

Ansonia resident describes church's mission trip to Colombia

Says youth she has met there are an inspiration

By Patricia Villers
Photos by Sharon Voroschak

ANSONIA - Resident Sharon Voroschak said she was inspired by a July visit to support children and teens living at an orphanage in Colombia.

She recently returned with several other members of Gateway Christian Fellowship in West Haven from a second mission trip to an orphanage in the city of Palmira in southwestern Colombia.

Voroschak said in an interview earlier this week, "Pastors Angel and Mary Sanchez have been visiting the children's home in Colombia for several years which is supported by their home church."

She said, "There are so many success stories." Voroschak has made many friends at the orphanage, *Yo Soy El Camino*. "I love it; I'm going to return," she said. "They all care about each other - they're a family."

Voroschak first traveled there in 2016 but said she was unable to go since then because of family medical issues.



One of those success stories is Mauricio Candelo, a young man who is attending medical school. Voroschak said she is amazed at the fact that although he grew up in an orphanage he has achieved so much in his life. After he becomes a doctor he plans to stay in his hometown to give back to this community.

In a text message Candelo said, "The visit always brings good feelings to the kids. It is very special to have the people from Connecticut (visit) because we see them as a family and also a support, and we just don't know how to thank them for what they do."

Aspiring architect Luis Reyes, 20, is another young man from the orphanage whose talent and hard work have inspired Voroschak. He attends Universidad de San Buenaventura in nearby Cali.

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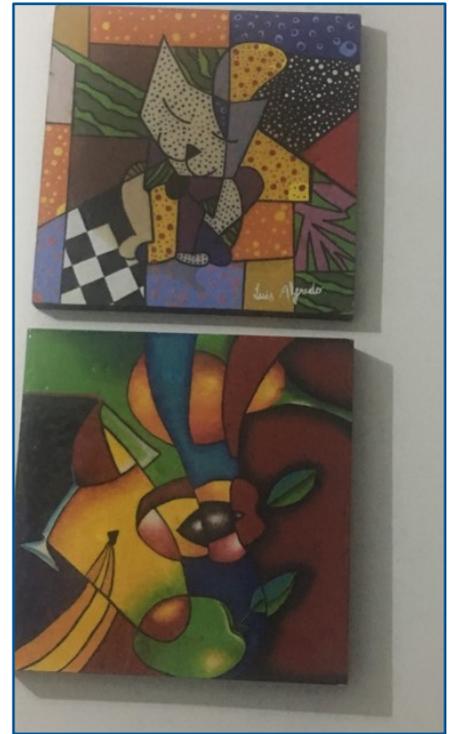
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Reyes, an artist who works in both acrylics and oils, said in a text message he enjoys painting portraits.

He prefers using photographs because "it's harder to ask someone to stay and not move for seven hours." He said he'd love to be an architect because it's an "awesome career."

Reyes said having the group from Gateway "feels awesome because we have somebody to help us for things that we don't have, like paint supplies, a laptop, a phone."

Voroschak said, "They all are an inspiration. They show what you can achieve. These kids came from nothing and the little things we do for them lift them up."



Cassetti gives key to the city to nonprofit founders

At Tuesday's Board of Aldermen Meeting, *Orange You For Ansonia* was presented A Key To The City for all of their work and organizing free events for the children of Ansonia.

"This was an amazing honor and we are so proud of everyone, our volunteers, our fire chief, captains, firefighters. Mr. Softy and everyone who attends our events. This is for all of us!!"

They added "we will continue to put our best foot forward to continue providing our children safe, fun activities within our community!"



The Valley-Voice congratulates *Orange You For Ansonia* for their continued work for Ansonia's kids.

