



My Father's House International

2008 Annual Report

Our Mission

We are a Christ-centered ministry to children and families in crisis which:

promotes the ministry of reconciliation, reconciling people to God and families to each other. *2 Corinthians 5:20*

provides opportunities for those called to serve. *Matthew 25:35-36*

partners with other ministries whose goal is to facilitate hope and healing. *Jeremiah 33:6*

Our 2008 activities

Child care— We continued to support the operations of *La Casa de mi Padre*, averaging over \$24,000 per month.

Outreach to families— We contributed to work with the families of our children through counseling, language education, and financial support. Partnering with Habitat for Humanity and Starfish Orphan Ministries, we built a house for the mother of one of our children, Miguel (see page 6).

Mission teams— We sponsored three medical and construction mission teams.

Community service— Our children and missionaries volunteered at the Fuller Center. During the mission trips, we partnered with the staff of *La Casa de mi Padre* to minister to the poor in several Salvadoran communities and other children's homes.

Financial Accountability— We became an affiliate member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability.



Many of the older boys, including William (above), participated in a mission project at the Fuller Center in San Salvador building houses.

Ways that you can serve:

Pray for the ministry and the children and staff of *La Casa de mi Padre*.

Share the ministry and the story of *La Casa de mi Padre* with your family, friends, or church.

Support one of our missionaries, Kurt Ackermann and Kathryn Winn.

Participate in our capital campaign in El Salvador.

Go to El Salvador on a medical or construction team.

Give toward the operational needs or special needs of *La Casa de mi Padre*.

To learn about these and other ways to participate in our work, contact us at www.info@mfhinternational.org or P.O. Box 20673; Roanoke, VA 24018

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Look for our new, updated
webpage at:
www.mfhinternational.org

Gifts given in honor of:

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Justin and Grace Davies

by: Bob and Debbie Wilson

2008 Mission Trips

My Father's House International helped to sponsor several mission trips in 2008. For the fifth consecutive year, the Richmond chapter of the Christian Medical and Dental Society worked with My Father's House to accomplish a medical trip which served to introduce medical, dental, pharmacy, and therapy students to medical missions. The doctors and students on this team worked in four communities in El Salvador providing much-needed medical and dental care. This partnership has served to open the eyes of young medical professionals to the needs that exist and to show how children of God can minister to people and meet some of those needs.

A second medical team, this time assisted by optometrist and optometry students from California visited El Salvador in August. Four communities and over 1000 people were ministered to during each of these trips. Participants were able to witness God's provision in meeting the needs of the people and to see God at work around them, through them, and in them.

Several church groups visited *La Casa de mi Padre* during 2008. The senior boys of Fourth Presbyterian Church in Bethesda, Maryland visited El Salvador in July, doing some fix up work at *La Casa* as well as at some of the government orphanages. The trip was so meaningful that another senior high trip is planned



Dr. Scott Anderson at work

of 2009. Discovery Christian Church and Calvary Full Gospel Church, both in Pennsylvania, and Chestnut Mountain Presbyterian Church of Chestnut Mountain, Georgia also did work in and around *La Casa de mi Padre*.

These trips serve to introduce people to the ministry and to the work of short-term missions. There are already at least three trips planned for 2009. Another 20 students from VCU along with doctors and dentists from Virginia, Texas, Indiana, and California will conduct medical clinics in March. Several construction teams and another medical team are planning summer trips.

If you'd like to learn about how you can join a team or plan a trip, contact us at info@mfhinternational.org.



Fourth Presbyterian guys working at *La Casa de mi Padre*

provides...

The Family and Therapeutic Programs at *La Casa de mi Padre*

I am often asked what distinguishes *La Casa de mi Padre* from the many orphanages, children's homes, and ministries to children throughout the world that also depend upon the generous support of donors to exist. Until recently, that was a difficult question to answer.

Most children's homes provide shelter, food, clothing, and education to the children in their care. While this was the emphasis for *La Casa de mi Padre* initially, the ministry now provides much more. For the past eighteen months to two years, *La Casa de mi Padre* has taken tangible steps to deal, on a much deeper level, with each child. Through the efforts of the staff and the guidance of Eagle Ranch, a children's ministry in northwest Georgia, there is now an effort to help the children to understand and overcome their pasts.

The foundation for this work is helping the children to recognize that they have a God who will "never leave nor forsake them." Patty Ramirez, the staff psychologist, and her staff of Tias and Tios help the children to deal with the pain of their past. Recognizing that most of the children have at least



Literacy classes for families

some extended family members, the staff has sought ways to provide for reconciliation of the children to their families. In addition to bi-weekly family visits, events have taken place which bring great hope to the children and their families.

Through the joint efforts of *Fundacion La Casa de mi Padre*, My Father's House International, Starfish Orphan Ministries, and Habitat for Humanity, the mother of one of the children of *La Casa de mi Padre*, Miguel, has a new home. This effort is the fruit of the new effort to reach out to families, helping to break the cycle of poverty and poor decisions. The goal is to assist Miguel's mom to establish herself so that Miguel can ultimately be reunited with her on a permanent basis.

The story of Jason's reunion with his father and grandfather was detailed in an earlier newsletter. This reunion showed everyone who witnessed it God's grace, forgiveness, and hope.

Families who visit are offered literacy classes held at *La Casa de mi Padre* and, when available, have been offered medical and dental care.

This very tough work has begun to bear fruit both in the behaviors of our children and in the relationships that we are witnessing between the children and their families. Pray that God will continue to give strength to the staff as they continue in this unique and difficult work.



Miguel and his mom, Gregoria, as the house is being built

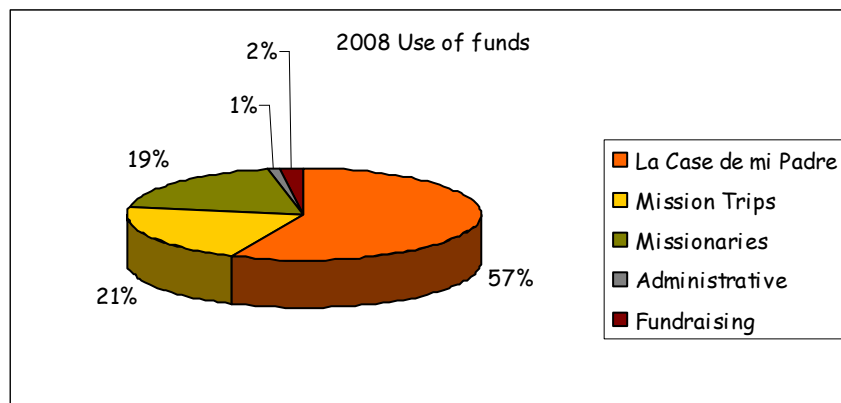
promotes...

Aubrey L. Knight
President, My Father's House International

Our 2008 Finances

- Donations totaling \$495,382.45
- Three mission trips with participants and mission trip support totaling \$102,740.70
- Capital campaign support totaling \$7,458.20
- Support for missionaries totaling \$96,528.56

My Father's House International, Inc. is a non-profit organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.



My Father's House International joins National Financial Accountability Organization



*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

On November 13, 2008, My Father's House International (MFHI) was accepted as an affiliate member of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA). ECFA membership is based on standards of responsible stewardship, including financial accountability, transparency, sound board governance, and ethical fund-raising.

A growing number of churches and evangelical organizations across the United States, representing more than \$18 billion in annual revenue, have earned the right to display the ECFA seal. When an organization becomes an ECFA member, it demonstrates a willingness to

follow the model of biblical accountability. The acting president of ECFA, Dan Busby, in announcing the acceptance of MFHI, said "We are pleased to include in our membership a ministry committed to restoring families to God and each other."

The board of MFHI voted to seek membership with the ECFA during its 2008 annual meeting, recognizing that membership would not only represent an affiliation that would assist with earning the public's trust but would also align them with an organization that can offer assistance and support.

My Father's House International, Inc.

P. O. Box 20673
Roanoke, VA 24018

www.mfhinternational.org
Email: info@mfhinternational.org

My Father's House International, Inc.

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