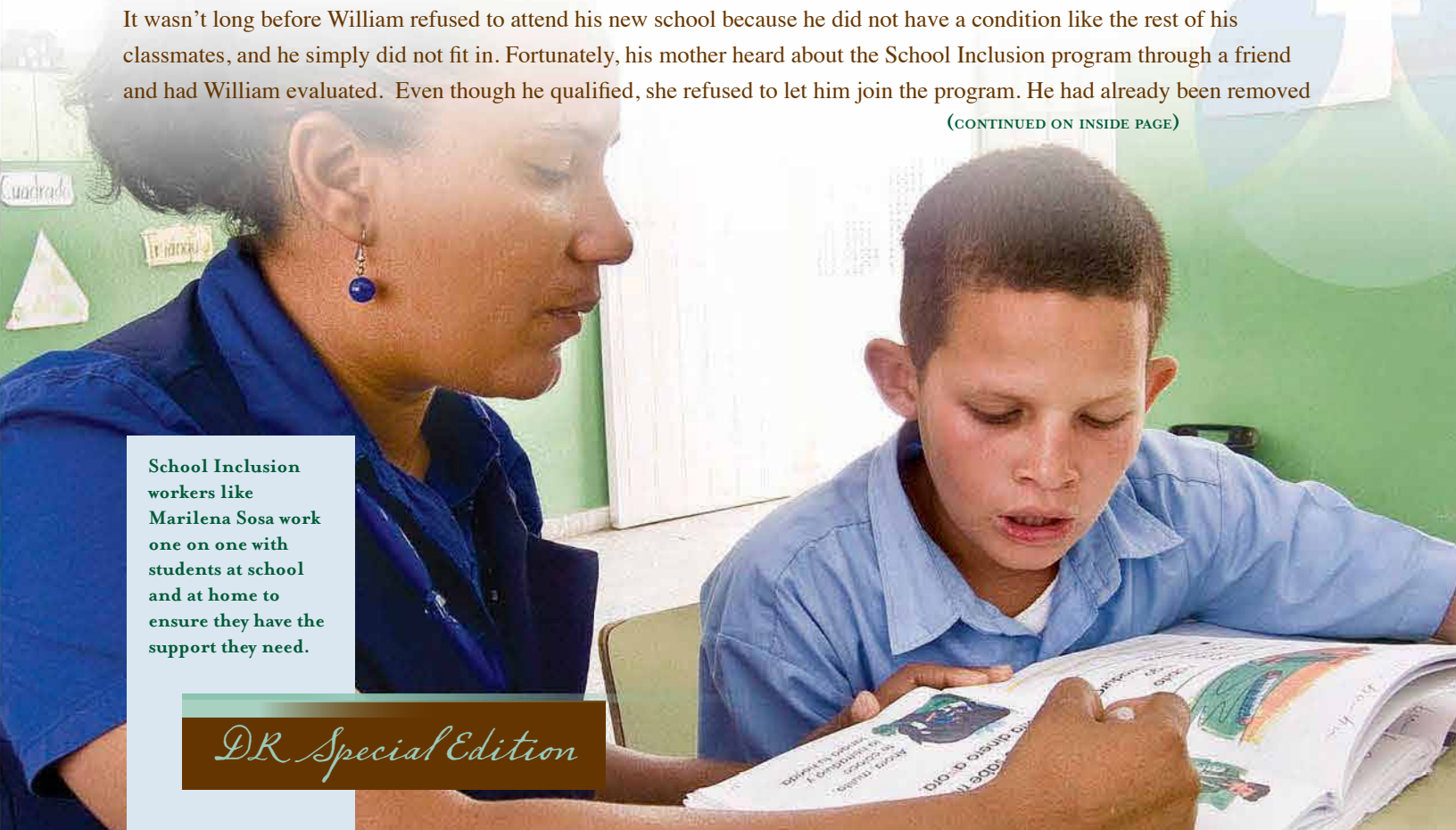
International Child Care, now operating under the name Fundación Cuidado Infantil Dominicano (FCID), has been working in the Dominican Republic in the area of rehabilitation since the early 1990s. Through the Community Based Rehabilitation program, thousands of parents have helped their children with special needs to achieve their full potential, and more recently the School Inclusion program has made tremendous progress in a different sort of rehabilitation. By working one-on-one with each child and their school administrators, teachers, and classmates, School Inclusion staff are the advocates working to rehabilitate a broken education system one child at a time. William de Jesús Aquino Caba is one such child, and it is our honor to share his story with you.

SEE INSERT FOR NEW PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITY!

William is the bright-eyed 12-year-old boy pictured between his two best pals above. The only son of William de Jesús Aquino and Anna Caba Idalia Aquinas, and the middle child in a bustling family of five, William is a talented young man with a bright future. Even though William's mother had a healthy pregnancy and he showed no signs of a disability during early childhood development, a school psychologist evaluated William when he was in third grade and recommended he attend a special education school.

It wasn't long before William refused to attend his new school because he did not have a condition like the rest of his classmates, and he simply did not fit in. Fortunately, his mother heard about the School Inclusion program through a friend and had William evaluated. Even though he qualified, she refused to let him join the program. He had already been removed

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School Inclusion workers like Marilena Sosa work one on one with students at school and at home to ensure they have the support they need.

DR Special Edition



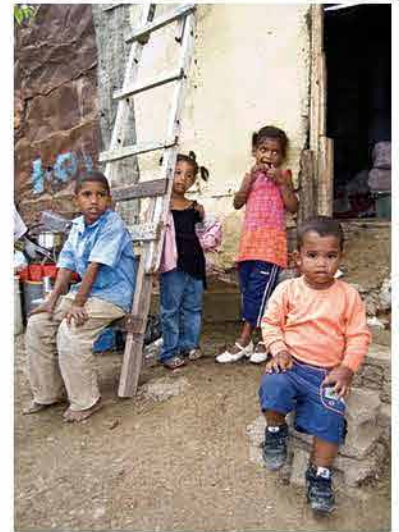
ICC IN THE DR— A BRIEF HISTORY

Many of ICC's supporters are familiar with the story of Jim and Virginia Snavley, whose visit to Haiti in 1961 spurred them to open a small clinic for children with tuberculosis. As they pushed forward in steadfast faith and determination, their small clinic became the forerunner of ICC's Grace Children's Hospital and other health programs in Haiti. However, many do not know the history of our work in the neighboring country of the Dominican Republic. God is doing amazing things in the DR through our Dominican colleagues and it is our sincere pleasure to share their story.

In 1987, as International Child Care marked its 20th anniversary, ICC began considering expanding programs into the Dominican Republic. After studying the health and religious situation in the DR, ICC joined forces with three other faith-based organizations to begin training health workers. In 1999, after a decade in the DR, ICC redirected efforts away from training primary health care workers of other Christian organizations and instead focused on community health development. ICC began partnering directly with community groups to train and supervise individuals to improve health conditions where they live. This was the birth of our Community Health Development (CHD) program, which equipped Community Health Workers to educate, monitor, and care for people within their own community and assisted leaders of grassroots groups to actively start resolving some of the problems where they serve.

During that time, another partnership resulted in the start-up of our Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program, which provides in-home rehabilitation for children with disabilities. In 2003, ICC's DR branch became a Dominican nonprofit organization under the name *Fundación Cuidado Infantil Dominicano (FCID)*. In addition to the services mentioned above, FCID has since developed a School Inclusion program as well as a Prevention of Sexually Transmitted Infections team to provide workshops for youth and training for educators about values, relationships and safe practices.

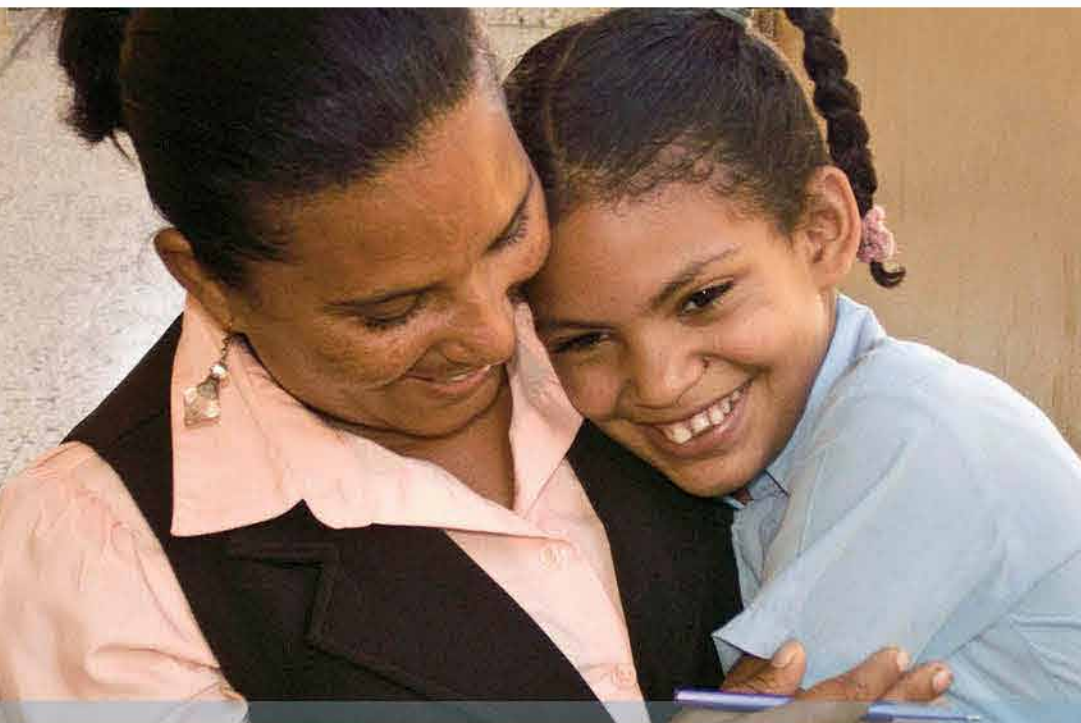
Israel Brito and Tom Davis spent one year in the Dominican Republic to develop a plan for ICC's involvement. Their study was followed by an ICC Board evaluation and approval of their recommendations.



BREAKING NEWS!

The most recent update, while positive for the country, poses challenges to our life-changing programs. Recently, the DR moved up in the World Bank's country classification system and is now considered an upper middle income developing country. Unfortunately, as a result of the reclassification, many donor agencies have ceased funding development organizations working in the DR. We grieve with our Dominican colleagues as FCID has had to cut this year's budget and programs nearly in half.

The reclassification doesn't change the living conditions of residents in the slum communities we serve, nor does it change the social stigma toward children with disabilities. ICC's programs in the DR are still vital, and we look to the future trusting in God's faithfulness and the increased support of individual donors like you.





WOMEN IN ADVOCACY



If you have the opportunity to visit our office in the Dominican Republic, you may notice something that sets this staff apart from other International Child Care offices: The staff is entirely made up of women. In a country where machismo (male chauvinism) still materializes at home in domestic violence and at work in prejudices and inequality, we are proud to have such a tremendous team of women accomplishing great things.

Much of the work being done in the DR directly benefits women as well. Mothers of children with disabilities are gaining valuable skills through the training provided by the Community Based Rehabilitation workers. Some become so passionate about the work that they join the FCID team and are trained as promotoras themselves. Mothers also indirectly benefit from the Early Stimulation and CBR programs in the area of literacy. In a lot of cases, in order for the promotoras to instruct young mothers, many of whom are illiterate, they must begin teaching them to read.

Not only are mothers gaining invaluable skills, some of their households are becoming safer places too. Because children with disabilities are especially vulnerable to abuse, our staff members are trained to detect and report cases of domestic violence

and child abuse. This is raising awareness of the issue and teaching women how to protect themselves and their children. What an exciting time in ICC's history, as women rise up and empower other women to give their families a better life.

She is clothed with strength and dignity; she can laugh at the days to come.

Proverbs 31:25

WILLIAM DE JESÚS AQUINO—
NEVER LOSE HOPE

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from public school once and she did not want to put him through such pain again.

Thankfully the School Inclusion Coordinator talked to his mother and explained more about the program to her—that he would not be alone and that a tutor would accompany him to explain things in a way that would make it easier for him to learn. She accepted and William was enrolled in first grade at the José Armando Bermúdez School. Even though it was discouraging to William and his mother, he had to be moved back to first grade because he was so far behind that he did not even know his vowels.

As the classroom teacher and his tutor started working with him, his interest in school was reignited and he started to enjoy going to school. Since then, William has learned how to read and write, and has even slowly begun to stand out as one of the top in his class. In fact, he was awarded a special 100 Point Certificate in a recent Mathematics competition popular in Dominican schools. William's teacher was overjoyed at his tremendous progress and passed him on to second grade with flying colors.

Today William's mother gives thanks to God and FCID's School Inclusion program for his incredible achievements.



Ongoing Dominican Republic Programs

COMMUNITY BASED REHABILITATION

FCID's Community Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program is at the heart of our mission in the Dominican Republic. Trained rehabilitation workers, or promotoras, who are recruited from the communities where we work, visit the homes of children with physical or mental disabilities and developmental delays. The talented and passionate promotoras train the child's caregivers in the Portage Method for Early Intervention, empowering them to be agents of change for their little ones. During weekly home visits, they teach the mothers a series of simple rehabilitation exercises and help them track their child's progress. In addition to the weekly visits, we provide access to a language specialist, physician, and psychologist. While our promotoras provide guidance and training, hundreds of mothers are becoming their children's true heroes, helping them learn every day and grow to reach their full potential.



EARLY STIMULATION PROGRAM

The Early Stimulation program works in tandem with the CBR program and serves the main objectives of prevention and early identification of children with special needs. Utilizing the Portage Method for Early Education, promotoras organize groups of five to seven mothers and their babies, and teach the group of moms about development as they work through the exercises appropriate for infants up to a year old. By working with adolescent mothers and others who lacked access to prenatal care, this program begins working with babies at high risk for disabilities early on so that we may maximize the effectiveness of rehabilitation. These exercises can also stimulate development in such a way that delays are altogether avoided, crushing a potential roadblock for a child's success in school and at home.



SCHOOL INCLUSION

FCID's School Inclusion program teaches school administrators, teachers, and students about the needs of children with disabilities, and advocates for them so that they might reach their full potential in the classroom. Although the law dictates that these children have the right to go to school, the Ministry of Education in the DR has had little success enforcing it. School Inclusion staff use the materials developed by the government to educate the schools on the rights and needs of the children in our program. To ensure that teachers are using this information and that children have what they need to succeed, FCID staff make regular visits to the child in school and at home. Not only does this program raise awareness and understanding about children with special needs, it also paves the way for many children to go to school who could not otherwise attend. What a brighter future these children will have with access to education!



The first five rehabilitation workers with Altagracia (second from right) at their graduation in June.

CBR: A MODEL FOR HAITI'S COMMUNITY INCLUSION PROGRAM

The Community Based Rehabilitation program in the Dominican Republic has seen such great success that it was used as a model for ICC Haiti's recently launched Community Inclusion program. Trudy Bekker, International Child Care's Rehabilitation Adviser, started the CBR program in the DR in 1993 and just last year expanded rehabilitation into Haiti.

After being hired last September, the Community Inclusion Coordinator Altagracia Alexis traveled to the DR to receive training and to develop a training program for Haiti. Upon her return to Haiti, they launched the program, hiring and training the first five Community Inclusion workers. After a series of training seminars these five extraordinary women officially graduated in June. Trudy and Altagracia hope to hire and train five more Haitian rehabilitation workers by next summer.





UPCOMING FUNDRAISER

Join us in Grand Rapids, MI, on Sept. 15 for our first annual **Labou Pou Timoun Run!** For registration information, please visit us.internationalchildcare.org/labou-pou-timon-run-2012 or call ICC at 1-800-722-4453. You can also sponsor runners at www.razoo.com/team/Labou-Pou-Timoun-2012.

MEDIA CORNER — STAYING CONNECTED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.



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