**Yannely Suero**

Words by Richard Murphy with Jonathan Almonte

**Deep in the heart of the Dominican Republic, a young dark-haired girl plays with figures of sand and mud by the side of a dusty road. Life here in the little rural village of Villa Flores is difficult and the little girl’s playful behaviour hides a painful story.**

[](http://www.cinewswires.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/LDP-DR9800104-Jesus-is-the-Medicine-that-Restores-the-Soul-07-1410.jpg)

Now a young woman, Yannely Suero still remembers her childhood vividly.

She grew up with her mother living in a single room home. There were no pavements or streets in Villa Flores and the lack of basic infrastructure made everyday life challenging. Even safe drinking water was not always available.

The lack of resources was not Yannely’s biggest problem though–it was the lack of love from her father. When her mother was pregnant, her father tried to convince her to have an abortion. He abandoned the family after she refused.

[](http://www.cinewswires.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/LDP-DR9800104-Jesus-is-the-Medicine-that-Restores-the-Soul-02-1410.jpg)As she was growing up, her mum occasionally took Yannely to her father’s house in the hope that she would meet him, but their attempts were in vain. “I was able to go to my father’s house, hoping to see him, but it was not possible because he hid inside,” Yannely explains. With tears welling in her eyes, she softly explains that she was never legally recognised by her father.

When Yannely was registered as a Compassion child, she was soon sponsored by Dorothy. Their relationship broke through cultural barriers and Dorothy became Yannely’s mentor, motivating her to have faith and hope in God. There was no detail from Dorothy’s family that she would not tell Yannely. When a new grandchild was born or something significant happened, she always wrote.

One day, Yannely received a letter from Dorothy explaining that her husband had died and that she was feeling discouraged. Some months later, another letter arrived. Something wasn’t right – Dorothy was saying goodbye. “Dear Yannely. God is calling me to my eternal home. I apologise for taking so long to write. Now I’ll also join my father in heaven and I cannot continue writing. Please never forget that I love you.” – Dorothy.

She died soon after of unknown causes.

Yannely had often discussed her dream of becoming a doctor with Dorothy and she decided to apply for Compassion’s leadership programme in 2009. She soon received the good news that she had been accepted as a graduate student.

The discipleship training that she received during the programme softened her heart so much that she decided to find her father and ask for his forgiveness. When they finally met for the first time, he could not hold back his tears.

Yannely is currently 22 years old and works as a tutor with 12 to 15 year-old teenagers at a Compassion project.

[](http://www.cinewswires.com/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/LDP-DR9800104-Jesus-is-the-Medicine-that-Restores-the-Soul-08-1410.jpg)She is in her fourth year of studying general medicine and has one of the highest grades in her college. She plans to specialise in paediatric perinatology and start her own clinic to provide quality healthcare at low cost for people in difficult financial situations. The clinic will be named The Dorothy Smith Foundation in honour of the woman who always believed she could accomplish her dream of becoming a doctor in order to spread the word of hope through Jesus.

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