

# BETWEEN FRIENDS

## SPRING 2024 NEWSLETTER



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT



As I write this, I am sitting in the visitor house of NPH Dominican Republic. Our 2024 team participants are out and about doing various tasks. Later, we will be preparing a BBQ for the sixteen of us along with all the children and staff of NPH. Just another Canadian team working hard, playing with the children, enjoying the hot weather, learning about NPH. After over 10 years of leading teams on projects, I still marvel at how well our teams interact with the staff and children of our NPH homes. We've already processed three new sponsorships and expect more. It's only our second year of projects after the pandemic. The children are ALWAYS excited to be with us. We ALWAYS connect with our brothers and sisters at the homes. We're ALWAYS looking for more Canadians to partake in this valuable experience. Consider joining us or help us by contributing to the funds we send down to continue this most important work. We are ALWAYS grateful for any support we receive and thank you for all you do for FOTOCAN.

### NOTICE

**2024 AGM**  
Annual General Meeting

Saturday, April 27, 2024  
1:00 PM EDT

Join us for our Annual General Meeting and get to know more about what we do. This virtual (ZOOM) event will include presentations, contests, and fun.

Send your registration to [mblair@fotocan.org](mailto:mblair@fotocan.org)

### OUR SPONSORSHIP PROGRAM

We continue to be very excited about this program which helps so many children, some in our NPH homes and those in our One Family program. All these children receive a level of care that would not be possible without you, our dedicated Godparents. We currently have 341 children being sponsored by 275 donors.

2024 has begun with continued activity as Godparents communicate regularly with their children by way of our electronic mail system. Some 50 plus letters from Godparents to their sponsored child and letters from children to their sponsors have been translated and forwarded to sponsors and children in our NPH homes this year so far. Donors have welcomed a new sponsored child by way of substitution, while wishing their originally sponsored child much success as they embark upon an independent life made possible only by the support and care he or she has received over many years.

To those currently sponsoring a child (or children), THANK YOU for being such an important part of the work that we do. We cannot appropriately express our gratitude.

To those who would like to be a part of making a difference in the life of a child in one of our NPH homes, we would encourage you to contact our office for more details about our Sponsorship Program, One Family Program as well as our Sharing Fund Program. Barbara Petty, our sponsorship coordinator can be reached at [sponsorship@fotocan.org](mailto:sponsorship@fotocan.org)

The monthly sponsorship donation of \$50.00 has an impact that cannot be truly measured. You can not only play a part in providing accommodation, education and health care for these children but can also have a direct relationship with your sponsored child.

Please contact our office and make a difference today!



**DID YOU KNOW?**  
*Andy and Margot Uyl have been regular sponsors of NPH children since Andy began participating on project teams. They currently sponsor 7 children in Nicaragua and Dominican Republic with a total of 18 sponsorships over 8 years! THANK YOU Uyl family!*



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Friends of the Orphans  
CANADA  
Raising children. Transforming lives.



## NPH DOMINICAN REPUBLIC PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Funded a new school room for the expanding population of the transition home in Monte Plata. This room can also serve as a day care facility and an after school gathering place for NPH and the surrounding communities.
- Erected two gaga ball courts, one at Santa Ana and one in Monte Plata.
- Painted one of the houses in Monte Plata as well as the main park area in Santa Ana.
- Constructed shelving for the doctor's office and built the foundation of a tree house in Monte Plata.



## THE BABY AND THE PRIEST

The picture is well-known among NPH staff and supporters and it hangs in Casa Santa Rosa in Monte Plata in the Dominican Republic. It was captured 65 years ago. The priest holding the tiny baby. Father William Wasson and Maria Avante.

Maria's mother died after giving birth to her in Mexico on July 7, 1959. She was the youngest of twelve who all were sent to NPH Mexico since they had no one to care for them. She grew up at Miacatlan completing high school and her year of service. She left NPH to live in Mexico City with her older brother, who funded her post secondary education as a legal secretary. She worked for Volkswagen until she moved to live with her sibling's sponsors, Bruce and Lois Daugherty in Naples, Florida, where she learned English from 1984 to 1986.

Maria is the mother of three children. She became an American citizen and took a new job as a transporter for a hospital. When she moved to Holly, Michigan, she worked at Chrysler in business management. When her youngest child was 8 months old, she was divorced and raised the children on her own until she met her current husband, John Radvansky.



Susana and Kieran Rigney stand with Maria Avante Radvansky in front of the well-known photo of Father William Wasson

After living in Michigan for six years, Maria researched the whereabouts of one of her sponsors, whom she had never met. She found his son on the internet, and he promptly informed his 93 year-old father that Maria wanted to reconnect with him. He was thrilled! She still maintains a relationship with him and his family, who are currently in Pennsylvania.

Maria now has three grandchildren and she credits NPH for changing her life permanently for the better. She never knew the love of her father and mother, but she shared love among over 300 brothers and sisters and a priest who welcomed her into his arms so many years ago.

