



## On your doorstep.....2010

### Project COLORS update from the field

Thanks to everyone who bought gifts of food, agent of change sponsorships & wheelchair ramp construction gift cards, we have reached our goal for this year's sponsorship campaign. It was a close call, but the budget was reached with last minute donations before the New Year. Way to go!

**You did it! You really did.**

*Acting fast on your behalf:* Some of the sponsorships have already been put into action. Here is an update from the Dominican Republic.

### HEALTHY START !

By Charlene Marcinkoisi

For the last two months, thanks to Project COLORS, the families from the American Embassy in Santo Domingo and some other wonderful volunteers; the children at Jackie's House have been receiving healthy breakfasts on Saturday mornings. A regular morning breakfast for the children in the orphanage might be a hard crust of bread. Thanks to some wonderful volunteers the children are now getting to experience what it is like to have a nice big hearty breakfast to give them the boost they need to get through the day. On Saturday mornings we have had the privilege of spending time with each child and providing them with EGGS, BACON, HAM, WHOLE WHEAT TOAST, HOMEMADE BANANA BREAD, FRUIT, ORANGE JUICE and MILK.





I will tell you the kids are in Heaven, they love this kind of food and all the special attention. Since the orphanage has moved to a further location, they are harder to visit as regularly as we would like. So the kids are extra excited when we come on the weekends to spend quality time and give them a big filling breakfast... They can't get enough (attention or food). If you let them, they would just keep eating and eating, so we have to be careful.... It really makes you think about how lucky we are to be able to eat what we

want when we want. Because of the Christmas sponsorship campaign and our partnership with the kind families volunteering from the US Embassy, we now have enough money to keep the breakfasts going throughout the year. We will also be using some of these funds for "Tia days", when the kids get a chance to leave the orphanage grounds to go to the beach or home with me for the weekend.

*Charlene.*

### THE CELEBRATIONS OF YOUR LOVE



COLORS Dominicana, we have teamed up this year with other charitable organizations and shared in 3 holiday celebrations in December for the children of Jackie's Home. WOW, have we all been excited and blessed this year. With some wonderful donations of presents that came in, the children were able to have a very merry blessed Christmas. All the children wrote on little angels what they wanted and needed this year for Christmas and to their amaze they all received what they asked for! Can you imagine rarely even receiving gifts and then all of a sudden, you receive something you really, really wanted and

needed all in the same day. **Shoes that fit, a flashlight, a school set, a toy, a pillow.**

*The children are told that they received these gifts because the people of the world really love them and care for them. What joy on these beautiful children's faces.*

## New beginnings in South Africa too.....

### Tables and chairs and food, oh my!

**By Sunyata**

**Kids singing for you:** click:

<http://www.facebook.com/video/video.php?v=297858640992>

Video made today Jan 14<sup>th</sup> 2010.

I had the privilege today to set up a new preschool with tables, carpet, mattresses, chairs and supplies for the new feeding program. I love days like these, where I help the dreams of others come alive through the sponsorships of the Christmas campaign. Alice, a Xhosa teacher from Themba lethu and I ran around George in the COLORS car getting everything we needed for the 1<sup>st</sup> day of pre-school. Since the pre-school was largely a hollow shell, we had lots of work to do.



I wish a donor or volunteer was there with me when we pulled up to the pre-school with all the gifts from COLORS Christmas donors. The children of the small, very poor village all came running to help unpack the car. The smiles were huge...excitement filled the air. All the little kids wanted to help make their preschool nice as they ran new blankets, cleaning supplies, cups and bowls into the classroom.

Pre-school does not start for a few more days, but the kids want to start NOW.

When it was time to go and I drove away the kids disappeared. I turned down the long dirt road towards the massive new grave site to go home. As I drove, the kids from the pre-school burst out of the bushes waving and running after my car **"Thank you, donke, nanksoi"** they yelled.



*I have to say that despite all the emotional and psychological wearing of this type of work...today is one of those days that I feel that I have one of the best jobs in the world.*

*"Thank you, donke, nanksoi" From all the children and me, Sunny.*

PS. Thanks again for helping this year.... Late January and February is always a favorite time of year for Charlene and I, since we can now put so many of our ideas and sponsorships into action in the DR and Africa on your behalf!



Next time on "On your Doorstep...." COLORS newsletter from the field will highlight more of your sponsorships, so stay tuned for the projects your funds are supporting.

*\*Remember, all projects reported on only exist because of you\**

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## News Flash Just In:

News from COLORS Dominicana about Haiti -please read

Subject: Earthquake in Haiti - From Charlene (COLORS Dominicana)

*Hi Everyone*

*Here are a few pictures from the recent earthquake in Haiti. \*You have no idea how bad things are going to be and how many people and children have and are going to lose their lives in this natural disaster... If you have ever been to Haiti you know how horrible and bad the situation in this country was before this and now it is just unthinkable..\*. There is nothing there and now anything that was there was in the capital city of Port au Prince and it has just completely been destroyed.. 10 million people live in this country and have nothing..COLORS has no immediate projects set up in Haiti, but please think about sending some money to help other relief*

*organizations assist in rescuing these helpless people. There are many organizations, \*Red Cross, World Vision, Save the Children, Plan International, Doctors without Borders, Peace Corps\* just to name a few, I am sure you can choose one of your favorite charities and send a little bit of money to one of them if you can, anything will help.. This is a horrible horrible situation and being here in the DR(as you may know the DR is attached to Haiti on this island), so close and not being able to do something because I am only one person with 3 children...is so heartbreaking. I want to just drive there right now and help out but that would be very difficult for me with my family.. so I am asking you. although you can't be there, and for NOW I CANT GO to maybe assist directly, please think about helping making a donation to an on the ground NGO there. There is going to be so much suffering there....the DR will also soon be flooded with refugees I'm sure.*

*Thank God that 2 of my girlfriends who live in the capital city and run an orphanage have reported that they are okay that their house and their orphanage did not collapse but they are only so lucky... I have many friends*

*who have not heard anything from all of their friends and family who live in*

*Haiti and it is so sad.... Imagine if you had no idea if all of your family and friends were dead or alive and no way to know..*

*We should be so thankful for the things that we have...*

*Love Charlene*

UPDATE: Since this email news was sent this morning from Charlene, there has already been a positive response. Amy Brannen at Project Thrift, will now be sending all proceeds that go through her store this week to Haiti on behalf of COLORS. Charlene in the DR, will also be looking into partnering up with other charities in her area directly providing aid to Haiti.....more news to come.

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