

## **IT REALLY IS HARD WORK**

It's true, it really is hard work. If you're expecting this experience to be easy, you're in for a very rough time. Volunteers have often expressed surprise at how hard the work really is and how much they really do to take care of the kids (basically everything a mom would do). You should be prepared to work hard, because it's hard work right from the beginning.

We don't apologize for the work being hard and often draining. The kids are worth it. However, something we have found over the years is that the less the volunteers work and the more time off they have to go shopping and "tour" the more their attitudes change and the focus shifts to being about them instead of being about the children in the orphanages which is why they signed up to begin with.

We don't want to have our volunteers get burned out, but dropping into bed every night exhausted is a good sign of a day well spent in the service of others, and trust us, it's worth it. The harder you work and the more effort you put into planning productive activities and play time with the kids, the more rewarded you personally will feel, and you'll come away from the experience a better person.