

May,2011

POSTCARDS HOME:

Dear Family:

This year postcards home to our collective family of supporters serve as a gesture of our love and appreciation from our younger generation of trip leaders. Each entry was written by the director of a 2010-2011 initiative. The combustible energy of your generosity and their vision and verve, has kindled some hot stuff around the globe. Please share the pride.

“Our band, Los Ciegos del Barrio, became the first North American band to appear at La Feria Internacional del Libro (International Book Fair) in Havana, Cuba this February. Performing for thousands at cultural centers, schools for the blind, and at several major landmarks in Havana, the five of us visually impaired musicians brought a message of friendship and solidarity to the Cuban people in direct contrast to the US blockade. It was the best two weeks of my life. *Con mucho cariño,*” **Alvin Suarez, chief Ciego.**



“Project Troubador opened the door for a new community radio station in the Garifuna community of Trujillo, Honduras when last December you sent a radio transmitter, antenna, microphones, a mixer and me to the this coastal Caribbean region. This new station has given scores of youth DJ's a chance to have their own programs on the air; an opportunity they may have never come across in a lifetime. It has given the elders of the community a tool to pass on traditional stories, songs and the Garifuna language to the future generations. I am looking forward to developing new stations for the Garifuna up and down the coast in the coming years.” **Community Radio activist, Ben Schwartz**



“In March I and my 2008 deaf-school-tour ‘clownpanion’, Ezzell Floraniña, returned to the Dominican Republic, taking with us Henry ‘The Juggler’ Lappen and ‘Habitat’ builder, Peter Jessop. The mission: to strengthen the campaign our quartet is running, to build a new Barahona school for the Deaf, and, at the same time, to entertain children, with mime, juggling, and sign language. In 2008 Ezzell and I discovered the dire need for a new deaf school in Barahona and were determined to help. Last year, Henry and Peter joined our initiative, followed by the international charity COPA who has built schools in that region. As guests of COPA and the National Schools for the Deaf, the team notched up 18 shows for over 3500 smiling, laughing children and a guarantee for the deaf children of Barahona, of a new COPA-built school by 2012. Hopping on a bus between Hispanola’s two capital cities, I was able to honor an invitation to Port-au-Prince, Haiti from longtime D.R. gig-fixer, Antoine Langeard, who runs a non-profit there. A dozen shows for 1500 kids later, I was thoroughly moved to be able to bring a little levity to this very courageous population who, although they have seen some rebuilding, still live in a very sorry state. Learn more at <http://www.mimealot.com/outreach> *Mèsi anpil, fanmi Troubador.*”

Hoopoe the Clown (Chris Yerlig)



“In this last year you provided funds to bring a performance collaboration between a Cuban children's choir (Coro Diminuto) and an American children's choir (The National Children's Chorus) to Havana. Co-creators of *La Estrañable Lejania*, supported by PT last year when the production premiered at the Havana International Film Festival, “*Far Away*,” is a ten minute song that I composed using answers from children of both choirs about their countries, their dreams, their fears, and the meaning of friendship. Each choir was recorded in a studio and filmed singing their part of the song on the beach in Santa Monica, California and East Havana. The footage and recording of the choir in the far away country is projected onto a scrim in front of the live choir to create an illusion that the two choirs are singing together in the same space. The project was funded through an award by Center Theatre Group of Los Angeles. After the LA chorus premiered the piece there was no funding to return to Havana so that the Cuban children could also premiere the work that they had collaborated in. Project Troubador stepped in and gave me (composer, designer) and Aleigh Lewis (cinematographer) the necessary funds to travel to Havana with our video projection equipment so that the Cubans could also present and celebrate the work they so passionately developed. **Sage Lewis**



Please remember us again this year with a donation so we can continue to spread joy and inspiration throughout the world using the power of music and performance on a deep grassroots level. **Give \$40 or more and you will receive a free pair of tickets to our 22nd Project Troubador Grove Festival on Saturday, June 25th.** This lakeside jamboree will present Cuban dance music from Jose Conde and his band, West African grooves on balafon by Famoro Dioubate and his group Kakande, as well as the antics of Henry the Juggler. Bring a blanket, a picnic, your friends and meet the rest of the family there. **PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY, USING THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR VIA PAYPAL AT PROJECTTROUBADOR.ORG.**

Warmly,

Louise Lindenmeyr
Executive Director