



Press Release

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RECENT BOSTON SALEM STATE COLLEGE GRADUATE TO VOLUNTEER IN DOMINICAN REPUBLIC ORPHANAGE *Orphanage supported by Virginia nonprofit Friends of the Orphans*

Bolivia

Vienna, VA, (May 28, 2008) – Friends of the Orphans, dedicated to improving lives of orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children through the support of Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Spanish for “Our Little Brothers and Sisters”) group of orphanages in Latin America and the Caribbean, is pleased to announce the addition of Kelly Quinn to our dedicated team of international volunteers. Quinn will volunteer for a year to work as an English as a Second Language (ESL) Teacher at the on-site school in the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) home in the Dominican Republic.

Dominican Republic

El Salvador

Guatemala

Haiti

Honduras

Mexico

Nicaragua

Peru

Quinn will be the home’s first official ESL teacher. They have recently opened their on-site school, and are excited to offer English to their students. “In order to create educated, productive and marketable world citizens, our children need to learn English” states NPH Dominican Republic Director Kiernan Rigney. In a country where the unemployment rate hovers around 80%, speaking English is a valuable skill. Many children at NPH will work in the tourism industry after leaving the home, and they need to speak English to be competitive in the job market.

When Quinn learned that she had been accepted to volunteer at NPH, she applied to the competitive Samuel Huntington National Service Award. The award provides a \$10,000 stipend for a graduating college senior to pursue one year of public service anywhere in the world. Quinn was accepted, and will use the award to create and implement an English language curriculum, complete with textbooks and other teaching material. FedEx Express has generously

agreed to ship the materials to the home for free, allowing Quinn to dedicate more of the stipend to curriculum and supplies.

While volunteering at NPH, Quinn will be perfecting her Spanish, immersing himself in a new culture and earning less than \$100 per month. She will teach during the day, and spend each evening eating dinner and playing with a “household” of children. She will live at the orphanage with other volunteers. Quinn hopes to pursue a career in social work after her volunteer service.

“Volunteers are an invaluable asset to our team,” said Vicky Medley, International Volunteer Coordinator for Friends of the Orphans. “Volunteers provide skills and energy that help guide the growth and development of the children. We are grateful for their willingness to give up a year to work hard for very little pay.”

Kelly travelled to the Dominican Republic on June 1. You can reach her over email at kquinn85@aol.com

About Friends of the Orphans

Friends of the Orphans is dedicated to improving the lives of orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children through the support of the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) network of orphanages in Latin America and the Caribbean. More than 15,000 children have been raised in NPH homes. NPH's mission is to provide shelter, clothing, food, health care and education in a Christian family environment based on unconditional acceptance and love, sharing, working and responsibility.

Friends of the Orphans has regional offices in Arizona, Florida, Illinois, Minnesota, Virginia and Washington. For more information please visit www.friendsoftheorphans.org.