



# JOURNEY OF HOPE

A NEWSLETTER OF HOPE RURAL SCHOOL

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## Education ~ A Family Affair at Hope Rural School



Christopher will begin  
Pre-K in the Fall of 2010

## Meet the Perez Family

Santiago & Lilia Perez along with their children Fabiola (5th grade: **AMBASSADORS**), Mike (3rd grade: **AFTER-CARE**), James (Pre-K: **RED BENCH**), and youngest child, Christopher (3years old) are a wonderful example of the growth and visible success of our program. They are a true family unit. Santiago & Lilia always come to parent meetings together, attend church as a family, come to help on parent work days (**GARDEN PROJECT**), and will volunteer for whatever is asked of them. When Antonio Silvestre was asked to share a story he named the Perez family right away, and stated, "They are faithful in ALL things together...as a couple and as a family." Santiago has stepped up to the challenge of being a peer teacher at the Parent Meetings (**PARENTING COUNTS**) as a presenter during the "Parents as Role Models" segment. He was very well received by the parents in attendance, as he talked about passing on their faith, morals, and respect for one another in a family unit. Antonio also shared a personal story that touches all of our hearts...When Fabiola and Mike get off the bus at the end of the day they always say to him, "Thank you Coach! God bless you Coach." This year when James started Pre-K the same scenario took place with an additional pull at the heartstrings...Fabiola called James back to the bus as soon as he got off and said, "James, come here! What are you supposed to say to Coach?" "Oh", said James... "Thank you Coach! God bless you Coach!" Not only have the children been instilled with manners and respect...they mirror their parents and become mentors to their siblings.

What more could we ask for?

Follow the **ORANGE LINKS** as this "Hope Rural Tree" bears "fruit" on the inside → → →



## Board of Directors

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## Mission Statement

The mission of Hope Rural School is to offer hope to families.

The school primarily serves children from immigrant families by providing them with a Catholic Elementary education in grades Pre-K through 5 in an environment that nurtures the Gospel values of mercy, justice, and love, through fostering the principles of Christian discipleship; supporting, guiding and encouraging parents in the education of their children; developing an appreciation and respect for heritage; encouraging and enabling graduates to reach their full potential through advanced education.

Dear Friends,

*“A life is not defined by circumstance; it is defined by hope.”*

If our families at Hope Rural School were defined only by their circumstances, they would probably come up short due to their lack of living space, basic resources and material goods. Yet, when there is an opportunity to personally meet them and experience their warmth, genuineness, and love for life and family, one marvels at the hope and joy that permeate their being.

Little did Sister Carol Putnam, RSCJ; and Father Frank O’Loughlin realize the indelible mark their vision and mission would leave on the people of Indiantown when they founded the school in 1980. Because of their strong faith and relentless persistence, Hope Rural School has breathed hope into countless lives and enabled migrant and immigrant families to pursue their dreams through the precious gift of education.

What has made Hope Rural School unique among other schools is the emphasis placed on the education of the entire family! The theme of this newsletter, “Education: A Family Affair at Hope Rural School” demonstrates the many and varied opportunities offered to the students and their families. The Hope Rural Garden, Parenting Counts Program and Adult Education Classes impact the children’s Academic Day, After-Care, Summer Program and Red Bench Program and vice-versa.

Looking back at the accomplishments, growth, and development that have taken place at Hope Rural School over these past three decades, we are very mindful that you, our faithful and loyal supporters and volunteers, are our “Hope Bearers - the Wind Beneath Our Wings.” Without your commitment and generosity, none of these daily miracles could occur. Your belief that education transforms lives graces our campus and lights our path.

As we begin the year of celebration of the 30th Anniversary, we thank God for all that has been- the blessings and the challenges, the mountains and the valleys, the lean years and the years of plenty. We forge ahead into the future remembering the words of Senator Edward Kennedy, *“For all those whose cares have been our concern, the **work** goes on, the **cause** endures, the **hope** still lives and the **dream** shall never die.”*

With love and warm wishes,



Sister Mary Dooley, SSND  
Director



Flowers blooming in  
the Garden at Hope



1. **ACADEMIC DAY:** Mrs. Volpe, our 1st Grade Teacher, engages her students with their spelling words.
2. **PARENTING COUNTS:** Series of classes are offered focusing on responsible parenting techniques. PICTURED: Santiago Perez teaching a parenting class on family values to his peers.
3. **TRANSPORTATION:** Our buses bring our students to & from school, educational field trips, and to visit other schools to expand their world. PICTURED: Students excited about going to the zoo!
- 4 & 5. **GARDEN PROJECT:** Quality family time spent working together to put food on their table. PICTURED: Students in the lush garden & parents building a new gate and fence around the garden.
6. **ADULT ED. PROGRAM:** Night classes are offered to parents teaching them English using the *Rosetta Stone* in our Computer Lab. PICTURED: Parents engaged in the learning process.
7. **AFTER-CARE:** Homework help, Art & Music, one-on-one tutoring in a safe environment after school. PICTURED: Mrs. Caruso, our Art Teacher, Mike Perez, and other students enjoying Art in After-Care.
8. **FOOD PROGRAM:** Students enjoy hot breakfast, lunch, and snacks daily, prepared from scratch by our wonderful cook. PICTURED: Breakfast is served!
9. **AMBASSADORS:** 4th & 5th Grade Students chosen for their good citizenship, responsibility, and high scholastic abilities to represent our school. PICTURED: 2009 Hope Ambassadors.
10. **COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS:** We offer our graduates scholarships through our Vilma Shaw Scholar Program. PICTURED: Carolina Jose receiving her application from Sr. Mary Dooley & Mrs. Nye.
11. **RED BENCH:** In-home visits to Pre-K students bringing books, a bench, and modeling how to read to their children. PICTURED: Carmen Ahlborn reading with James Perez.
12. **SUMMER PROGRAM:** Opportunites for expanding our students horizons and skills. PICTURED: Trip to the beach on a summer day.

# TRULY A FACULTY FAMILY AFFAIR



The son and husband of Mrs. Bouwman, our 4th Grade Teacher, have spent many hours with her students creating their garden project.



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The father of Miss Connolly, our 3rd Grade Teacher, enjoys teaching her students how to solve Sudoku puzzles to expand their critical thinking skills.



Exercise and Nutrition classes were offered to our parents by the son and daughter-in-law of Antonio Silvestre, Parent Outreach Coordinator.

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Free time at home for Jack Suder, husband of Betty Ann Suder, our Administrative Assistant & Music Teacher, means repairing pencil sharpeners, etc.

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**Hope Rural School  
30th Anniversary Gala  
March 11, 2010  
at the PGA National Ballroom  
Palm Beach Gardens, FL  
For more information or tickets  
please call Betty Ann at 772-597-2203**



Save The Date - March 11, 2010

## Memorial / Tribute Gifts

*Remembering your loved ones through memorial gifts in lieu of flowers and tribute gifts in honor of birthdays, anniversaries or other meaningful events*

*is a thoughtful and life-giving way to continue the mission work of Hope.  
Please also consider remembering Hope Rural School in your will... a tribute for a lifetime.*