



Before surgery
January, 2006

The Rosa Vera Fund

August 2006 DONOR UPDATE

Hugo Nelson Torrez Andía



Nelson's sketch



**Three months
after surgery**
July, 2006

Nelson is an 14 year old boy with the diagnosis of **trichiasis**, a condition in which the eyelashes grow inward. Although his vision is normal, for many years his eyes have been persistently and severely irritated, suffering from chronic bacterial infections.

When I met Ademar in January, 2005, he was able to crack open his eyelids just enough to guide himself.

Remarkably, Nelson said his favorite subject was art, and his family showed me multiple notebooks full of his drawings.

A successful surgery was completed by an ophthalmologist in the nearby city of Santa Cruz in April. Nelson's recent August checkup demonstrated a boy that could comfortably open his eyes when not in direct light. Prior to the surgery, the school had planned to hold Nelson back. However, Nelson is currently *the top student in his class*, and will be advancing next semester! He has also joined the local soccer club...

Nelson and his family are *tremendously* grateful for your help. This surgery would never have been possible for this family to achieve alone.

RVF YEAR II UPDATE: AUGUST, 06 (Month 5)

of individuals/families contributing: 34
Funds raised in RVF Year 1 thus far: \$6920

Family Economic Situation: Nelson's family emigrated to Montero in 2001 after losing their home and land to floods. His stepfather (Benito, 59 y.o.) plants small parcels of peanuts, rice, and beans in the countryside. His mother (Ojelia, 42 y.o.) sells the peanuts in the streets of Montero, earning about \$2/day. Nelson and his siblings (Rosibel, 10 y.o.;

Yoselin, 8 y.o.; Liliana, 7 y.o.) help make and then sell rice bread in the streets, earning an additional \$0.50 to \$1 per day when not in school. Their house is being borrowed to them: it has just one room (10x10), with a dirt floor, wood walls, and a corrugated tin roof. Latrine only; + running/potable water; + electricity. Diet is limited to inexpensive carbohydrates.

Family Social Situation: This is a family under tremendous economic and social stress. However, the stepfather has taken an proactive roll in Nelson's care and encourages school attendance.

RVF Contribution: Given this family's dire economic situation, 100% of all costs were paid: Travel expenses: \$4.56; Lab studies & Medicines: \$22.15; Surgical costs: \$121.15. **TOTAL = \$157.72**

Family Contribution: Unable to contribute financially.

GOAL: 60 Donors

GOAL: \$12,287

