

update:

costa rica methodist orphanage

The summer of 2008 brought visible evidence of HPUMC's commitment to help build an orphanage in Costa Rica. Ray and Lidia Zirkel, the Methodist missionaries in San Jose, working with four HPUMC work teams, have made dramatic progress in seeing their dream come to life. A gorgeous property was purchased in a rural area in San Jose overlooking the city from one viewpoint and a natural preserve on the opposite side. A vibrant river runs by the property which parallels the future soccer field. The natural beauty the children in the orphanage will engage in is stunning. Much work has been done to prepare the property for the building of the first home which will begin during this February's mission.

Permits are now in hand and work on the first home will soon begin. The orphanage will offer a safe, Christian, family environment for the children to thrive educationally, emotionally and spiritually. The Zirkel's dream includes five homes, a chapel, an all-purpose building, an administration building, a playground and, of course, the soccer field. Each home will have a couple serving as the house parents to guide and raise the children in a loving, home setting. The homes will be built with a master area for the house parents, five bedrooms for children, a kitchen, dining/living area and laundry area.

Come be a part of the building process! A work team will go to Costa Rica on February 21st and return March 1st. The groundbreaking ceremony for the first home will be a welcomed start to this construction. In the afternoons, the team will visit local churches where they will play with and provide VBS activities for children representative of the future residents of the orphanage. It is such an honor to spend time with these children, receiving so much more than you give. Make plans to be a part of their lives. It will change yours.



By the way, the average daytime temperature in San Jose, Costa Rica in February is 75 degrees, and it is one of the least rainy months of the year. It doesn't snow in Costa Rica in February!



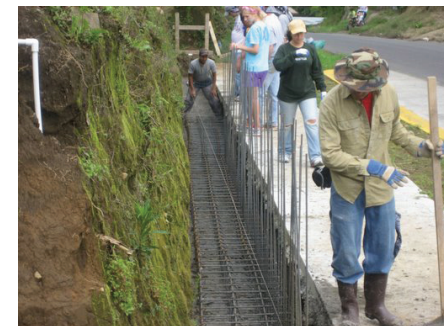
Barbed wire fences were removed.



The barn was demolished.



The existing house was improved.



Trees were removed. Front gates were taken down to allow for a road to be built. A retaining wall on the front of the property was built. Sidewalks were placed.