

## **The Commercial Appeal, (Memphis, TN)**

### **KLONDIKE KIDS CHEER UP BOY FROM BRAZIL**

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**Klondike Elementary School second- through fifth-graders recently created get-well cards for a Brazilian youth, Julio Izidorio, while he was being treated for delayed puberty at Le Bonheur Children's Medical Center.**

**On Jan. 19 and 26, Orff music teacher Lisa Honeycutt delivered 274 handmade cards to Izidorio. He and two companions, Socorro and Grace Fragoso, arrived in Memphis Jan. 16 and returned home Jan. 27.**

**Honeycutt said, "When we heard they were coming up for Julio's treatment, I told the children about him. So they wanted to make some cards. Some of the cards had glitter on them and said 'Welcome to America.' "**

**Last summer, Honeycutt, along with Catherine Cole, a pediatric endocrinologist nurse at the University of Tennessee Medical Group, went on a missions trip sponsored by First Evangelical Church and the Bartlett-based Orphanos Foundation. They visited a Brazilian orphanage, Lar Batista Biblico, where Izidorio lives. Said Cole, "There had been some discussion before I went and even after I got there about a little boy who was not growing for his size. I spoke with his orphanage mother, who said he had seen a doctor in Brazil. The doctor told them he would never grow.**

**"With my background being such as it is I knew that was not true. . . . I returned (to Memphis) and talked with Dr. Susan Rose, a pediatric endocrinologist who is renowned for her work in growth hormone deficiency. She agreed to see him without charge."**

**She said the youth, who is 14 but looks 10 or 11, received several tests. As a result of the delayed puberty diagnosis, he'll receive injections for the next six months and is to return for a checkup in a year.**

**"It's hard for a child emotionally to be short and not have the characteristics of the other teenagers. He wanted to grow," Cole said.**

**In addition to the no-charge medical services, airfare and lodging were donated by the Orphanos Foundation and First Evangelical Church.**

**Honeycutt, who originally traveled to Brazil in 1996, said, "Klondike and Lar Batista have been communicating via E-mail through my home computer.**

**“Our school is currently being renovated so we'll have 21st Century classrooms. I look forward to the day when they will be able to communicate with each other, child-to-child. The children would learn so much about one another's rich cultures.”**

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