

FM Webschool Gives Back

Like so many I had become cynical and jaded. Christmas had become a time of commercial overload and I simply did not look forward to converging with the masses. Just the thought of all of the traffic and the whole process made me tired, I decided not to get involved this year just to order everything online and be done with it.

Little did I know all of this was about to change. For the past three months our team has been working in Costa Rica. We are working with a group of developers on new mobile technology. As the work day was ending I stepped into one of our developer's offices to say goodnight and to have a nice weekend. She motioned me over to her laptop to show me a doll on the screen. It resembled a cabbage patch doll and I told her so.

Helga told me that she was making dolls for the boys and girls at the children's hospital here in Costa Rica. Many of the children don't have any toys or books or even a change of clothes. This was her way of giving a part of herself to the children. This stopped me in my tracks. I asked her how long they took, and if she made dolls every day.



I learned that Helga had been spending the past two months every night and every weekend hand making dolls for the children. She had a collection of 14 beautiful dolls and she was racing to make more.

This was very profound and it awakened a realization inside of me that had been buried by the day to day hum drum of running a business and everyday life. This wonderful grad student spent all of her free time, creating something with her own two hands for someone else. Someone she didn't know, someone she had not met.

That moment I realized that I needed to give back. But what could I do? I couldn't make dolls! They would turn out looking like, well who knows what they would look like. I decided to turn

to the FileMaker community. We would run a holiday sale, and we would also ask for donations to help the children. FMWebschool would also give an additional \$1000.

At the same time we met a family. The father works 12-16 hours a day driving a taxi. He and his wife have three daughters 10, 12 and 14. They live in two bedroom shack with a dirt floor to sleep on. The three children in one small room and the mother and father in another. The mother is now 5 months pregnant with twins and they definitely need another room and beds.

This is where the FileMaker community has stepped in. Today is December the 21st, and we already have \$2500 to give. This means toys for the children's hospital and a great start on getting beds and a crib for the family in need.

I will be documenting our trip to the children's hospital by video and pictures. I will also create a web page thanking everyone individually for their gifts and generosity.

Our goal is to come up with enough money to help build a room on the family's house before the babies are born. Your generosity will help us meet these goals. FMWebschool will also take a hands-on approach to helping the family in need. We plan to work alongside the laborers to make sure that the family has what it needs to bring the new children into the world.

What a great gift, these new children coming into the world will have a bed and a roof over their head. Something so simple, something we all take for granted.

Happy Holidays Everyone!