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Press Release

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A Little Goes a Long Way: Students Helping Those in Need

Miriam Swartz, a seventeen-year-old junior from Cooper City, Florida has collected 200 pairs of shoes for children in the Dominican Republic. Miriam is continuing the Soul to Sole project started in 2010 by Jessica Bruno. The project is one of several coordinated by GRACE Cares a US non-profit that supports local heroes around the world.

“We are so impressed by Miriam’s generosity to help the students in the Baitoa area of the Dominican Republic. The Dominican Republic is so close to Florida but students in the high school there live and learn in such challenging conditions,” says GRACE Cares’ President, Zoe Kopp.

Ruben Ottenwalder, the Project Director for GRACE Cares in the Dominican Republic, sends his thanks to Miriam and to all of those in the Cooper City area who have donated shoes which means that the children in Baitoa can get to school more safely.

Miriam, who is Youth Director for GRACE Cares, collected the shoes during her junior year of high school. She asked friends, school clubs, family, local businesses, and hospitals to help donate used or new shoes. Miriam wants to thank all those in the community for their generosity. The shoes will be delivered to the students in time for the new school year.

As a Youth Director, Miriam will inspire others to learn how to make a difference in the lives of the less fortunate. During the next year she will be helping GRACE Cares raise funds for the renovation and construction of a High School. Currently the two room high school in Baitoa has a leaky roof, no walls, no water and only one latrine for the 120 students. “When we visited the school and watched the teacher instructing a class of 50 on calculus in a classroom with no walls, we knew we had to help,” said Dr. T. Namaya co-founder of GRACE Cares. Only \$15,000 is needed to construct a basic three room school. Costs are low as the teachers, students and community members will be helping with the construction. More information is available on the GRACE Cares website at www.gracecares.com.