

Stansberry's

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On one occasion an expert in the law stood up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what must I do to inherit eternal life?" "What is written in the Law?" he replied. "How do you read it?" He answered, "'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength and with all your mind'; and, 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" "You have answered correctly," Jesus replied. "Do this and you will live." Luke 10:25-28

November is National Adoption Month in the U.S., a time where those working in the foster system draw attention to the many children in need of homes. Here in Bolivia the adoption system is very different and we as a home play a complicated role in this life-changing event.

For some children, Stansberry's is the first place they receive love, healthy attention, and adequate care. This past year, Stansberry's had two children who were placed in

families who are in the process of finalizing their adoptions.

Lily came to Stansberry's from the hospital when she was two months old. She lived in House One and was cared for by Tio Mario and Tia Eva. This past March, after being with us for one year, she was placed with a family. After a



Fabio, Junior, Saida and Porfirio on a return visit with her family.

successful visitation process they were awarded legal guardianship with intentions to adopt. We held a going away party for her and she seems to be adjusting well.

Saida arrived to Stansberry's at 18 months old and was underweight and small for her size. Within the first few days she began to sit without falling over and was quickly on her way to catching up developmentally. Saida's time had more transition than we ever want for a child as she arrived during the search for parents in House Three. She was cared for by staff, volunteers, and most recently by Tio Nathan and Tia Sandra. She was placed with her new family in July, just after her third birthday.

It is our wish that all the children at Stansberry's would be able to have a lifelong family that loves and cares for them.



Lily with her new parents

At the same time, when adoptions happen or children are returned to their families it is a difficult and stressful time for everyone. The children who remain lose a connection with someone they care for and are left with many questions and renewed feelings of loss. Staff deal with the emotional turmoil of releasing a child they've loved sometimes for years. The children leaving the home can feel grief and confusion. Unfortunately with adoption sometimes the first steps in a long and beautiful journey can be painful. Please keep the entire Stansberry's family in your prayers. Also pray for these two precious girls and their new families. Pray for connection, joy and security and that these homes will be the lifelong loving families God desires for each child!

Before- and After-School Program Update

During the last few years our before- and after-school program has seen a reduction in the number of students who attend the program. The program started in 2006 mainly serving families whose children had recently left the day care. Many of the families were working in jobs that required they be away from home and children who were still quite young would be spending a large portion of their day without adequate supervision. At its peak, the before- and after-school program had around 100 students divided



between the morning and afternoon schedules. In recent years those numbers have declined and there is less participation from the community. The majority of the kids in the program are the students who come from the Children's Home. The program has also continued to require more and more funding with less and less impact; at this point the responsible thing to do is to close the program. We no longer feel the program justifies the amount of finances required to continue working in the same way. The before- and after-school program will continue till the end of this school year (early December).

We are saddened to see the end of this program and we are extremely grateful for all those of you who have been supportive over the years, especially the Pierre-Elliott

Trudeau school from Canada, who was our largest financial supporter. A big thank you to the many volunteers who dedicated their time to working closely with the students and were a large part of the biblioteca's success for many years. We will now be focusing our attention on the educational needs of our kids from within the Children's Home and, with the help of volunteers will provide more individualized support for our students based on their specific learning needs.

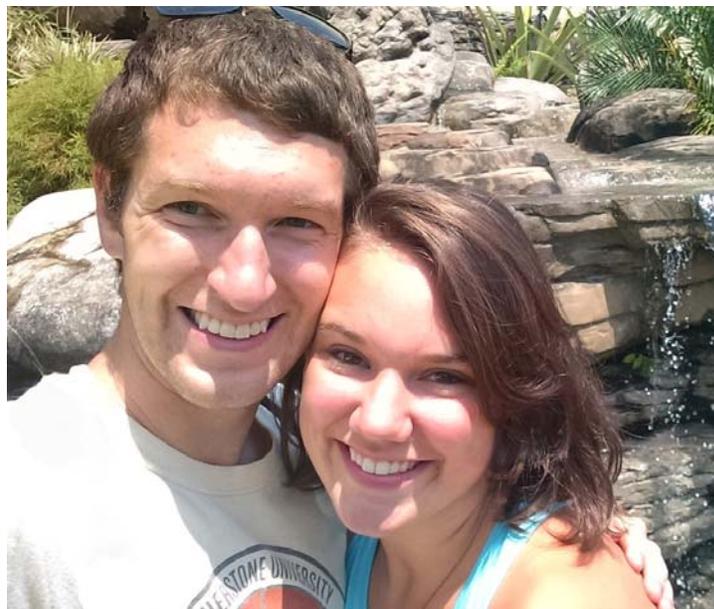
Volunteers

In July we said goodbye to our MCC volunteer Jennifer Moreno (Colombia) who worked with us for a year in the before- and after-school program tutoring and mentoring first through sixth grades. A few short months later, we welcomed Marcos de la Rosa (Dominican Republic), a volunteer through the same program. He is working in the before- and after-school program half time and on maintenance half time. We are excited to have him with us and his lively personality brings a good energy to our team. We also welcomed Sean and Hannah (Ohio, USA) in August and they will be serving with us for the next year.

In their words: A Volunteers Reflection

At two months in, our time in Bolivia has been filled with excitement, challenges, new experiences, and adventure. So far some of our greatest challenges have been learning all about a new culture and language, figuring out how to get around Santa Cruz, and simply adjusting to a new way of life. Some of the best parts have been forming new friendships with the children around Stansberry as well as other volunteers, exploring and trying new things, and experiencing personal growth. We have enjoyed weekly game nights with the kids and in the future we are hoping to develop various activities such as crafting or outdoor living to do with the kids during their time over summer break.

—Sean Miller



Sean and Hannah Miller

Day Care News and Updates

New Project

Over the past year our psychologist and a few educators have created a new learning space. In this specialized



Maribel guiding her students through activities in the development room.

room the kids have activities that promote different developmental skills beyond what they normally do in the classroom. In the day care, there is a wide range of developmental abilities and after a short time, areas where children are advanced or behind begin to show.

The development room is different from their regular classrooms in several ways. The floor is covered with mats, making it easy to play and considerably quieter in the room. There is a large mirror all along the wall, several large soft blocks that are used for climbing on and jumping off, and a soft tube to crawl through. These items are used most often for gross motor skill development, and smaller more intricate toys objects like dried beans, plastic linking toys and colorful puzzles are used for fine motor skills.

Currently, each classroom has a scheduled day of the week to use the development room and teachers have planned activities for their students. In the future the room will also be used by the psychologist to work one on one with children who need special attention. We are pleased with how the space has come together and we are excited to watch the children continue to grow in this new environment.



A student works to build a tower with stacking toys.

Special events

Instead of celebrating Mother's Day or Father's Day in the day care we celebrate all together as Family Day. This year was a huge success, with everyone wearing their classroom colors, creating cheers to support their teams and competing in different events including a soccer tournament for the parents. Afterwards, we all shared a delicious meal prepared by each class.

August 6th is Bolivia's independence day. To celebrate, some of the children dress in traditional wear from all over Bolivia and give presentations. Afterwards, there is a parade of the entire day care population around the property of Stansberry's. This year like most others was a hot and windy day but we are thankful the streets are now paved!



Children, teachers and parents parade around Stansberry's.

To celebrate Santa Cruz Day in September, we had a fair. Classrooms prepared different traditional foods and gave presentations of Santa Cruz topics to visiting government officials.

Family Profile

My name is Maria and I am 37 years old. I was born in La Paz, a mountainous area of Bolivia with a consistently cold climate. I was raised by a single mom; I never knew my father. When I was 16 years old I took a job as a live-in maid with a family and moved with them to the outskirts of Santa Cruz.

My life has not been easy; I struggled alone. My oldest child of 16 is living alone in La Paz and my 15-year-old daughter is in a children's home for adolescent youth who are pregnant. She was sent to this home because she became pregnant after being raped by my second husband. I worked all day and left her to take care of her younger siblings of 6, 5 and 3 years of age. I never imagined that this was happening and it was very painful to learn of the fact that my husband was sexually abusing my little girl. I had to report him to the corresponding authorities, it destroyed me. I again was alone. I decided to come to the city to change my environment, I left my job as a cleaning lady and began knocking on doors, looking where I could live with my three kids and find a job that would provide food for them.

God always provides. When I thought that I couldn't go on any longer out of nowhere an opportunity appeared. Now my work is selling coffee in police stations and also selling gum and other candies on the micro buses. I also take



Maria with her three youngest children.

advantage on the buses to speak of Jesus and offer to pray with people. I am not ashamed and there are many people who are interested in what I have to say and are receptive.

There are some who don't care and others who look at me strangely not only because I am outspoken about Jesus but also because I have one eye in which I am completely blind and my other is losing sight. You can imagine the way people look at me.

My situation changed from day to night since I learned about

the Moises Day Care. There they opened their doors to us



Selling wares on a Micro

and didn't look at me like I am something strange. Now during the day my three younger children are in the day care; there they are safe and have food to eat. I no longer have to take them with me on the buses while selling. God is faithful. I am thankful to Him for sustaining me, for providing a place to live and for providing a safe place where I can leave my children while I work.

Exciting Giving Opportunity!

Thanks to the generosity of an anonymous donor, we have the opportunity to double your gift. From now until the end of the year we have a matching donation incentive where every dollar given will be matched up to a total of \$25,000 dollars. We are blessed by this generosity.

Will you help us meet our goal and increase the financial security of children at Stansberry's?

Happy Holidays!

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