

COLOMBIAN LITTLE HOUSES – PROJECT STARTUP

Thousands and thousands of “**DISPLACED PERSONS**”, many of them with just the clothes on their backs, travel to Santa Cruz in search of two priests:

Rev. Father Eugenio Londono and Rev. Father Julio Jaramillo

The goal of these two priests is to raise funds to build small, adequate housing for these **DISPLACED** families. The project began with Rev. Father Eugenio Londono, who wanted to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of his parish (St. Therese of the Child Jesus) in Medellin, Colombia.

His goal was to build “50” homes in celebration of the parish’s 50th Anniversary.

To join him in this project was the Rev. Father Julio Jaramillo who, who used **ALL** of a small inheritance from his mother, and created a foundation that he called: **The Berta Martinez De Jaramillo Foundation**.

Initially, he opened a small school/day care center for the children. This is where the children go to get one meal a day, while their mothers go out “gathering”... which is begging for food, looking through garbage cans, or looking for work. Some do work, but get paid very little money.

This Foundation is recognized by the Colombian Archdiocese, The Vatican, and the U.N., and is a non-profit Foundation.

All donations are tax deductible and go directly towards the building of homes, schools, day care, training facilities, food and medicine in the community which they are building called “Santa Cruz” (Holy Cross).

Donors have been awestruck at how much they can do with so little money.

Remember, one American Dollar goes a long way in other countries.

This “barrio” or community, is being built in the mountains that surround Medellin. The building of these “**little houses**” is done by volunteers and family member themselves, based on the same theme as Habitat for Humanity. Their only cost is their squatter’s right to the piece of land that they have either invaded or somehow acquired to put up their shanties. The priests then put the family in a home already built. Essential services such as clean water and sewers and electricity are provided for them until they can afford to pay for them. Most often it is a very minimal charge.

The **cost of building these “little houses” is only between \$2,300 to \$2,500 USD**, depending on the size of the family that needs to be housed. That is not a high price to restore a life of human dignity, and help keep them out of harm’s way from the gorilla warfare in Colombia.

