



JOURNEY OF HOPE

A NEWSLETTER OF HOPE RURAL SCHOOL

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Volume 8 Issue 1
November 2010

Little Hopes to HIGH Hopes

“The key to success is to believe. If one believes, they will succeed.

I would like to thank Hope Rural School for giving me these strengths.”



Elisea José as a Kindergarten student at Hope Rural School

These are the words of Elisea José, a Hope Rural School graduate who is planning a career as a Nurse Practitioner in family practice. Elisea currently is a senior at the University of South Florida where she will receive a Bachelor’s degree in nursing, but she isn’t stopping there! Elisea is determined to attain a Master’s Degree. “For the future, I want to be able to open my own practice and provide health care for those in need of medical attention. I plan on volunteering in health care missionary work in different countries.” This journey has been a challenge for Elisea as she reaches for her dreams. Hope Rural School continues to encourage and support her through the Vilma Shaw Scholarship Program that provides financial assistance to Hope Rural graduates in pursuit of a higher education.

This opportunity is offered to our graduates as an extension of our mission statement and commitment to the future. Elisea’s family migrated to the United States seeking a life of prosperity, a community that would provide education for their children, and to have a life that they dreamed of. “I learned that I can make a difference in this world and community, but it takes dedication, perseverance, confidence, knowledge, and a constructive attitude. I will never forget the teachers and staff at Hope Rural School. Each and every one of them helped me individually throughout my years at the little school of Hope. **All the teachers planted a seed in my heart and I carry each experience as a blessing!**”



A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

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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,

Sitting here under the old oak tree in the school courtyard, my thoughts wander to the unforgettable Hope Rural 30th Anniversary celebrations that were held this past spring. From the elegant fundraising dinner and memorable program with our donors at PGA National Resort to the inspiring liturgy and delightful picnic with our children and their families, the two sentiments that echo loud and clear are LOVE and HOPE.



Both of the events highlighted the dedication and steadfastness of the founders, donors, board members, teachers, staff, volunteers, students and families. Without their vision, risk-taking and hard work, Hope Rural would still be just a dream.

The poet Carl Sandburg wrote, "Hope is like an echo. Hope ties itself to yonder, yonder." In the year to year programs at Hope Rural School over these past three decades, hope is the thread that binds us together. Hope is what calls us beyond the present. It encourages our teachers and students to try the unfamiliar.

30 years and growing! The stories of "little hopes" and "high hopes" in this newsletter give you a glimpse of the transformation that occurs within the confines of this small, rural school in Indiantown. It is the story of men, women, and children who fasten their eyes on the future and make the present possible.

What will go down in the annals of our history are the miracle stories of the teachers, staff, students, volunteers, and donors who create and recreate the Hope Rural dream daily.

Thank you for your love, support, and especially for your belief in our students and their possibilities.

With deep gratitude,



Sister Mary Dooley, SSND
Director

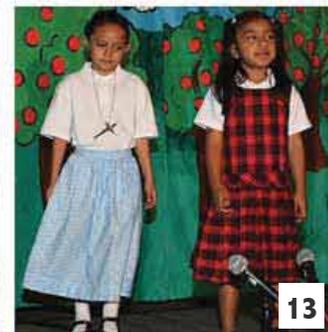
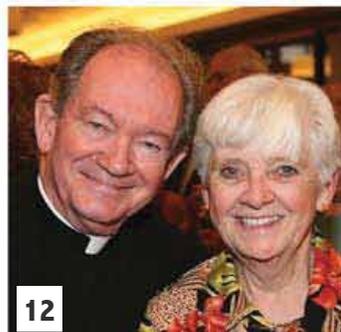
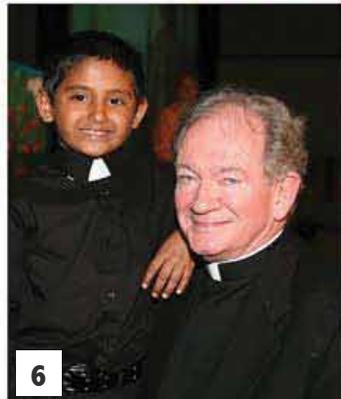
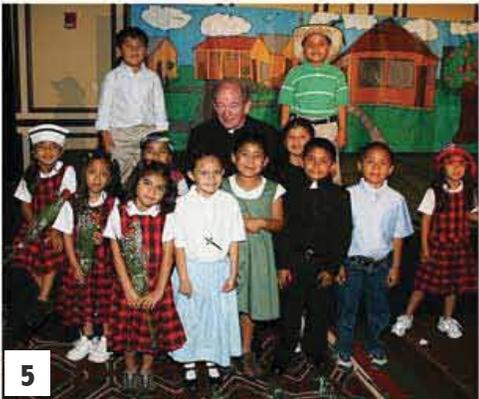
SAVE THE DATE
March 20, 2011



Annual Fundraiser



THE
LITTLE
SCHOOL
OF
HOPE



1. Brian as Fr. Frank, Joselin as Sr. Carol Putnam, Miguel as a parent, & Jubely as Esperanza 2. Sr. Mary Dooley enjoying the play 3. Teresa as Esperanza 4. Briana as Esperanza 5. Fr. Frank with entire cast 6. Brian and Fr. Frank 7. Jennifer Andres-Solis with her mother Carmen welcoming everyone with an opening prayer. 8. Lupe Martinez, Kindergarten Teacher & Play Director 9. Ms. Tonya played by Ashley & "Coach" played by Josue 10. Brian, Joselin, & Alex 11. Entire Cast of "The Little School of Hope" taking a bow. 12. Fr. Frank O'Loughlin and Sr. Dooley 13. Andrea as Sr. Marie Celeste and Jubely as Esperanza



AN EVENING OF CELEBRATION



1. Sr. Dooley with Gala Co-Chairs: Sue & Don Hesch and Brian Powers, Board Vice President **2.** Miguel Gaspar, Alumnus & Boardmember **3.** Jan & Jim Hurd **4.** Table Decorations at the P.G.A. Resort **5.** Susan McAlister and Mariner Sands Friends **6.** Suzanne Horstman, Director of the Library Foundation of Martin County, and Elisabeth Lahti, Benefactor **7.** Tonya Lozano receiving the Service award from her daughter, Belinda, Hope Alumna **8.** Antonio Silvestre, aka Coach, receiving a Leadership award from Elisea José, cover story Alumna **9.** Fr. Joe Maguire and friends with Sue Volpe, 1st Grade Teacher & her husband, Pat **10.** Erin Dilla, Pre-K Teacher presenting Timothy Lewis of the Lewis Foundation an award for 30 years of support **11.** Sr. Kate Kinnally and Indiantown friends **12.** Steven & Pamela Caruso, Art Teacher and Set Designer **13.** Nathaniel Reed, Sue Hesch, Sr. Dooley and Fr. Frank O'Loughlin



Hope Rural School is VERY excited to announce the addition of a Pre-K program for THREE YEAR OLDS starting late January of next year! We have documented amazing progress in our four year olds and have decided to introduce the younger siblings into the education process even earlier. We are very eager to get this project up and running. Our first class will start with 10 children in January, and in August we will enroll 15 children into the program. Some of our current parents have 3 year olds and were ecstatic to hear that their children will get an earlier start, and our August 2011 waiting list is already FULL! There is a wise old saying "Good things come in small packages." What a wonderful future our "little HOPE RURAL packages" have in store for them! Pictures are worth a thousand words...can you envision what the future holds for these families? Can you feel the love and thankfulness in their hearts because of your generosity to Hope Rural School? Can you recognize the blessings you share? Thank you for being the HOPE in Hope Rural School!



**The Nicolas Family
Clara, Francisco,
Cristian and Daisy
Gr. 2 - Pre-K3
Preparing the garden in
front of the new Pre-K3**



NEW PRE-K 3 CLASSROOM



**The Solis Family
Maria, Juan,
Osbaldo & Juan Carlos
Gr. 2 - Pre-K3
Planting the flower bed in
front of the new Pre-K3
classroom**



INSPIRING WORDS FROM ALUMNI: Graduating from college this year!

"As a student I learned inside the classroom and outside on the nature trails. I recall our teachers would take us on nature walks studying the plants and animals in the environment. I knew the teachers enjoyed coming everyday, inspiring me to become a well educated citizen. This in fact inspired me to go to school every day learning new things in order to expand my knowledge. The staff that made up Hope Rural will always have a place in my heart for introducing me to learn as much as possible. If it wasn't for their endless effort inspiring me to become an educated person, I think I would probably be on the streets."
(signed) Beloved student, Jimmy Pierre

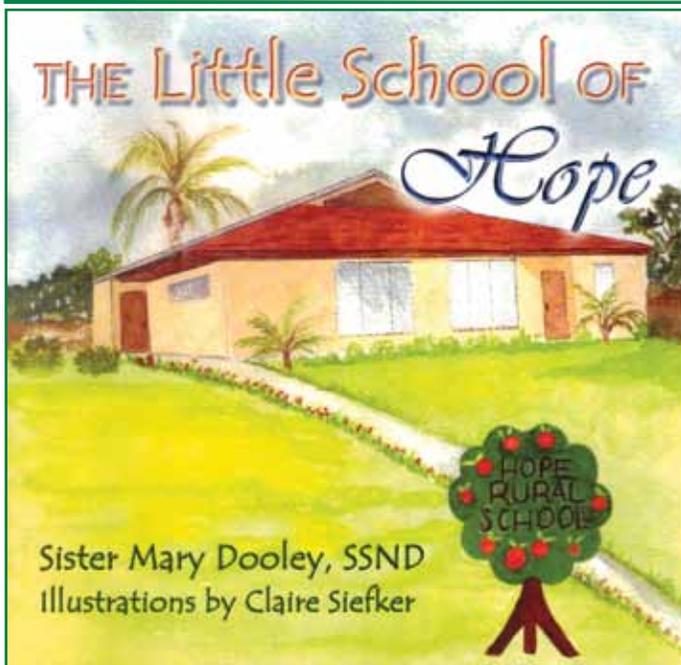
"The field that I choose to study is education, because I feel that it is important to help others in their time of need. I have had the honor of having a very good group of teachers in my life. I want to make a difference in another child's life as my teachers have made a difference in mine." (signed) Thank you, Julio Martin

"Hope Rural School helped me to learn that nothing would be easy unless you work at it, and that life is going to be tough... but it is how you handle adversity that reveals your true character. Mrs. Johnson, one of my teachers I had in after-care, would always get on me when I was done with my homework and I was doing nothing. She challenged me to do extra work to increase my knowledge about the world around me, telling me it would pay great benefits in the future." Pascal C. Permis, Jr.

"I felt that the one- on-one attention I received from my teachers helped me tremendously. Hope Rural gave me the feeling of striving for everything that's out there. They helped me learn to be a better learner...I was able to express myself to the fullest!"
Lilian Cruz

"Hope Rural School gave me a sense of happiness and unity that is far from anywhere else. For example, I learned good values, confidence, and most of all, how to pray. I learned about team work, fairness, kindness, sharing, and being a good citizen. The teachers made me feel comfortable enough to talk to when I had a problem. What I have learned in Hope Rural School will be with me forever." Maria Dominguez

"THE LITTLE SCHOOL OF HOPE"



All proceeds from the sale of this book will benefit Hope Rural School's mission to "Bring Hope to Families through the Gift of Education". If you would like to obtain a copy, or several for gifts, please contact Hope Rural School and we will be glad to assist you in your purchase!

A young girl named Esperanza (the name means Hope) is the main character in this story. Her desire for an education, the unwavering support of her parents, and the vision of the founders were the impetus for this compelling story that follows Esperanza through elementary school, high school, and on to college.

This story is true and continues in real life. In the past, many of our students did not excel beyond their basic education...now many of our alumni are enrolled in college majoring in teaching, medicine, business, law, and various other vocations. We are proud to say that a student has come full circle as a member of our Board of Directors with a Master's Degree in Education!

This book is dedicated to Sister Carol Putnam, RSCJ, Father Frank O'Loughlin, and all the men, women, and youth who believed in the mission of Hope Rural School and wrapped the children and families of Indiantown with a mantle of *Hope*.



Author and Illustrator:
Sr. Mary Dooley, SSND
and Mrs. Claire Siefker