

## Quarterly Report for the *Little Hands, Big Hearts* Mission

The staff of *Little Hands, Big Hearts* (at right) works hard to serve children, especially when we have visitors to the mission. We are grateful to God for the blessings of college students as we have just returned from Trujillo where 15 **students from Abilene Christian University** spent their spring break working and serving the Lord at the *Little Hands* mission. Each year we have dozens of visitors, but these college students inject a fresh perspective and energetic spirit into the work of this family development ministry. They worked hard, slept little, and impacted many lives for the Lord. **Their outreach of love** to replace a dilapidated roof over the kitchen cooking area of José Ricardo's mother was much appreciated. **Ricardo's family was overwhelmed** with the generosity and enthusiasm (photo below) displayed by these young people.



This group, as does almost every visiting group, **spent one day delivering rice, beans, and children's vitamins** to all of the families ministered to by the *Little Hands* mission. This gives those in the group a better understanding of the needs and living conditions of the children served. Oftentimes our visitors are speechless after having spent a day visiting these families. Their hearts become so sensitized to others, and they realize just **how much we take for granted**. Another benefit is that our families recognize that the *Little Hands* mission is supported by average people in the U.S. who love God and want to make an impact for Him in this world. Many of these families ask us privately, "why do these gringos leave their homes, families, and work to come to Honduras?" We respond by telling them that these gringos do it **because they love God and His son, Jesus Christ**. What a great message of love this sends!

We have several children who need medical attention that is beyond what we can provide through our normal budget. Thanks to those who have already responded to the appeal in the last newsletter for the "Children's Medical Fund". We created this fund to have money to help these three children and those who follow them with extraordinary medical costs. Here are the **brief stories of these three most needy of medical assistance now**. José Ricardo (6 years old) has hydrocephalus and **needs to have a shunt placed to drain fluid off his brain** or he will die from the pressure placed on his brain. This can be done at the Children's Hospital in San Pedro Sula but we have been told it will cost his family about the equivalent to \$800 (U.S.). This type of surgery is performed by specialists from other countries who visit Honduras only a couple times a year, so it is important for him to be ready when the time comes. His father works hard but makes only about \$45 a week or \$180 a month to care for his family of six people.



Isabel (3 years old) needs to be taken to an eye specialist in La Ceiba to **determine if her "cloudy eyes" are cataracts and can be treated**. She is

\*\*\* turn over for more stories \*\*\*



virtually blind now but the local doctor has referred her to a specialist to determine if the cataracts are operable or not. Isabel is a sweet little girl who attends the *Little Hands* preschool (at left) and Bible Hour class. She lives with her mother and siblings with her grandparents. This **family has no regular income**. They collect old used plastic bottles of cooking oil, motor oil, vinegar, milk, Pepsi, Coke, etc. to wash out and then re-sell them to other friends and neighbors. We are always **amazed at how resourceful the Honduran people can be**. Rarely does anything have just one life, but instead is recycled again and again for other purposes.

Justin (2½ years old) needs to return to Tegucigalpa, the capital city, to have his **life-changing surgery for cleft palate**. The visiting doctors from Operation Smile have agreed to do the surgery the next time they return to Honduras. He has already been to their clinic twice over the years – the first time he was under-weight so they would not do the surgery and the second time last year he was sick with an upper respiratory illness and they would not administer the anesthesia while he was sick. We are now **trying to bulk up his general health and nutrition** so that he will be ready when the Operation Smile doctors next come to Teguc. They are scheduled to return this summer in July so we are praying that he remains healthy. While the surgery will be done free of charge by Operation Smile, his family will have to incur the cost of transportation, a 10-hour bus ride, lodging and meals. Our *Fundación Manos Chicas* (NGO) board of directors (photo below) met to plan their next community-wide fundraising event to help *LH* children like these three.



**CAN YOU HELP?!?** If you wish to help these children and others like them that we assist in getting needed medical attention and treatment, you may **make a tax-deductible donation to the LHBH Foundation**, and mark it for “Children’s Medical Fund”. Send it to LHBH Foundation, 4001 Summitview Avenue, Suite #5-153, Yakima, WA 98908. We will send you updates as these children’s medical needs are met. We also ask you to pray for them and their families, as well as for *LHBH* and those medical personnel who will assist them. With YOUR HELP we are making a difference in Honduras – **one child at a time!**

In closing, if you wish to learn more about how you can help or more about the *Little Hands* mission, go to [www.LittleHandsBigHearts.net](http://www.LittleHandsBigHearts.net). As always, **we solicit your prayers and your partnership.**

Blessed to serve Him and these children,

*Mark & Brenda*

Mark and Brenda Young, Founders