



The Rosa Vera Fund

APRIL 2006 DONOR UPDATE

Jhoan Gustavo Nova Cabrera

May, 2005:

Jhoan prior to the nutrition program: note that he is significantly underweight



January, 2006:

Jhoan 6 months after the nutrition program, still with excellent weight and stable health



Jhoan is a 5 y.o. boy who suffered severe brain injury secondary to a traumatic delivery. He has the incurable diagnosis of cerebral palsy with mental retardation. Despite the emotional/physical challenges and scarce family resources that Jhoan requires, his parents *adore* him and struggle to care for him in the most dignified manner possible.

When I met Jhoan in May, 2005, he was *severely* malnourished. Even on his best days, feeding Jhoan was problematic due to the difficulty he has swallowing. He had recently developed a prolonged gastroenteritis and maintaining his nutrition had become impossible for the family. He was rapidly losing critical weight and it was apparent that he wouldn't survive without a major intervention.

Utilizing the professional services of an inpatient renourishment program located an hour from Montero, the RVF made possible a three month inpatient stay in the San Carlos Refeeding Centre. Jhoan's mother visited the Centre weekly to learn how to prepare nutritious, protein-rich yet affordable meals for Jhoan. This skill of course benefits not only Jhoan, but the entire family.

****Note:** it is uncommon for a Bolivian child with a severe chronic disease to receive such a complete intervention. The Nova family wishes to express their tremendous gratitude for the opportunity that the RVF donors offered to their son and family.**

Family Economic Situation: Critical. Mother (Margarita, 30 yrs.) prepares tamales in the home; Father (Efrain, 33 yrs.) sells the tamales in the market. The mother is unable to work or spend time outside of the home secondary to the needs of Jhoan. Jhoan lives with his parents and two siblings, Jhoel (9 yrs) and Alejandra (7yrs) in a two room, dirt floor home made of scrap wood and tin. + outside latrine; + shared running water; no electricity. Diet is tenuous, but improved with recent and ongoing education.

Family Social Situation: Stable. Loving, appreciative family.

RVF Contribution: \$30 (includes all costs associated with 90 days of inpatient care). Ongoing nutritional supplementation, frequent weight checks & education are provided by the Community Health Worker Program (also supported by the RVF).

Family Contribution: Pay for associated transportation costs.

RVF YEAR II UPDATE: APRIL, 06 (Month 1)

- # of individuals/families contributing: 9
- Funds raised in RVF Year 1 thus far: \$680

Month 1



GOAL: \$12,287

