

# STANSBERRY CHILDREN'S HOME NEWSLETTER #63 July - December 2009

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*Then Jesus said to his disciple: " Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat: or about your body, what you will wear. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Luke 12:22,23*

Christmas is a time when we spend a lot of time and energy planning meals and baking special treats, shopping for clothes for ourselves or maybe for gifts for others. We can enjoy the abundance that God has given us and may we also remember these words Christ gave to us and not worry about these things, but concentrate on the love of God and being good and faithful servants.

**School days, school days** – Its hard to believe the school year is coming to an end when it seems like it just started. This year the two week winter break began early to try and ward off the Influenza H1N1. The break began in June and then extended to five weeks. After just one week back to classes another week off was mandatory, because some cases of the virus had manifested in the schools. Since then the children have been scrambling to catch up. The report cards have been pretty good and 16 year old David has been the student most improved this year!

The weather has warmed up and the panic about the H1N1 virus seems to have died down. Now we need to keep on guard for Dengue, which was very prevalent in the last rainy season.

**Volunteers** – We were blessed to have Eric Shoup with us for six weeks. He worked hard on maintenance, sanding, painting, varnishing and generally sprucing the place up. When not doing this he could be found outside playing with kids and his smiling face and sunny disposition were very welcome. We are also very thankful to Liz Willis who...



...spent a month here working in the Day Care and helping our nurse Rosmery Morales. Liz was kept busy giving out medicines in the cold weather and was especially helpful when Rosmery was away at the Mennonite World conference in Paraguay.

Also a big thanks to Kent's group from Ohio who spent 10 days here doing a variety of jobs, from painting to cooking and childcare.



Sandra making reusable breathing masks

**Sandra-** Sandra returned to us together with Kent's group. She had spent almost two years living in Ohio with Mark and Karen Steiner and attending Central Christian High School. Here is what Sandra has to say about her experience:

**Cindy:** Tell us how this opportunity came about for you?

**Sandra:** One day Alex and Julie asked me if I could study in the states. We prayed about it for a year, and I said I would like to try. I knew quite a bit of English and I wanted to learn more. Then I met Karen, Julie's mom. Since she worked at Central Christian High School she was able to make the connections.

**Was it very difficult studying in English?**

**S:** Yes, at first it was really difficult.

**C: How did you manage?**

**S:** I just studied and did the best I could. For my senior year I had a tutor which helped a lot.

**C: What were your favourite things/times about your year?**

**S:** Youth group at Dayspring and Wednesday night meals at church. I also loved the snow and Christmas and New Years with the Steiners.

**C: How do you feel this experience will influence your future?**

**S:** It has made me grow as a person and I think it will help me in the future. Knowing English is good to help you get work. Since I know more English I can try to apply to a college in America.

**C: What are your hopes/dreams for the coming year?**

**S:** I would like to go to a college in the States.

**C: What do you want to study?**

**S:** Nursing, with an ESL minor; there are lots of things I would like to study but those are the main ones.

**C: What do you need to Have this dream to study in the States become a reality?**

**S:** Most importantly I need sponsors. I'll also need a student visa, but that would be provided by the college I'm accepted to.



I would just like to say that I am very thankful for the help and support that Mark and Karen gave me. I had a great two years living with my American family. I hope to see you all soon!

**Gardens and animals** – The chicken barn is full once again with laying hens and they are supplying us with lots of eggs to eat and some to sell as well. Tio Mario and the children keep up with all the animals plus the gardening. We had a great harvest of tomatoes and now we have lettuce and carrots. The great thing about Santa Cruz is that it is always growing something for something.



**2009 the year of the Babies!!** – It seemed everywhere we turned this year people were having babies; friends, relatives, staff members, and here at Stansberry was no different. Our first baby of the year was Sarah, one year of age, who entered the Home with three older siblings in January.

In March we had a call asking us to take in a baby in an emergency situation. Kevin was 6 months of age and suffering... ..from malnutrition. He weighed just 4 kilograms (8.8 lbs.). No other home would take him. He was supposed to go the hospital for malnourished children. Because they thought he had a contagious skin condition they wouldn't take him either, so we took him in. He was in very bad condition; too weak to be able to pull himself up by his arms into a sitting position. He responded very well to regular feedings and after getting the proper antibiotics to clear up a bronchial infection he did very well. He stayed with us for four months until his great aunt was able to get custody. She plans to adopt him.



Alex, Julie and Cristian

In April we had another call asking us to take in two baby boys who had been abandoned in the hospital, again all other homes were full. One was three weeks old and the other was two months old, but had been born three months premature. We didn't think the Casitas (cottages) could take them in. Having a newborn and especially a premature baby is at least a full time job in itself, so Alex and Julie Kozel took in the premature baby Cristian and Lucy and Ona the other one. In October, Alex and Julie began the paperwork to adopt Cristian.

**Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from all of us in Santa Cruz Bolivia!**

**Feliz Navidad**

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