



## For the Love of Children Society of Alberta

JUNE 2010 NEWSLETTER

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Much has happened since our last newsletter – For the Love of Children Society of Alberta (FTLOCS) continues to initiate and support projects to provide help, hope and support to disadvantaged children locally and around the world. Major initiatives underway include the development of schools in Sudan, Nepal, Cambodia, India, Kenya and Peru. Locally, another successful Santa's express run took place and FTLOCS continues to support programs for local children and families in need. In this newsletter, we highlight some of these accomplishments.

### Cusco, Peru

#### Ashid Bahl Primary School

*Iain Stewart*

On March 26, 2010, I departed Calgary along with my son, Joel and my nephew, Michael to visit and assess operations and evaluate the possibility of expansion at the Ashid K. Bahl Primary School in Cusco, Peru. We were assisted by Mikjail Vera Navides, a 21 year old from Cusco who speaks English and Spanish.



The Cusco School is quite old and in a bad state of repair. Many of the children come from poor families that cannot afford private or even other public schools. The school apparently has a sizable wait list, but adding space to the school will be difficult and costly and requires further evaluation and planning.

Overall operations are overseen by the school principal and the Peruvian government plays a role in absorbing many operational costs, but it was apparent that limited resources were being provided by the government.

Michael & Joel were great for the children – the first two days they spent much of the time playing with and entertaining the kids. On the second day, along with two of the teachers, they took the kids down to a local playground to play soccer and to play on the playground equipment. This was a big treat as the school playground is tiny and the school and children cannot afford to go to this municipal playground. *continued to page 4*

### Port Au Prince, Haiti

#### Emergency Relief Assessment *Ashid Bahl with Thomas Lynch*

On our arrival in Port Au Prince one could see the chaos right away, taking two hours to get our bags and aid supplies. There were no rental cars or trucks available, nor could we get hotel accommodation, which were very costly as well. The price of everything was high, inflated by some NGOs that were prepared to pay higher prices.

We were met by our agent, Dorsainvil Vernet, who volunteered his time to help the Orphelinat Beraca Orphanage in Ganthier, Haiti, which FTLOCS will relocate and rebuild. He took us to his extended family's house, as his was destroyed by the earthquake. He told us that he had to rescue his son from the rubble of his home. He thought he had lost him. After seven days, he heard his son's voice from underneath the rubble, and rescued him with great difficulty. It was a miracle that he was alive with only minor injuries. Dorsainvil's mother was not as fortunate. She died from her injuries. *continued to page 2*

## CALGARY KIDS

### Joseph Zachary Dallaire

At birth Joseph was diagnosed with Down Syndrome and at age 5 was diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder. To improve his overall health the parents sought out care of a naturopathic doctor in April 2007 with a special diet and supplements. **FTLOCS provided \$700 to pay for the supplements.**

### Opening Gaits Therapeutic Riding

OGTR is a charitable organization providing therapeutic horseback riding to children and young adults with physical and mental challenges, improving flexibility, balance & muscle strength as well as providing the participants with a sense of self-confidence. **FTLOCS provided \$3000 to sponsor a horse for one year.**

### Alberta Children's Hospital

A two month old boy suffering from a bowel obstruction, appendectomy and allergy to cow's milk, and twins diagnosed with necrotizing enterocolitis and ongoing allergic colitis required high nutrition formula Neocate. **FTLOCS provided \$2,830.**

### 14 y.o. Girl with Seizure Disorder

K's seizure disorder and her secondary problems with attention and behaviour means she requires a significant amount of supervision. Although her mom has a new job, drug benefits are not available for 3 months. **FTLOCS paid \$170 to cover her perscriptions.**

### Bikes for Christmas Campaign

**FTLOCS was able to provide eight families with bikes and Christmas hampers. The bikes were donated by Bow Cycle.**



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No one had approached Dorsainvil or given him any direction as to how he can obtain help with regards to rebuilding his home. He went to one of the government offices for aid relief and received no concrete answers. With the rainy season starting, he could not wait any longer, and had decided to rebuild on his own. Despite his own hardship, Dorsainvil was eager to assist us.

It is apparent that the flow of aid is very slow and disorganized. There is a need to disseminate information to the victims as to what type of aid they can expect. For a people who have struggled to establish democracy after decades of dictatorship and repression, this earthquake was the last thing they needed. Like Dorsainvil, 95% of Haitians live in extreme poverty and lack education. Without any official direction or information, they have started to fend for themselves.

This mission was to assess the situation and to meet immediate and long term needs of the children at the Beraca Orphanage. We provided food, tents, medical supplies, educational supplies, toothbrushes and soccer balls. Everywhere we went, children asked for water and at times I was left with only my personal bottle which I would pour in their open mouths.

For Dorsainvil and his family, we provided a generator for their home. His family was pleased to have light and use of their TV again. He said that this is the first time he has seen his family members smile in a while. FTLOCS will also provide funds to help rebuild his home and provide funds for his son's well-being and education.

We also visited a number of camps. Some of the tents were in the middle of the streets dividing the road, with children weaving dangerously in and out of them. At one camp, we rolled up our sleeves to help cover the floor of the tents with stone rubble (this provides a more stable floor). Many of the tents are inadequate and the rain is seeping through. FTLOCS will also be giving commercial cookers to the camps in order to reduce cooking costs as well as reducing the fire hazard of cooking inside tents.

The 1.5 million left homeless have many concerns. There is a strong need to restore electricity as soon as possible. The sewer systems are destroyed in many places, and we saw water all over the roads dragging all the debris with it. There is also a need to secure the damaged buildings, as the children and people are still living and working in and around structures that look as they might fall at any time. The government wants to move 400,000 survivors to a new village to be built for them outside the city. Many are voicing concerns about this, as their livelihood is in the midst of the city and the commute will be costly.

It was disheartening to see that the only heavy machines visible were working on the Ministry of Economics building and the National Palace. I hope aid filters to the people who need it most, but from past experience, this does not seem to happen. It leaves one to wonder where all the donated funds go. When you go and help personally, you know that you have made an honest difference. We continue to raise money to support projects in Haiti and would like to thank those that gave generously, like the students of Sundance School in Calgary. Our goal is to raise a further \$120,000.00 to help complete our projects. ❤️

*"The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems."*  
Mahatma Gandhi



## Update: Baby Hosanna and the Crowell Family

Neta Sharma

You will recall an inspiring story we shared in our last Newsletter about Hosanna, a Chinese orphan with Beta Thalessemia Major who was under the care of Greg and Cathy Crowell from Alberta. They nurtured and sought medical attention for this abandoned baby in China in the hopes of bringing her to Canada. Hosanna Fupei Chen was granted a travel visa from the Canadian Embassy out of Beijing, China, with the help of the Society to come to Canada for medical treatment for blood disorder.

The Society helped raise \$5,000 to help cover Hosanna's medical costs for the life-long blood transfusions that she will require.

We are delighted to report that this story has a happy ending as Greg and Cathy have been successful in their international adoption and are now officially the parents of Hosanna Elizabeth Hope.

Through the kindness and support of individuals, this little girl has a great future ahead of her! ❤️

**9 CANDLES = \$815.00**

For her 9th birthday, Jyoti Ruparell asked friends and family for donations in lieu of presents. She collected and donated a total of \$815.00. What a wonderful gift, Jyoti! THANK YOU

## 'The Wishing Well'

### The Completed Water Well in Sudan *Neta Sharma*



James Nguen, the co-founder of the "Lost Boys and Girls of Sudan Association of Calgary" can add yet another chapter to his Award Winning documentary "The Long Journey Home of James Nguen."

James entered Canada as a refugee in 2001 after being forced to leave Sudan at the age of seven, when his village was attacked. Enduring unspeakable conditions, he narrowly escaped. He later discovered that his father, stepmother and four siblings had been killed.

In 2005, he learned that his mother was alive and eventually met her only to learn that she was going blind from trachoma, a disease that could be prevented by access to clean water.

Founder of the Biluany Literacy and Water Project, James is now helping others in preventing this loss of sight from recurring by drilling water wells to provide safe drinking water to villages in Southern Sudan. With the Society assisting in matching the funds raised by James Nguen's well project, this Biluany well was drilled on Jan. 2 2010. ❤️

## Calgary Aerospace Museum

*Neta Sharma*

FTLOCS provides funding to provide opportunities for Calgary youth participate in the Aerospace Museum's educational programs.

Campus Calgary Aerospace School allows eight classes of students every year to bring their classroom to the museum. Using the museum's artifacts and specialists as resources, broad applications are made that touch on all aspects of the curriculum and help develop the students' talents for inquiry based learning.

Mr. Bahl also makes time to speak at these classes to share some of his inspirational stories about the significance of giving and how we all can make a difference through small gestures of compassion.

"It will give them much to think about and goes a long way to helping them understand the potential that lives within each one of us." Kim Hunter, Aerospace Museum. ❤️

## A Bike for Kalen

*Neta Sharma*

Like every other 6 year-old, Kalen Ducharm of Lethbridge needed a new bike.

Kalen, however has bilateral Perisylvian syndrome. This means he has partial paralysis of the facial muscles that makes it difficult for him to speak and chew, and following seizures, he is unable to walk. Kalen's condition has left him with significant delays both cognitively and physically. He is currently being treated by doctors and a physiotherapist.

His Physiotherapist recommended an adapted bike for Kalen that would allow him to enjoy safe outdoor recreation. Based on this recommendation, Children's C.A.R.E. Services Lethbridge approached FTLOCS to provide \$1,852.00 for the purchase of a MICAH Adapted Trike plus belts.

The bike was received in January and now Kalen is ready for some riding this summer. ❤️

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We supplied soccer balls, pencils, skipping ropes and a variety of other items to be utilized by the students, many which were donated by Calgarians or purchased at a



discount. The school had a long list of wants and needs ready when we arrived. These included:

**Breakfast supplies** 100kg of oats, 50kg of sugar and enough milk for two months were purchased. Supplying breakfast is critical, as many of the children do not get breakfast, and in many cases get only one meal a day.

**Track suits** Schools generally supply these as kids do not have their own physical gear. The suits are made locally, and cost about \$14 each. Most of the 9,000 Soles (\$3,300) needed has been funded by The Rotary Club of Kingston, Ontario, with the balance (1,000 Soles) provided from FTLOCS general funds.

**Computers** The school has two working computers that must be at least 10 years old.

**Grade 6 Graduation** The grade 6 class has asked for to help with the cost of their graduation trip to Machu Picchu. Even though it is only six hours away, most kids never get to travel such a distance. For many students, this truly is a graduation, as their parents cannot

afford to pay for further schooling. The children will raise much of the money through cookouts and other fund raising initiatives. The total budget for 45 children to take the trip is roughly 3,000 Soles (\$1,000).

**Expansion and Repairs** Expanding and repairing the school should, by far, be our biggest priorities. To this end, we met with an engineer who will bring forth some ideas for approximately 3,250 soles. Included will be a plan to add 6 classrooms by making the school two stories. FTLOCS will fund the site assessment and drafting of school expansion plans, including a cost estimate.

Some things, however, cannot wait until the school can be rebuilt. The heavy rains from this past summer (January 2010) seem to have significantly weakened the walls and has damaged the roof and ceilings. These repairs should be attended to in the immediate future in order to ensure safety. The principal is trying to get the government to pay for these repairs, but she did not sound hopeful that this would happen anytime soon.

On our final day in Cusco, Michael and Joel spent time talking with some of the kids one on one to try to learn more of what we can do to help them, and also passed on some inspirational thoughts – about not letting anything get in the way of their dreams and to keep working to overcome obstacles.

Along with the expansion of the school, various methods should be explored to help the school become self-sufficient and yet offering “free” education to those who cannot afford to pay.

The visit was extremely rewarding, but much work is needed. ❤️

## 2009 CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISER

Thanks to all of our generous donors for giving money towards vitamins, medicine, bags of rice, chicken, antibiotics, hospital supplies, soccer balls, goats, wheel barrow of school supplies, mosquito nets, and even a toilet!

Your generous gifts helped over 5000 people and made a positive impact on kids all over the world!



For The Love of Children Society has been helping children in Canada and around the world for the past 30 years. We have 49 schools and orphanages around the world and help war-torn countries and countries hit with natural disasters. We support children in areas including Haiti, India, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Kashmir, Afghanistan, and Peru.

If you would like to make a tax deductible donation, please make your cheque payable to :

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