



# Standing Proudly After a Fall

It was an accident that could have happened to anyone. But, for Massiel it turned into tragedy when this spunky ten year-old slipped and fell on her freshly-mopped kitchen floor. After her knee swelled, Massiel's mother sought medical attention in her poor village on the eastern edge of the Dominican Republic. Although her knee was not broken, her leg was placed in a cast - too tightly. Just 48 hours later, her leg had to be amputated above the knee, because she had developed compartment syndrome.

Massiel used crutches to get around for over a year, until Healing The Children heard of her condition and brought her to St. Louis to be fit for a prosthetic and receive physical therapy. Mark Wilson, C.P., L.P. and Clinical Director of Prosthetics at Orthopedic & Prosthetic Design fabricated a custom prosthesis for Massiel. In her six week stay in St. Louis, Massiel adapted well to her prosthetic. The adjustment was a little difficult at times, because it slowed down a very athletic Massiel, who had become very fast on her crutches. She soon learned how to bend her knee and develop a good strong pace with her prosthetic.

Her St. Louis host mom, Kathy Ryan, was able to speak with her since her return to her home in the Dominican Republic, and she is doing very well, wearing her prosthetic leg every day.

HTC has an agreement with a prosthetist in the Dominican Republic who will follow Massiel and make adjustments as needed as she grows. This care will be provided to her free of charge through an agreement with HTC. In return, a prosthetist from the U.S., who volunteers with HTC, will take trips every year to the Dominican Republic to help with follow up and provide further training.



## Massiel

*Photos show Massiel at home in the Dominican, on her crutches before her prosthetic, being fitted by Mark Wilson of O&P Design, and at a park in St. Louis with her new prosthetic leg!*




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*Home: La Romana, Dominican Republic*  
*Language Spoken: Spanish*  
*Medical Problem: Amputated leg requiring prosthetic & physical therapy*  
*Donating Institutions: Orthopedic & Prosthetic Design, Inc. and The Rehabilitation Institute of St. Louis*  
*Favorite Food: Chocolate ice cream*  
*Favorite Toys: Hoses, faucets, pools ... any kind of water play!*