

## ST ROSE SPONSORED CHILDREN

**Rosa**, aged 12, is one of nine children. Her father, Julio, was injured in an accident about five years ago and his back was badly damaged and he cannot work except for very light jobs. (He received no workers' compensation). Her mother, Isabel, attends the women's house and is in the doll making class as well as the crochet class. The nine children in the family include two year old twins who attend the Mother of Mercy Children's Centre and are part of the programme for malnourished children. Six of the children live at home; the eldest at home is 18 years old. The family house is a tiny shack made from pieces of cardboard and three-ply wood. There are no windows and there is a dirt floor. The shack is high up on Candela Hill. They have no electricity, water or sewerage. The roof of the shack is of matted straw with pieces of plastic to stop the light rain from entering: There is no rain here in Lima, but there is often light mist so the little two room shack is very damp. They have one room with two beds where the eight members of the family sleep. They use candles for their light.



Rosa is doing well at school. She is now in 5th grade and likes folk dancing. She comes to the children's house twice a week in the afternoon while her mother is studying crochet and doll making in the women's house and is grateful to the teachers there who can give her extra help with her homework. Her mother tries to earn a little extra money for the family by doing washing for other people, but also by making the dolls and beautiful crochet goods at the Women's house. (Her favourites are the clowns!). Both Rosa's Mum and Dad very much want to give their children a good education as they realise that only through education will the family be able to break the cycle of poverty.

Rosa's Mum and Dad are trying to save up to pay for the toilet, hand basin and shower they hope to have soon. Rosa often has to carry water to her house from a tank located a long distance from her house.

**Luis**, aged 13, is one of four children. His mother, Juana, was elected last year to be part of the coordination team of the Women's House, where she gives her time voluntarily one day each week to help in the office. She participates in the doll-making class, where she specially likes to make monkeys! Luis's father has been unemployed for some time. He has no work skills. He has had very little education. He sometimes gets a job for a few days helping out somewhere. The family live in a tiny, two-room shack on Candela hill. There is no water or sewerage, and until recently the family were cooking meals on a timber fire. The youngest child, Natalie, aged six, was badly burnt when she knocked over a pot of boiling water. She is gradually recovering from severe burns to her body.



Luis is now in his first year of secondary school. He is studying well and enjoying school. Through the sponsorship of St Rose School at Collaroy, his mother has been able to buy school books and uniforms for Luis. He is good at soccer, and likes all sports. Luis' Mum is so grateful that there have been orders of monkeys and dolls to send to Australia as she is using this money to save for a bathroom.

### **Update 2012**

Luis is now 14 years old and in Second Year of High School. He is doing well at school and continuing to enjoy soccer which he plays every weekend. His younger sister, Natalia, is eight years old and in 4th class of primary school. When she was little, she was badly burnt on her legs and body and has needed constant medical attention ever since. She is presently awaiting a special skin operation to help the skin grow again. Donations from Australia are paying for this operation which will cost \$500 as the family has no means whatever to pay for the operation.

Natalia loves to dance and enjoys going to the Candela Children's House in the afternoons when her mother is studying at the Women's House. Natalia's mother continues to participate in the doll-making class and is always excited when there is an order from Australia.

The donations from St Rose's school at Collaroy are helping to pay for Natalia's education this year and she is very grateful for her uniform and school shoes as well as for her books and school fees that have been paid for her. In August of this year, the family was extremely happy as they now have water and sewerage for the first time in their lives. Natalia asked to give this message to the school in Collaroy. "It is so wonderful to be able to wash ourselves properly, even though it is with cold water, and it is so much more hygienic to have a proper toilet now as well. Our lives have certainly improved and we are grateful to all our friends in Australia who have helped us in so many ways."

### **Update 2012: Rosa**

Rosa is nearly 14 now and completing her schooling at night in the local government school as she found it very hard to be in 6th grade when she was so much taller than the other children in the class. She is doing well in her studies and wanted to thank the students from St Rose's school in Collaroy for helping her when she was at school. This year, the donation money has helped her younger sister Marie Esther who is eight years old with school fees, uniform and books. Marie Esther loves to come to the Mother of Mercy Children's House in the afternoons so that she can do her homework as there is not much space in her house. She also enjoys drawing and is good at art. She has a younger twin brother and sister, who are six years old.

Marie Esther's mother is participating this year in the crochet class at the Women's House and she loves to make the footy men. This year was a good year for the family as water and sewerage has arrived in Candela. They now have a proper toilet, instead of a hole in the ground, and they have a wash – basin and shower with cold water. The family was really excited when the water and sewerage finally arrived in their area. They want to thank all the people from Collaroy who have helped them in so many ways.

***Thank you Australia!***