



Project C.U.R.E.'s donations will impact the children of Abba's House Children's Center.

## DESPERATE NEEDS IN CIENFUEGOS

### IMPOVERISHED CHILDREN & FAMILIES HAVE DESPERATE MEDICAL NEEDS IN CIENFUEGOS

**JOSE RODRIGUEZ WOULD WALK BY THE RAFEY LANDFILL, THE LOCAL DUMP, EVERY DAY ON HIS WAY TO SCHOOL IN CIENFUEGOS, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC. BUT HE DIDN'T JUST SEE HEAPING MOUNTAINS OF TRASH. HE SAW LITTLE CHILDREN RUMMAGING THROUGH ALL THE WASTE, DESPERATELY SEARCHING FOR FOOD AND USABLE MATERIALS TO BRING TO THEIR FAMILIES TO SURVIVE.**

Sadly, this is a common practice in Cienfuegos, as it is one of the poorest areas in the country. Amidst this urban destitution, however, Jose's compassion shines through. He befriended a few of these children, brought them food, and his inspiring legacy began.

Jose's passion for helping these impoverished children led to him become a pastor and the chief director of Abba's House Children's Center in Cienfuegos. The location of Abba's House, in an area characterized by extreme poverty, makes it well-placed to make an enormous difference in the community by providing basic health care services to many people. This school teaches children basic home economics, hygiene, and socialization, and gives them free meals each day. Because of the great work done by Jose and his colleagues, many of these children have learned to read and write, and many have since taken on jobs as secretaries, nurses, and teacher assistants. One young girl is even in her third year of medical school.

These children have thrived academically, but their poor health and living conditions remain huge concerns of the community. Out of the 750 children that have attended the school so far, 70 have been at high

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risk for sex trafficking and more than 300 suffered from anemia and parasites. Many of their ailments are preventable, but because of the lack of medical care, they become fatal. In 2022, due to Jose's tireless efforts and some generous donations, Abba's House was finally able to expand its reach and build a medical clinic called King Josiah.

**JOSE'S ENTHUSIASM AND DRIVE HAVE ALLOWED HIM TO RECRUIT A FEW LOCAL TRAINED MEDICAL PROFESSIONALS TO VOLUNTEER THEIR TIME, AND A FEW U.S. MEDICAL TEAMS HAVE MADE TRIPS TO HELP, BUT THE CLINIC IS STILL IN DESPERATE NEED.**

around 1000 patients a month. It should be able to treat the 100,000 people in the area, but it has very limited resources. Jose's enthusiasm and drive have allowed him to recruit a few locally trained medical professionals to volunteer their time, and a few U.S. medical teams have made trips to help, but the clinic is still in desperate need.

**Project C.U.R.E. has teamed up with Jose to help set the clinic up with the necessary supplies. With a fully equipped clinic, the citizens of Cienfuegos will be able to receive proper primary, pediatric, and pre-natal care and maternity services.** Jose and his staff are working tirelessly to raise a second container and need your help. If you are inspired by Jose's story, please consider donating to help these children of Cienfuegos receive the basic medical care they desperately need and deserve!

Email Laura Conti at [LauraConti@projectcure.org](mailto:LauraConti@projectcure.org).

Located within view of the same landfill that Jose knows too well, King Josiah is the only medical clinic for miles and has the potential to give aid to the people who need it the most. King Josiah's mission is to serve the children of Abba's House, their families, and the rest of their community to meet their growing medical needs. At the time of the Project C.U.R.E. assessment, the clinic was almost completely empty, except for two examination tables, a desk, five or six chairs, a scale and a small wooden cabinet, the facility will need donations of equipment and supplies in all treatment areas. The Abba House has the possibility to provide focused pediatric care, as well as basic pre-natal care, maternity and OB/GYN services, minor out-patient surgery and basic dental care.

Currently, the King Josiah clinic is operating as an extension of Abba's House, with a few medical professionals seeing





**c.u.r.e. corps**

VOLUNTEERS



## GUIDING OUR WAY TO SUCCESS

**Dr. Duane Spaulding**

**DUANE SPAULDING, MD, FACP, HAS WORN MANY HATS HERE AT PROJECT C.U.R.E. FROM COLLECTING AND DELIVERING DONATED SUPPLIES FROM HIS LOCAL AREA TO BECOMING A SENIOR MEDICAL ADVISOR PREPARING OUR VOLUNTEERS FOR THEIR INTERNATIONAL CLINICAL TRIPS, DUANE HAS TRULY DONE IT ALL FOR OUR ORGANIZATION.**

In 2009, Duane first became inspired to volunteer after hearing about the organization from his dentist and physician colleagues who had donated. He started as a sort team leader and spent over 250 days of driving a team to our Denver warehouse from his hometown, Colorado Springs. He was able to share his wealth of knowledge from his life experiences abroad to connect with other members of Project C.U.R.E. Duane later shared his wisdom with the entire organization by creating a region-specific field manual, which became an invaluable resource for our medical volunteers on their way to Suriname in 2019. Since then, he serves our organization as a senior medical advisor creating field manuals, medical records, and volunteer handbooks for our various medical trips around the world. He also organizes and delivers all the medications needed for our clinics.

Growing up on a farm in Michigan, Duane was the oldest of five children. After high school, he traveled internationally for the first time on a month-long trip to Haiti. After seeing abject poverty and political unrest firsthand, his life was forever changed and his passion for travel and philanthropy became unbridled. In college, he was able to do a foreign study program in Nairobi, Kenya and in his free time hitchhiked all over East Africa. Most importantly, he was able to study cross-culturally, which not only inspired him to do international volunteer work in the future, but also shaped his career path as a physician. In 2005 on tour in southern Africa, he learned about the importance of cultural

sensitivity across different countries. “I learned what works,” Duane says of his travel experiences, “I learned bits of wisdom that started me on a journey of finding out how to be culturally wise in different communities.” Duane’s immersive cultural experiences around the world coupled with his extensive medical knowledge as a seasoned physician have made him an important asset to the Project C.U.R.E. community. He has already created field guides for multiple countries across three continents to prepare our medical volunteers, from what to expect in each country, aspects of diseases common in specific areas, what to pack, to important precautions. He also includes specific cross-cultural issues to know so that volunteers can work with local medical staff to have the most positive impact on patient care.

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THAT STARTED ME ON A JOURNEY  
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As Project C.U.R.E. continues to expand its reach around the world, Duane is currently working tirelessly to prepare expanded versions of his manuals to adapt to the everchanging environments of these regions. And we couldn’t be more thankful for him.

“It is an honor and privilege to volunteer with various departments with PC,” Duane says, “and I’m just excited to pursue excellence - inspiring the teams to be mindful, towards having a positive impact on patients. Pursuing excellence—it’s a journey, not a destination.”

**We are truly lucky to have such a knowledgeable, hard-working, and amiable volunteer on our team!  
Thank you, Duane!**



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## SNOWY SUCCESS IN NASHVILLE Sets the Stage for Denver Adventure

### THE INAUGURAL KITS FOR KIDS EVENT IN NASHVILLE WAS NOTHING SHORT OF AMAZING!

Teaming up with Prove, a technology company that has modernized how digital trust is built and maintained in the online consumer journey, we defied the snowy weather and negative temperatures to pack an impressive 150 Kits. Despite the challenging conditions, the enthusiasm and commitment of everyone involved created a warm and uplifting atmosphere. It was heartening to see the community come together, braving the cold to make a positive impact.



Now, with the memories of Nashville fueling our excitement, we're gearing up for another fantastic event with Prove in Denver this April. Stay tuned for more heartwarming stories and memorable moments from our upcoming adventures!