

# Between FRIENDS

Spring 2021 NEWSLETTER

NUESTROS PEQUEÑOS HERMANOS



Friends of the Orphans  
CANADA

## President's Message - March 2021

"A stitch in time saves nine". "An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure". I'm sure you can think of a few more sayings that mean the same thing. NPH is trying to put this into practice when dealing with child poverty in the countries where there are NPH homes. The three pillars of NPH are: **Prevention, Protection, Preparation**. That is; **Prevention** of the factors that put children at risk, **Protection** of children who become at-risk, and **Preparation** of youth for work and further education as they become young, independent adults. NPH is now shifting their work more towards **Prevention** to reduce the need for residential care.

Much of FOTOCAN's history has been with the **Protection** pillar. We build and maintain homes and support systems for the children who have to rely on the protection of NPH. We send teams to work on these build projects and we visit and play with the children in care to show them that they are important to us and that we love them. There will always be a need for protection services in some of the countries. The governments order NPH to look after some children. Other countries are strongly discouraging residential living in homes like NPH, while still encouraging NPH's education, medical, social and vocational services.

NPH is following a new initiative of the United Nations that recognizes the rights of children, including the right to live in a family. The United Nations has designated NPH as a Civil Society Organization to serve in various humanitarian functions, all aimed at reducing child poverty and its effects. New programs are being developed to improve outreach to families where children may become at-risk. NPH has developed some day-care centres that include parental education, counselling and support in hopes of improving family situations and strengthening the **Prevention** pillar. In some of the NPH homes, the *One Family* program has been developed where some of the children in residence have been reunited with family members like aunts, step-brothers or grandparents and NPH maintains support and communication. Many of the NPH homes include schools and medical services that support hundreds of children living in the local communities.

**Preparation** will always be a strong pillar of NPH. The NPH vocational workshops, university scholarships and other supports for independent young adults is important to break the cycle of poverty. NPH keeps in communication and provides encouragement for many *pequeños* well into their 20s and beyond. Some even become NPH staff. These programs apply to youth living at an NPH home or in the community with family members.

All of this takes financial support. FOTOCAN is committed to support NPH as they shift gears to these new prevention initiatives and maintain the preparation of youth for independent living outside of poverty. We thank all of you for your continued support. These are exciting changes and we look forward to the projects that will come out of them.



## Joy's Jots

While the "COVID curse" dies down with the flattening of the curve and development of new vaccines, many of our sponsors are asking how the homes are doing at this time.

Every home has a common thread in the reaction to the pandemic. Schools were closed, governments issued lock downs, curfews, daily routines disrupted, job losses, food shortages, and limited medical access. Psychologists and medical staff legitimately worried for the mental state of each child.

But hope rises eternal in every home. Actions to avert the melancholy of lock down included continuing homework, and enforcing the duty of work by working in the garden, adding to their home duties. The older and more capable children are teaching classes in painting and clay, sewing and crafts, learning musical instruments, making chocolate and cooking lessons, with supervision by an adult. The afternoons are occupied with basketball, soccer, volleyball, or other leisure activities. Zumba classes have become weekend sessions in some homes!



All the directors praised their staff: "They simply decided to serve the most vulnerable, who will always be grateful as well. There is no doubt that now a day the NPH Honduras home would not stand without the effort of each member of the staff."

"I have never experienced a year like this 2020. I used to be an optimistic person no matter how hard the situation was, but this time I felt so worried because I didn't have answers to solve all our problems, I read all of Father Wasson's books trying to find a solution. Faith and the support of the staff motivate me to keep going".

All directors expressed extreme gratitude for the efforts of the fund raising offices. Our continued financial support was and remains key to this day and beyond for their success.

"There is always a light at the end of the tunnel and it is up to us to turn it on or off."

As always, we are forever grateful for all you give to the homes through FOTOCAN.

For more information about the homes, you may want to check out the NPH USA "Open Home" series on YouTube, created this past summer.

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## Notice on Nicaragua

Dear Friends

Recent changes at our home in Nicaragua have been challenging and we are thankful for the dedicated staff at NPH Nicaragua who are committed to ensuring that the welfare of each child is of utmost priority during this time.

The children who were in residence at NPH Nicaragua have been moved to various locations. During this transition we have been constantly updated with the happenings in the lives of most of the children. Most have been reunited with a family member. NPH are in constant touch with the children and now also with all of the family members involved. While some of the children did find the adjustment a little difficult, all of the children have adjusted well. School is still on going at the home and the children are allowed to attend school each day. This gives further opportunity to continue the mandate of NPH and Friends of the Orphans Canada which is to ensure the wellbeing of these children. The staff of NPH are still very much a part of the lives of most of the children as much as is possible. There are a few children who were moved to locations that made contact by NPH impossible. This saddens us and we will continue to pray that these few children will be cared for in their new environment. We are grateful for the donors who had been sponsoring these few children and who now have transferred their

sponsorship to another child. We understand that these changes have caused some questions in the minds of some of our donors and we are thankful to respond. As these changes have taken place there has also been a change in the needs of the children. We want to assure our donors that the staff at NPH continue to provide all of the educational and health support that the children need. Commitments regarding the provision of all that is required is ongoing. Teachers, curriculum as well as the additional costs of dealing with the need for additional medical provisions due to the COVID 19 pandemic have not minimized the need for funding. NPH provide to us, audited statements of all of the costs associated with operating the home each year and transparency is always paramount. We continue to work with NPH using the budget reports we receive and trust that this reassurance will cause our donors to have the utmost confidence in our work. We are always very proud to be able to say that 100% of our sponsorship funding is used to provide for needs of these children. While the environment has changed, we know that the needs are still there and we are glad to be a part of helping meet those needs. During the coming months we will share any updates we receive. We are also available to answer any questions you might have regarding your particular sponsored child.



## Ewald Josef August Lammerding 1927-2021

Ewald passed away peacefully at home on Tuesday, January 12, 2021 with several family members at his side, and others who had to say their goodbyes from a distance during his final days. He is now rejoined with his beloved bride and lifelong partner, Emma (2018). He will be lovingly and forever remembered by his children, their spouses, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. There are many people whom Ewald considered part of an informal, extended, global family and who will miss his good cheer and friendship.

Ewald lived a long and adventuresome life, and throughout he brightened many lives and touched many hearts. In 1984, Ewald and Emma both volunteered for 2 years in Mexico on a farm owned by Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH). He served as a director, then president of Friends of the Orphans Canada to raise funds for NPH, while serving as the on-site farm advisor on properties in Honduras, Haiti, Bolivia, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Throughout his lifetime, Ewald lived life fully and with gratitude for the many friendships he made in the process. He received many awards and accolades for his leadership, activism, and volunteer work, but Ewald would always say he was gaining more than he was giving, and simply enjoying life. If desired, as expression of condolences, Ewald requested consideration of a donation be made to Friends of the Orphans Canada ([www.fotocan.org](http://www.fotocan.org)) in his memory.

# Virtual Annual General Meeting

Guest Speaker: Miguel Venegas -  
Executive Director of NPH

\* Highlights of Our Work in 2020

Saturday,  
May 8, 2021

10:00 am - 12:00 pm

Please contact Margaret Blair at [mblair@fotocan.org](mailto:mblair@fotocan.org) for ZOOM link to meeting



## “Watch Us Grow!” Plant Sale (and more)

Saturday, May 22, 2021 – 10:00 am - 2 pm

Friends of the Orphans Canada  
392 Silvercreek Parkway North, Guelph ON  
(rain or shine - COVID protocols in place)

- \*Food and Refreshments Available
- \*Craft Vendors on Site
- \*Displays of Our Work and Projects



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## Stories of Our Children - NPH Dominican Republic

Fabiola and Ariana (alias names) don't remember too much about life prior to NPH as they were a mere three and two years old when they arrived. What Fabiola, the older of the pair, does remember is that her life before NPH was difficult. "My life was in ruins. We had very little food, no toys, and no radio."



Although both of the girls' parents are still alive, neither was capable of taking care of them. The girls' mother abandoned them as babies and the father often neglected the girls, leaving them with friends and neighbours who weren't able to adequately care for them either.



What Fabiola and Anita do remember is their arrival to NPH in 2003. They remember "a lady" bringing them here and they remember that there were very few children at that point. Most

importantly, the girls recall their realization upon arrival that they were going to be well taken care of finally.

According to both girls, their lives have changed significantly. "Now we have everything" both girls stated emphatically. Ariana says, "We have lots of friends and now I'm happy." Fabiola adds that "My favourite part about NPH is the way they take care of me. They treat me well. They give me freedom. And they help me with my homework."



She also brought up the fact that she likes the food here and it's a blessing to have a guaranteed three meals a day. Another aspect of NPH that both girls highly value is the connection they have with their sponsors or godparents as we call them. Each girl has approximately eight godparents throughout the world,



which they are able to communicate with via letters. These godparents support the girls financially, of course, but more than that, the girls, like many of our children, consider their godparents to be a part of their immediate family. They absolutely love sending letters back and forth. In fact, both girls consider the office to be their favourite place on site, because that is where the letters are sent to and distributed from.



Today, both girls participate fully in NPH life. Specifically, they enjoy dancing and each hold a spot in our dance troop. This involves learning pair dancing to traditional Dominican music such as bachata and merengue and



performing at various events throughout the year in traditional Dominican dress. It has been an opportunity for them to express themselves, make friends, and be active.

In the future, the girls have many plans. Ariana wants to be a pediatrician and help sick children. Fabiola wants to be a dancer and a flight attendant. She also plans to adopt children.

Fabiola and Ariana can be considered one of our many success stories. Their lives, which were once characterized by poverty and neglect, are now overflowing with love, opportunity, and happiness. As these girls grow up into young adults, they continue to realize the blessing that NPH has been for them and the extent to which their lives have been improved.



- with files from NPH Wiki

