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July 22, 2011

Dear GRACE Cares Friends:

For those who have already contributed generously, we thank you for your support of GRACE Cares and our projects in the Dominican Republic and elsewhere. The narrative below gives a description of the projects in the Dominican Republic. Last year our thirteen-year-old volunteer, Grace Goldberg-Springer, raised \$1,500 for a poultry project by making and selling jewelry. Yesterday, a yoga teacher of very modest means gave a check for \$200 to the school project. THANK YOU.

Now, in particular, we urgently need to financially support a local high school that serves 120 students in the Santiago area. It was truly heart breaking to see these young teens from one of the poorest communities in the Dominican Republic, crammed into a small classroom trying to study calculus while the tin roof is leaking above them. Since there are no walls, when it rains, they have to huddle into the middle of the class. We are trying to raise \$15,000 to help the school by September 2011 before class starts again.

Much of the physical labor to build an additional latrine, bring in running water, and fix the roof is provided by the community, the students, and the teachers. We only need the cost of materials and technical assistance. All donations for a specified project go directly to such designated project. As always the GRACE Cares Board of Directors covers administrative expenses for the organization.

The work that Ruben and his team are doing in the Dominican Republic is really a project of immense worth. One of our prospective goals is to add another classroom, as there are about fifty students who cannot go to school because of a lack of space.

Luckily a donor has agreed to MATCH UP TO \$2,000 of donations and the community is ready to provide labor to renovate the school. Also, T. Namaya's VERMONT MY HOME show will tour Vermont in September donating a portion of the proceeds to GRACE Cares. We have been so very moved by your generosity and as always any amount that you can donate is greatly appreciated.

Furthermore, so much has been happening in this world in 2011 from natural disasters to the Arab Spring. On a smaller scale, a lot has been happening with GRACE Cares as well. The big news is we have given birth to a local NGO in the Dominican Republic! Our local Project Director, Ruben Ottenwalder, has registered in the DR with technical and financial assistance from GRACE Cares. The new organization's name is: Hearts DR (Corazones DR) and has five board members (pictured below) from the Baitoa area. The new NGO status will allow Ruben to apply for local funding available to Dominican non-profit organizations. Congratulations to Ruben and the rest of the Board Members on this big step!



GRACE has also secured two summer interns from Yale for the Dominican Program: Katy Clark and Joe Busch (pictured below). We were extremely lucky as Katy is studying for her Masters in Public Health and Joe for his Masters in Engineering. Both were Peace Corp volunteers in Guatemala and have worked in rural areas on health education programs including installation of safe wood burning stoves.



Ruben needed assistance in developing a strategic plan for his NGO and was also eager to build stoves. Katy has been working with Ruben and the Board on several projects: developing a strategic plan, proposal writing, and identifying key alliances. Meanwhile, Joe has been busy working on the new NGO's first project which is building stoves (pictured below) which will decrease wood use by more than 60% and decrease harmful smoke and burns. Joe has been teaching the NGOs volunteers and staff on how to build the stoves and maintain and use them. Hopefully, this will become an income generating activity for Project Hearts. 12 stoves have already been built! Thanks Katy and Joe!



Grace Goldberg-Springer, one of GRACE Care's youngest volunteers has organized a pen pal program between her class and students at San Jose Adentro primary school in Baitoa. Zoe, T, Ruben and Katy were able to go to the school and help translate the letters for the students who looked at the pictures sent from their new US friends with delight. This type of exchange is so important to the students in a rural school which has limited teachers, hardly any texts, and no computers. It really brings hope to them while educating the US students about life in other parts of the world. T was able to go to Grace's school and show pictures of the children in the DR and their community. Grace's class is hoping they can go to the DR next year to teach English and meet their pen pals.



Ruben and children of Baitoa

We have identified 2 priorities for the Dominican Project that need funding:

- (1) El Liceo Dona Maria (Rural High School):**

When Ruben first became involved with this remote High School it was in a state of emergency. There was no bathroom and the dirt floors had transformed into mud as rain entered through the school's open sides. Additionally, the roof made of dried palms was in terrible shape. Ruben worked quickly with other community leaders, teachers, and students to install an outhouse, lay cement floors, and repair the leaking roof.

Although these additions improved the condition of the two-room school that serves 120 students, there is still a lot of work that needs to be done to ensure that these students are educated in an inspiring and dignified environment. There are still no outside walls, the repaired roof has begun to leak again, there is no place for the students to eat and study outside of the classrooms, and the school does not have any water.

**(2) Stove Project:**

The ongoing pilot project of 20 improved wood-burning stoves serves as an introduction of this technology to the community. Model stoves were built in a number of different communities to teach about the benefits using this improved stove as a replacement for the traditional alternative of cooking over an open fire. At this time, the stoves are being completely paid for by fellowship funds from Yale but the goal is to create a sustainable business model. We are aiming to only subsidize a small percentage of each stove in the future. Our goal is to sell stoves to those who can afford to pay for them and use this money to subsidize stoves for those who cannot afford them. We view the family's contribution to the improved well-being of their household as an integral component of the sustainability of the new NGO Project Hearts.

To fund both of these projects and help Hearts DR establish itself, we have set a goal of raising \$25,000 by the end of this year. Your kind donations can be made at [www.gracecares.com](http://www.gracecares.com) or may be sent to GRACE Cares, 773 Guilford St, Brattleboro, VT 05301.

Yours,

Zoe Kopp and T. Namaya  
On behalf of GRACE Cares

\*\*Updates on the GRACE Cares projects in India will be available on our website [www.gracecares.com](http://www.gracecares.com) shortly