



Quito – Vaughn Home – June 2011

### **A message from Clark and Melinda, FHC's founders:**

**From Clark:** *It has been a great privilege for me to be a part of FHC over the past 21 years, and I am excited about where and how God will lead FHC in the coming years.*

*FHC is well-equipped to respond to the needs of children at risk in Ecuador. The ministry is blessed with a devoted and skilled staff, and a very gifted, highly committed and motivated director, my wife Melinda!*

*If you have a passion for children and are looking for an opportunity to minister in Ecuador, FHC is the place. It will change and impact your life – just like it has for me starting in 1990. Thank you for your prayers and your support.*

**From Melinda, FHC's Director:** *In 1990, when my family and I moved to Ecuador, we envisioned FHC as a small ministry providing 5-star care to needy children in a clean, bright and loving environment. And that's what we did for some years, caring for children in our own home, with a couple of tías, waiting in line to use the washing machine, sharing the kitchen's one refrigerator, being "chofer" for doctor's appointments, grocery shopping and lots of other errands.*

*Clark and I really multi-tasked in those days; in addition to raising our own family, we were guiding and supervising a growing staff, overseeing the children's medical care, diet, therapy, psychological needs, schooling, interacting with the welfare department, police department, courts, hospitals and the public, overseeing the children's legal paperwork, writing the FHC newsletters, corresponding with our donors and supporters.. We tried hard to personally correspond with each donor for the first couple of years, but then one afternoon while the babies napped, I took a notepad and pen and went to sit in the sun on the postage stamp-sized front lawn at one of the homes that FHC rented in north Quito back in the early '90's. I wrote one thank-you note to a supporter, looked at the dozens and dozens more on the list, and knew right then that the task would have to be delegated, even though we would have liked to continue doing it ourselves. That's when our Ministry Assistants of 16 years, Brent and Joyce Bourdeau came on board. Joyce and Brent fulfilled a number of bookkeeping and correspondence tasks for FHC for many years, and we are so grateful for the impact and support they have been to FHC. As of 2010, FHC is blessed to have the bookkeeping assistance of Jerry Mogab, in Conifer, CO, who, like Brent, provides much needed and appreciated state-side support.*

*So back to the early days...Clark was often the plumber, electrician and handyman, bookkeeper, fundraiser and tour guide in those early years of the ministry, and I was psychologist, social worker, secretary, therapist and director, all swirling, whirling around in the two imperfect people we were... and are.*

*I don't do any of those tasks today. We have a skilled and dedicated staff in Ecuador who fill these important roles. Now I am a more calm, patient, loving and even-tempered. I am hopefully wiser. I don't know that I ever*

*really mastered the art of any of those responsibilities anyway, but it has sure given me a great appreciation for the staff we have at FHC today. They know how to manage their specific area of expertise, and together it makes for the quality program that is FHC. I echo my husband's sentiments about our on-the-ground staff in Quito and Latacunga. I stand in amazement at what they do, and how they do it creatively and effectively. People used to say that FHC would never function without Clark and Melinda. I think our Ecuador staff has answered that concern!!*

*So now I am again charting "new territory" – I am no longer a co-Director, I am THE Director, since July 1, 2011, when Clark retired because of health reasons. I now work primarily at a desk, in front of a computer and telephone, dividing my time between Ecuador and the U.S. I work on the never-ending task of fundraising and communication with our board, staff and supporters (and I'm no more skilled and prepared to do these jobs than I was at founding and directing a children's home!). I try to discern God's will in every area of the ministry. I try to maintain a healthy perspective about the ministry, and my prayer to God every day is for wisdom, strength and His will to be clear to me.*

*I'm working diligently to get up to speed in areas that I've taken over from my husband, areas that he always managed and mastered. Of course Clark is here to help me whenever I need to understand or make a decision about some issue he knows like the back of his hand, and I'm so grateful for his support.*

*As my job continues to evolve, it shows me in deeper and broader ways all that has lovingly gone into the making of FHC, all that has been "laid on the altar", so to speak, by so many people. I marvel at how this ministry has grown and changed to be what it is today. And I marvel at the signs of change – for the better – that are on the horizon.*

*The greatest encouragement to FHC has been our supporters, friends, donors, volunteers, team members and family. They continue to give life's most precious commodities – time, love and caring. Thank you deeply from our hearts. We couldn't have done it without you!*

*Love,*

*Melinda (and Clark)*