

STANSBERRY CHILDREN'S HOME NEWSLETTER #68 January - June 2012

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"Imitate God therefore in everything you do, because you are his dear children. Live a life filled with love, following the example of Christ. He loved us and offered himself as a sacrifice for us, a pleasing aroma to God."
Ephesians 5:1-2

We pray to the Father that He will give us the grace to be imitators of God, that we may be a fragrant offering, and through the love that we share, others may come to know Jesus.

Welcome to the year 2012 even though we are already halfway through the year. We began the year at the day care with 160 children under 6 years old. We are very happy that we are able to continue to serve and help many needy families.

Thanks to God's kindness things are going along well. We have people with big hearts that give lots of love and do an excellent job with the children. This means that the children can adapt easily to their return to the daycare. Now when we enter the classrooms we are seeing happy faces at the beginning of each day. The majority of the children are here for 8-9 hours each day. It is a long day, but one with many different activities, much love, and good food. Now everyone knows the daily routine and eagerly awaits each activity.



Hard at work.

A Healthy Child is a Happy Child – Rosmery Morales(Health Coordinator) has been gathering her files to begin a new health profile for each child. The first weeks she was weighing and measuring each child we were receiving to record their condition.

This allowed us to know if there were problems of malnourishment so she could give each parent the necessary orientation and in cases of malnourishment to give the child the proper nourishment. After that Rosmery declared war on the parasites. Everyone, including the workers, was given treatment to eliminate parasites in order to better receive the nutrients from the food.

It is also one of our priorities to look out for the dental health of each child. Everyone received their initial fluoride treatment. We try to encourage good dental hygiene habits in the children from the first day of daycare. They brush their teeth at the daycare and learn how to take care of their teeth, in hopes that this will become a daily, life long habit. It is a struggle, but we also work with the parents so they will help the children with brushing their teeth. We encourage the parents to cut down on the amount of sugary foods they give their children. It is hard, as the parents are very used to a diet heavy on sweets.

We have also held workshops for the parents with children under the age of two on the following topics: Growth and Development, breast feeding, nutrition, and the importance of vaccinations.

We are in the winter season now and the children are getting colds more frequently. The H1N1 flu epidemic is looking like a bigger threat and so we are working on prevention to not have any cases this year.

Who am I? – Delicia, our Social Worker, has been working hard seeing that each child has their proper identification documents in order. This is no easy job as many of our population come from other areas of Bolivia, seeking a better life here in Santa Cruz. Some of the parents do not have their own documents in order. Many are single mothers and historically the law has been that a child needs the father's signature to receive their last name. Recently a law was passed that no longer requires them to have the authorization of the father to receive their last name.

Same Face, New Challenge – This year we welcome Aida to the challenge of working with the children and their families as our resident Psychologist. Since the beginning of the year she has been working with various children and their families in cases of abuse, alcoholism, drugs, etc.

Here is a little bit about Aida to help you get to know her and the valuable work she has brought to us at Stansberry.



Aida working with a mother.

A Bit About Me – My name is Aida Maturano Leon, I was born in Santa Cruz, Bolivia and I am 26 years old. I come from a large but close family. I am the second youngest of 9 children. All of my older siblings are married and have families of their own. My younger sister and I are the only ones still living with our parents. My parents and most of my siblings are Christians and attend an Evangelical church called “The Lineage of God”. I am the president of the youth group and also serve on the Social Service Ministry.

I graduated from high school in 2003. However, for economic reasons I had to wait 3 years before we had enough money for me to enter into University. My desire was to study psychology in the Bolivian Evangelical University. In 2005, I applied to Projuse, a program run by the Bolivian Mennonite church and Mennonite Central Committee. I was accepted and placed for one year with an organization called CENAID, a center that works with handicapped children.

In 2006, the Projuse program asked me if I wanted to work in the Stansberry Daycare, which is called the Guardería Moisés. Here I was given the task of directing a new program which is called the Before and After School Program. I finished the first year very content for the opportunity of having the experience and at the same time sad, because I had become very fond of the children in the program and with the staff with which I was working. But thank God the Stansberry Ministry asked me to stay on for 2007. It was also this year that I was able to begin studying psychology in the Evangelical University.

I am now in my final year of studies and am preparing to defend my thesis.

When I started with Stansberry in 2007, I worked first as an educator in the daycare and after several months returned to the job as the director of the Before and After School Program. I worked as director from then until the end of 2011. During these 4 years I was able to work and study psychology. This year, 2012, I am working as the psychologist for the Stansberry Ministry.

I am very thankful to Stansberry’s for all the help they have given me, for the confidence they have shown me and for the challenges that have helped me to grow in every aspect of life. I am also thankful for their tolerance with my class schedule and the encouragement I received when going through difficult times. I will always have a special place in my heart for the family here at Stansberry.

Strange Occurrences – You never know what a day will bring here in the day care and we were reminded of that one morning when two brothers, who are identical twins, left their classroom to go out for recess. After heading out in line to the park the first boy realized he forgot something and ran back to the door where his brother happened to be exiting. The teacher stood in shock as the two boys had a head on collision and fell to the floor. That is when the first aid skills of not only the teachers, but also the administrative staff, kicked in. The rest of the morning was spent contacting their mother, dressing the wounds, going to the pharmacy to buy medical supplies and finally the doctors office to receive stitches. It was a hectic morning but also a time when all involved stepped up to the challenge of a very unusual accident.



On the mend and back in kinder.

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