



INMED
Partnerships for Children
Healthy Children, Bright Futures



[WHO WE ARE](#) | [WHAT WE DO](#) | [WHERE WE WORK](#) | [PARTNERS](#) | [NEWS & EVENTS](#) | [GET INVOLVED](#)

[CONTACT US](#)

SEARCH THE SITE



TAKE ACTION

Donate Now

Get Email Updates

[« Maternity Waiting Homes – Houses of Hope | Main | Treatment to Fight Parasitic Worms a Gateway to Health, Trust for Change »](#)

OCTOBER 19

Transformations: Clients Overcome Difficult Times; a Void Filled for a Case Manager

Ashburn, Virginia (October 19, 2009) — When Coralis Fernandez discovered that what brought her the greatest satisfaction was helping families overcome their struggles, it didn't take long for her to change careers.

She used to be an attorney in Venezuela practicing family law and then a manager for real estate firms, first in Florida for over a decade and then in Virginia where she moved with her husband about two years ago.

But something was missing.

She usually filled this void by volunteering at her churches in Florida and Virginia, working with low-income families to help them overcome their struggles any way she could. Sometimes, simply talking and listening to them was enough, but on other occasions she could do more, like connecting families to specific services that they needed.

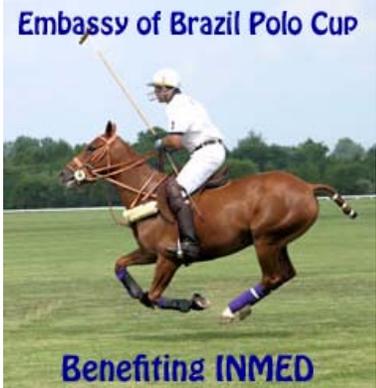
Witnessing, and in some cases sharing, the experience of overcoming tremendous challenges with families, presented an overriding joy in her life.

Still, it wasn't always enough for Fernandez, at least not until one of her church friends mentioned INMED Partnerships for Children and its mission of helping children and their families. The friend told Fernandez about an open position at INMED that would allow her to help families directly.

With little hesitation and at the age of 56, Fernandez changed careers again. Yet, she continues to volunteer at her church in Loudoun County, Va., home of INMED's international headquarters.

"I decided to make a change because I like this kind of work," Fernandez said.

Having joined INMED about a year and a half ago, first as a center service coordinator and today as an educational group facilitator and family support worker, Fernandez has seen her share of families



Learn more about ways to make an impact.

THE LATEST BUZZ

At the Embassy of Brazil Polo Cup in Poolesville, MD. It's a beautiful afternoon to be raising money for the children!

@INMEDChildren

suffering.

“When you help someone who is in a crisis and they can solve their problems, that’s a great satisfaction, especially when they are isolated at first but then come together as a group to support one another. You see them begin to enjoy life again, and nothing can take the place of that,” she said.

Whether working with families because of domestic violence, job loss, a lack of education – or with teenage moms, she has also seen families overcome those struggles and regain independence by learning new skills and where else they can get help.

Seeking help is a critical first step that can be difficult for many, a quality along with perseverance that Fernandez admires. For instance, there is the teen-age mom – a “very young girl” – who has repeatedly but unsuccessfully attempted to get into school. She finally came to INMED for help and “did not give up until she was accepted,” Fernandez said.

“I have no doubt she is going to accomplish her goals,” she added.

Just as Fernandez has accomplished her own.

CONTACT INFO:

INMED Partnerships for Children
Mary-Lynne Lasco, Director of Development
281-465-4693, or contact@inmed.org

[SHARE ARTICLE](#) | [EMAIL ARTICLE](#)



Confirm

1

0



about a day ago



Follow @INMEDChildren

↓ MORE INFORMATION

[PRIVACY POLICY](#) | [CONTACT](#)

Copyright © 2011, INMED Partnerships for Children.
All Rights Reserved.

↓ FOLLOW INMED

