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Dear Friends & Family,

I have to admit, this is a letter I never thought I'd be writing. While I've been involved in various church ministries for most of my life, the one thing I didn't think I was cut out for was mission trips. However, over the last 2 years, every time I hear about a mission trip opportunity I've felt this tug on my heart. The timing never seemed to work out or I convinced myself I wasn't ready to take the leap. Then last week I heard about a trip to Costa Rica that was planned for March 3-12 led by Ray Young and Matrix Ministries. The trip is to Hogar de Vida Children's Home in Atenas. This is a Christian facility that provides a home for at-risk children who have been removed from their current living situation by child protective services. Their stay can be from six months to a year or more. I have a heart for kids who have rough home lives, so this trip immediately got my attention. If you've known me for long, you also know that I'm a bird lover and have always wanted to see macaws flying in the wild in Costa Rica. So maybe this is God's way of giving me an extra push! At any rate, I applied for my first passport the next day. This will be my first trip outside of the U.S.

While at the Children's Home, the team plans to:

- Build a workshop
 - *part of the funds we raise will go toward materials*
- Network a computer security system & phone system
- Assist with administrative work
- Play with and love on the kids!

I hope you see the value in what we will accomplish. As you can imagine, a trip like this requires financial support from a number of people and I need to raise \$1,650 over the coming month. If you can support me in a financial way, I would be very grateful. And, most importantly, I also need your prayer support. Prayer is the fuel that will allow us to be successful as we follow God's leading on this trip. I've enclosed a card with specific things you can pray about for me and the team.

If you would like to be part of this mission through your financial support, make your tax deductible check out to Matrix Ministries. Write "Cate Rader/Costa Rica" on the memo line. A stamped envelope is enclosed for your convenience.

I'm excited about the opportunity to be part of this team. Hogar de Vida is very close to Pastor Steve Lucas and his family, so for those of you who know them, I'll be sure to pass along your hugs!

Thank you for your prayers and support!

Cate

I will be posting pictures and updates on facebook as often as I am able, so look for those if you want to get a glimpse of our progress on the trip.