

# BETWEEN FRIENDS

WINTER 2023 NEWSLETTER



## Joyful Tidings



"I wish we could feel the spirit of Christmas all year long".

How often has that been said when the holidays approach and then fade away? Here at Friends of the Orphans, we do enjoy the spirit of giving and gratitude in our sponsors' financial support of our children in each of our nine homes. Subsequently,

the children benefit from that commitment every day in receiving quality care and education.

FOTOCAN very much appreciates all our dedicated sponsors and contributors. Lately we have been challenged with rising prices and tightened purse strings. This is a world-wide problem. Our children rely heavily on our support. Thank you for your continued sponsorship in these times.

On behalf of all the board members, I extend to you our wishes for safe and joyful holidays with family and friends followed by a prosperous 2024.

## Alternate Gifts

This Christmas, give an Alternate Gift from FOTOCAN! Your gift will make the Holidays brighter for children in nine countries.

Uncle Bob doesn't need another tie! Order your Alternate Gifts for family members, friends, and people you don't even like but are trying to love, here:

<http://weblink.donorperfect.com/FOTOCANAlternateGifts>

You can also call us to have Alternate Gifts delivered on your behalf.



## NPH Success Story: Luz De Maria Vigia



On August 24, 2000, after having lost her mother to gang violence, being abandoned by her father, and neglected by alcoholic grandparents, Luz de Maria Vigia, then ten years old, was welcomed by NPH in El Salvador.

Luz found it difficult to adapt. She explains: "I was not accustomed to having everything without having to worry about anything".

Luz recalls that she eventually came to understand family and that at NPH "there is always someone looking out for you".

After having completed her years of service, Luz says she decided to study to become a nurse, "to help others, just like NPH did for me". She studied at IEPROES and graduated on March 15, 2013. NPH El Salvador now employs Luz as a nurse to a young boy who needs her help. Luz says: "Each 24 hour workday that I spend with him I take as a blessing that God has given me because I am able to do something for someone else".

We are thankful for Luz who epitomizes the principles of love, sharing, work, and responsibility.



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## A Wonderful Case of the Mondays!



On Monday, October 9 (Thanksgiving Monday in Canada), FOTOCAN received pictures of happy, THANKFUL students in Haiti. They've now received pencil cases with school supplies to support their learning and growth at an exceptional school with exceptional teachers. These gifts were followed by your generous donations toward new uniforms (including desperately needed socks and underwear).

FOTOCAN is now also sponsoring a teacher for Monte Plata at NPH-DR. Your donations are paying a teacher's salary! Join us in our quest to provide and support quality education programs by making one-time or monthly donations at:

<https://www.fotocan.org/Adopt-A-Classroom.htm>.



## Dear FOTOCAN Supporter

Please read the enclosed letter dated November 1, 2023. In it, we indicate that it was with heavy hearts that we were unable to meet our financial commitment to NPHI for the remainder of 2023.

We want to  
hear from YOU



Please visit [www.fotocan.org](http://www.fotocan.org) to share your thoughts and ideas with FOTOCAN's Board of Directors. Alternatively, please write, email, or call us. You should also feel free to walk into our office to fill out a physical form.

We appreciate your partnership as we look forward to 2024 and beyond.

## Dominican Republic 2024 Projects



Join us in building fences, fieldwork, teaching, gardening, maintenance, and looking after the children for NPH-DR. We can help improve the lives of children with our own hands.

Project dates are being scheduled between February 12 and March 21 (tentative). Participants can book 7, 10, or 14 days, or longer, at the home. A Student Team (ages 16 - 19) is being organized for during March Break (March 10 - March 17).

Donations to FOTOCAN of \$2000 per adult and \$1800 per student will constitute your footprint, project costs, and support other charitable works on behalf of disadvantaged children and families. Airfare will be arranged by FOTOCAN and paid for by project participants. Individual/group fundraising can be employed.

For further information or to secure an application form, please contact:

Andy Uyl - [andy.f.uyl@gmail.com](mailto:andy.f.uyl@gmail.com) / 226-973-2343  
or Joy King - [jkng787@gmail.com](mailto:jkng787@gmail.com) / 519-889-0002

We would be more than willing to speak to a group of interested parties at your school, church or designated meeting place.



El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras have the highest rates of femicide (killing of women) in the world due to gang violence.

One out of four people in the Dominican Republic do not have access to clean water. Millions do not have electricity in Bolivia, Haiti and Peru.



Approximately 22.2 million children and adolescents in Latin America are not in school or at risk of dropping out of school each year.

### Health Care

Over 1,900 COVID vaccines given to NPH children and staff in 2022

### Communities

88,406 services provided through NPH community outreach programs in 2022

### Education

Over 3,300 children attended NPH schools in 2022



November 1, 2023

Dear Friend,

Since 1978, **YOU** have been what has kept FOTOCAN going. Your support has been everything, to us and the thousands of young people in Latin America and the Caribbean who have been given a chance at life, in a loving and supportive environment.

Our Board of Directors thanks you. The positive difference you have made in the nine countries and NPH homes we are active in supporting is undeniable. Generations of otherwise disadvantaged children have received food, shelter, education, health care and love.

NPH International (NPHI) supports children and we support NPHI.

We have, for years, made financial commitments to NPHI, the charitable organization that manages our NPH homes.

It was with heavy hearts that we were unable to meet our financial commitment to NPHI for the remainder of 2023. In fact, we have indicated to NPHI that we will not make a financial commitment for 2024. We will instead give as we are able to support the ongoing work of this reputable charity.

It is our hope that Canada will remain one of the countries that supports this important work. We cannot, however, do this without additional support from our member base and new donors.

We want to remain a viable force for good.

We are asking for your help:

**Sponsor a Child** - Become a godparent to a child who lives at an NPH home. Provide for that child's growth and development. Already a godparent? Encourage a friend or family member to adopt into the NPH family. You could also choose to support an additional child, or to increase your monthly sponsorship amount.

**Sponsor a Family** - NPHI supports reintegration and the biological families of children who live in the communities that surround our NPH homes. You can sponsor a family that receives help - food, clean water, health care, and social services - from NPH. In many cases, this is the help that is needed to stay together.

**Support Farming Projects** - Food is produced at our NPH homes. It is grown and harvested on site. NPH children learn about agriculture. They are exposed to whole foods. They are nourished. Be a part of sustainable practices that promote health and provide daily meals to hundreds and thousands of children and families.

**Adopt-A-Classroom** - Are you a teacher? Do you love a teacher? Sponsor an NPH classroom. Provide students with school supplies and educational opportunities. Be a part of inspiring lessons, art projects, science labs, and field trips. You will receive updates with respect to the classroom and school that you support.

**Adopt-A-Nurse** - Are you a nurse? Do you love a nurse? Consider that nurses in Haiti are doing what you/your loved one does, but in the face of civil unrest and without the technology and tools that make our lives and jobs easier. Your donation will support the very important work being done at St. Damien's Pediatric Hospital in Tabarre, Haiti.

**Corporate Sponsorship** - Do you own a business? Please consider a monthly or annual donation toward our General Fund. Do you know someone who owns a business? Tell them about FOTOCAN and NPH and the work that is done to secure futures for youth in countries where nothing is promised. We will happily recognize corporate support of our projects and work on behalf of otherwise disadvantaged children.

**Tell Us More** - We recognize we need to make changes, to evolve and pivot to the realities of the world we live in. Are there better ways that FOTOCAN can raise funds and remain sustainable? Please provide us with your advice. Ask a neighbour, a young person, or others in your life what resonates with them when it comes to supporting charitable causes. As the world we live in has changed, so too must we! Look for the survey on our website. Drop by our office to fill one out. Call or email us today!

**Please act now.**

We ask this recognizing that Canadian lives and families have been hard hit by the events of recent years. People have had to cut back. At FOTOCAN, we have and are making cost-cutting changes. We have and will continue to give of our time and resources. We do not take for granted that you have remained supporters of FOTOCAN. Every dollar you have sent and every minute that you have volunteered is appreciated.

**As the Executive Directors and Members of our Board, we value you and what you offer.**

Best Regards,

*Margaret Blair, Joy King, Laura Leitch, Cathy Miller, Melanie Montgomery, Carmine Nigro, Arturo Pugliese, Mark Robinson, Andy Ross, Ken Speers, Steven Travale, Margot Uyl, Jeff Van Haeren, and Logan Wood*