

P.O. Box 41351, Long Beach, CA 90853 Phone: (562) 505-2764 WWW.BRAZILIANCHILDREN.ORG



We feel as parents that we will do anything for our kids. Making the hard decisions to move, change jobs or schools. But what if you had to leave your country because it was too dangerous and had no food or medicine? That is what the Dontonez family did when they had to leave Venezuela.

Due to no food or housing Maria had already sent her daughter, Sofia, to Peru to live with her ex-husband. When the girl's father died, his family said she could not live with them. They offered to send bus fare for her to pick up the child. The couple went there, and the girl's family put them out on the street and wouldn't pay their way back to Venezuela. Peru would not allow them to work. They slept on the street, picking up cans and taking day jobs to get money to get back home. They did this for 6 months and then were able to get back to Venezuela. Then Maria got pregnant, and the doctor told her to abort the baby, but she trusted that God would make her a blessing. Her name is Danna and is now 3 years old. They had heard that Brazil was friendly towards Venezuelans, so they started walking. They were alone, a young girl and a pregnant woman. The husband, Daniel could not leave immediately. They made it to the border and while there some Venezuelans robbed and killed a Brazilian man, and they knew it wasn't

safe any longer. They then walked 150 miles to the nearest real town, Porto das Galinhas, and then hitched a ride to Sao Paulo, some 1600 miles away.

They arrived in Sao Paulo trying to find a community that would welcome them. They lived on the street again picking up cans and selling them to be able to eat. Daniel arrived 3 months later and was able to find a job. Someone told them about the Vargem Grande neighborhood, and they were able to rent a house. We have our school in Vargem Grande and Sofia is attending, and next year Danna will be old enough to attend. Maria is volunteering at the school and with our food program.



Sofia, in black dress, at school in Vargem Grande

Products



Maria volunteering at school

God has blessed the Dontonez family with the ability to buy a piece of land, but they had no financial ability to build. Now this is some new information for me. I was informed that in certain communities in Brazil they have to get permission to build from the Gate Keeper. A person more or less, like the head of an HOA for areas that the government does not recognize. I don't know how he becomes the Gate Keeper, but you must have his permission, or you don't build. Fortunately, he gave his permission, and they may build. They are elated that they have the land and permission but feel it would be years before they could start construction. The director of the school, Dona Nete, introduced us and after speaking with Maria and Daniel, their project was approved. They'll start construction next month. They give all the glory to God.



Future home of Dontonez family

Daniel working hard

Please pray for Southern Brazil. They are experiencing terrible floods. *C*ities, crops and animals have simply been wiped away. Many deaths and 100,000 people have been displaced from their homes and it is still raining. Please keep them in your prayers, they need miracles that only God can provide.

