

TRAVEL REPORT 2017 photos you can find on the photo page

Tuesday 24 October 2017, we have visited the province of Holguin in Cuba. We had collect the necessary things, including 2 wheelchairs, 2 walkers, various clothes and toys for the children. A small trailer full of stuff, fortunately again our former neighbour Jan, found time to take us to Schiphol. It was a very heavy traipsing but nowhere we encountered problems. At 18.30 local time we were picked up by our taxi driver Victor and taken to our Casa Particular. Marcia, the owner, had again everything ready for inviting us and we could enjoy a great night of sleep.

Wednesday morning Yamaisy was on time with us to help us to share the things we had with us. Yamaisy is our contact person in Holguin for several years, she works correctly and diligently and keep financial everything down to the last detail. Last year with her husband Jorge. Unfortunately, Jorge this year travelled to Venezuela for a mission. For Yamaisy it is always a surprise what we have with us and everything should always be thoroughly viewed. She has always directly a destination for everything. In the afternoon she, together with Victor, went shopping. They had to do many shopping's. We had promised for each child a towel, soap, toothbrushes and toothpaste, for their daily care so that they had their own stuff.

In the **afternoon** we left for the first orphanage, Maceo or orphanage 2 for the handicapped children. Cary, the director received us with open arms so as the children, they are always very spontaneous. Carlos, now also our contact person, was also present. With him we had the agreement to replace all the beds in the orphanages this year, he has that taken on. The first 20 beds were ready and we would pick them up with the truck. We had no idea what they would look like, but they were beautiful, decent beds.

Cary and the children were very happy with it. The rest of the beds, a total of 50, are made during the year. We also spent a nice afternoon with the children. Meanwhile, we have experienced Carlos as a jovial, reliable man and hope to be able to cooperate with him for a long time as well as his wife Yeni. In this home is also asked for a new laundry room and a room for the nurse. Carlos undertakes to coordinate this and we will receive the specifications later this year.

ARE THERE PEOPLE WHO WANT TO SUPPORT THIS PROJECT FINANCIALLY?

Cary and the children already thanks you for the support.

Thursday we visited orphanage Peralta 4, here live the young people from the age of 12 until they can live independently. Especially the older ones (16 - 20 years) have a hard time here because they receive hardly any (financial) help. They are about to leave the orphanage and have to take care of themselves. We have taken care of them, in consultation with the director, that they can buy clothes and shoes.

Also with them we had a nice evening and from the older children we got a spontaneously speech to thank us. Also here, during the year, the beds will be replaced.

Friday we went to Herrera (80 km. from Holguin) to bring a walker to a lady who was very infirm and ever needed help with walking. She sat on a chair which is not conducive to her. They, as well as her daughters, were very happy with it, she could now walk independently. Nice, people from the Netherlands spontaneity exist to help people in Cuba. The walker and wheelchairs we have gotten by MEDICURA NEDERWEERT. On the return trip, we enjoyed the nice Cuban landscape.

On the way back we have a wheelchair delivered to a woman in Holguin. She had a brain haemorrhage. Her daughter and husband had made from a chair a po chair on which she sat all day and was propelled, (leaning backwards, sliding, see the chair in the photo). They were also very happy with the wheelchair so she can be moved a little easier now.

We also have liked to have a wheelchair delivered to Fray Benito but the road there was by the rain too bad to get there, even with horse and cart. This will later be delivered by Yamaisy and Victor, yes our taxi driver also helps a bit! He does not charge anything but he is cheap.

Saturday we were at orphanage Morales Lemus, the little ones. They currently reside with 3 children. Of course we had nice stuff for them too and bought toys from a spontaneous gift that we had gotten just before departure especially for them. Also we had a very nice evening, with the "stuff" that they had gotten With the doctors toys they got, also we had to go "treated". For them, we are no strangers anymore.

In the evening, we also have visited Peralta 1. Here live the children from 6 to 12 years. We could see the new bathroom that was realized this year, with our own eyes . The children and the staff there were extremely happy with it. The toys (building kits) that we had with us, were immediately unpacked and put together. We had brought with us, so we also would know how to put it together. After a few times and "Señor y Señorita come help", it was soon Gerard and Mieke come help. We have entertained us very well. The director here asked for a new freezer, because the old one was broken. We looked in a lot of shops, but no freezer. Carlos and Yamaisy keep their eyes open and will inform us as they can find one.

Sunday we have took a day of rest (we really needed that!!). **Monday afternoon** we travelled to our hotel in Guardalavaca. **Friday morning** we left again, to Banes. We visited Rachel and her family. The tires of her wheelchair were so worn that we had this year new ones for it.. Glexy, her father, had invited a man, Jordan, who had a train accident when he was 5 years, his left arm and leg was missing from that day. He had a prosthetic leg, it looks like a "do it yourself" article. The leg was mainly filled and his wooden "foot" was fixed with a hinge. Yamaisy would see if they could help at the Medical University. I don't know if we can help him from the Netherlands. **ANYONE AN IDEA???**

Also we had a Walker to give away, this we have given to a retirement home. Here we were in. There was a doctor says that he was very happy with our visit and was very happy with the walker. There was not one in the home. When we told that we probably could do something more for them, he was excited. For 127 residents, there was 1 blood pressure monitor, the barber had to cut hair with the scissors, there were almost no pens and writing paper, little bandages. Of course we cannot take care of everyone but we want to help where we can. We have agreed that we and our contact person Arisdel, contact with each other by mail and see what we possibly can take from here. Fortunately we already bought 1 clippers in Banes but that was it. Also, we have both the things for personal care and detergent Also, we have visit a demented woman, she lived with her daughter and son-in-law. For her personal care, we also have bought what they needed very hard. Her daughter and son-in-law were pleasantly surprised that we were able to do this for their mother. We have had a busy program but with the help from our contact persons Yamaisy, Carlos and Arisdel, not to mention their families and our taxi driver Victor, we have been able to realize a lot again. **NATURALLY, WE NEVER FORGET TO TELL IN CUBA, HOW MUCH HELP WE GET HERE IN THE NETHERLANDS, WHETHER IT IS FINANCIAL , OR WITH GOODS, OR IN OTHER WAY AND DURING OUR EVENTS.**

FROM CUBA, WE HAVE DIRECTLY TO THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

MUCHOS GRACIAS.