



*Airline Ambassadors International is a non-profit organization affiliated with the United Nations. It is made up of over 600 airline employees and others who volunteer as "Ambassadors of Goodwill" in their home communities and abroad. They escort children in need, deliver humanitarian aid to orphanages and clinics, assist at special events and co-sponsor a global youth art competition each year. Through service and compassion they are raising awareness in the travel industry and in the world.*

## Humanitarian Missions

*Airline Ambassadors travel all over the world bringing humanitarian supplies and gifts to those in need - but mostly they bring their love. The sharing of this love becomes the reward in itself. This picture of Leanne Hansen with Colombian orphans reflects the spirit of our work. Post cards with this picture and others will soon be available from your Regional Director.*



*Have the Adventure of a Lifetime  
Helping our Planet and its' People.*

## Humanitarian Mission to Romania

February 20 -28 Cheerie Smith coordinated an unforgettable trip to visit four Romanian orphanages. Six Airline Ambassadors participated in this very intense experience. They soon realized that the medical supplies and donations they brought were but little compared to the immensity of the problems there. Each member of the team was shocked by the realities they witnessed, and newly grateful for the comforts and freedoms we take for granted.

There are as many orphanages in Romania as there are churches in the United States. Where did all these orphans come from? The former President of Romania, Ceausescu, wanted to raise a large army. He initiated a program demanding that every woman have at least five children. He also began to industrialize his country very

quickly without heed to environmental regulations. Due to poor nutrition, environmental toxins, and later, fallout from Chernobyl, many babies were born physically, emotionally or mentally handicapped. Families simply couldn't support children with special needs and they were abandoned. The strongest became "street children" living by their wits in the streets and sewers surrounding urban areas, others that survived, found their way to orphanages.

The team first visited an orphanage in remote NegruVoda. The countryside looked like something out of the "Hunchback of Notre Dame" with dilapidated horse drawn carriages punctuating the gray landscape. The orphanage consisted of 236 disabled children and had an official staff of three. The stench of unchanged diapers was overwhelming. There were simply not enough hands to attend to all of the children in need.

Surilda Hudson from Chicago felt faint at first. Marty Sanders, SEA Regional Director began intuitively touching and loving every child that would respond. Each room held about 30 children, and some just sat rocking back and forth or banging their heads against the wall. Gary Shindler from LAX saw one tiny little girl staring into space. He could not get any response from her, and finally, very gently and lovingly he touched her palm. She could not muster the strength to respond in any other way, but her little palm opened up and pressed upwards, anxious for the touch of love.



*The Touch of Love*





## Reflections on Romania, by Colleen Morey

The next stop was at a wonderful orphanage called Amurt, where LEEANNE HANSEN, LAX Regional Director had volunteered a few years ago. It is home for 16 boys, situated on two acres of land and is run by Buddhist monk named DADA. What a remarkable difference to see children who were well loved. A wonderful Romanian "Mama" cooked for the boys with delicious fresh vegetables from the garden outside. The boys attend school daily, help tend the garden and milk the cow. There was a river nearby for swimming and a house dog with a new litter of 7 pups. The team brought medical and school supplies and gave the boys colorful baseball hats that never left their heads the entire day!



Leeanne, Cheerie & Surlida with Romanian Orphans

The most emotional visit was to a facility north of Bucharest in Sasca, where Cheerie Smith had volunteered previously. It housed over 500 residents, most with mental deficiencies. Colleen Morey said it reminded her of "One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest." Residents all had shaved heads to prevent lice. The group toured the wards giving out sweets. Many young adults of 19 or 20 appeared to be 7 or 8 years old. One little boy named Nico, with nothing more wrong with him than a club foot and hearing disorder, seemed to beg the team to help him escape from his "prison". But what could they do? Our group sadly wondered if their short visit had made any real difference, but residents followed them out to the truck as they left, hugging and smiling as if to say "Seeing you was the best of our day".

They also visited the Children's Relief Network, a haven for many of Bucharest's street children, founded by a remarkable American woman, Angie Thompson. This is an immense job, given that these children are used to living by their wits, stealing and sniffing glue. Still the hard work is making a difference in many of these young lives. Airline Ambassadors brought donations including recorders and musical instruments to delighted residents. We will continue aid to this project and assist in their the goal of building a Children's Village.

Change comes slowly to this country once suffocated by tyranny, but progress is being made and Airline Ambassadors will continue their help in Romania, channeling efforts towards projects with a real impact. Thank you so much to all the flight attendants who expressed interest in this trip. Contacts were initiated to begin escorting for an Adoption Agency there and if you are interested in another humanitarian mission please let your Regional Director know. Our touch, our hugs and our love are always needed.

Dear Airline Ambassadors....my dear new friends in adventure. For that is truly what we experienced during our week together... an adventure in the human spirit. I am experiencing my world through eyes which do not see as I had prior to our arrival on Romanian soil where our lives became immersed with those of the little ones we discovered there.

At the train station in Bucharest we were greeted with blue skies, brilliant sunshine, and a six year old sewer boy who called himself Odie. His weak voice and broken English serenaded us with a repertoire of songs he hoped to exchange for coins or candy. Gradually his "choral backup" appeared - an ensemble of young teens respirating into plastic bags lined with glue....the "glue" of sewer children - used to suppress hunger.

We traveled on to the impoverished and remote town of Negru Voda and checked in for the night. The "hotel" challenged my every source of comfort - from the heatless room and soiled sheets to the frigid shower where a rubber grate separated our feet from the saturation, centipedes, and millipedes. Garbed in my outer wear, hat, and boots, I climbed between the unlaundered sheets and bed clothes.... and silently prayed for warmth, for comfort, for sustenance. I prayed to make it through the week until I could return to the warmth and softness of my own bed. It was all about ME ...comfort for me, warmth for me, escape for me...

But what about little Odie, living in a sewer, who would never know a room like this, would never know the comfort of bed, a blanket, or even a frigid shower. His memory haunted and shamed me. I realized the two of us would lay our heads down for that night - my head would be resting on a pillow, and his would be on a sewer pipe... he would not have a blanket to draw over his weary, hungry body at the end of his countless hours of begging, and, the few insects crawling in our bathroom were nothing compared to rodents which shared Odie's "bedroom". I would be returning at the end of the week to a warm, soft home and bed. When Odie's week was over, he would be..... well, maybe he wouldn't be...at all.

Our next few days would introduce us to children lined in rows in rooms where they were trapped within their autistic rhythms and twisted bodies which would forever prevent them from the freedoms of the world I have come so accustomed to...of walking at will, or running, and chatting at will, or listening, of reading or dancing or singing, of choosing to eat, or not to.

My words do not suffice to describe the injustices my heart has witnessed. And yet, for the few hours we were there, they could dream..... through our eyes, or our touch, or our word, or our hugs....about that wonderment that exists beyond the prison of their circumstances. We will be nurtured eternally with a spirit of love, of strength, of hope...and a belief that dreams do come true.

Thank you to my team - Cheerie, Leeanne, Marty, Surilda, and Gary - for this most remarkable, life-changing awakening...and for who I am tonight as I write this letter....love, Colleen





## Expo'd in February

Airline Ambassadors assisted GREEN GLOBE at AdvenTrav, an adventure travel and eco-tourism industry Expo in Atlanta. The trade show, which helped to raise awareness about the critical role that tourism plays in relation to the environment, had representatives from many different organizations and countries including Costa Rica and India. It was quite an exciting weekend, with lots of information on how to "travel friendly".

On the West Coast, Airline Ambassadors volunteered at the Responsible Tourism Expo in San Francisco. The idea of traveling in harmony with the earth and its inhabitants is essential for our future and Airline Ambassadors supports the efforts of travel companies and individuals that help travelers put this into practice today.

## Humanitarians to Honduras



Josephine Tulumello & Susan Scancarelli  
with Hondurian Children

In February Josephine Tulumello and Susan Scancarelli traveled with a Christian missions group to Comayagua, Honduras, lending a hand to the poor. They visited an orphanage, hospital and a school. Through Airline Ambassadors they were able to deliver and distribute medical supplies, school supplies and clothes. *"This has been such an incredible experience,"* exclaimed Josephine on the phone. *"The children we met were so very poor - but full of happiness. My life will never be the same"*

## Sequoia Symposium

Ande Roth was project coordinator for Airline Ambassadors help with the Sequoia Symposium March 14-16. This group of top scientists and met in Santa Cruz to discuss fundamental principles of dynamic unity, and evidence that the universe is actually conscious. A television program is being made of their fascinating and inspiring discussion.

## "A Season of Non Violence" Launched

Airline Ambassadors assisted at the United Nations inspiring ceremony celebrating the 50th and 30th Memorial Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King. The crowd was addressed by Arun and Sunanda Gandhi, Martin Luther King III, the Reverend Jesse Jackson and Ambassador Andrew Young. They were inspired by this quote from Dr. Martin Luther King. *"Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."*

## Kids Konnection in DC, by Iren Logan



Kids Konnection Kids

It is hard to believe we have children living in a "war-zone" right here in our nation's Capitol. The neighborhoods where Kids Konnection work are absolutely frightening!

Steve and Theresa Mullen, co-founders of "Kids-Konnection", felt their prayers had been answered when Airline Ambassadors Michelle Acosta and Irene Logan organized a fund-raiser on March 3rd which raised \$1,100 to help them continue to care for children living in a violent environment. "Kids-Konnection" helps these kids forget their surroundings for one hour each week by driving their "Sidewalk Sunday School" truck into public housing sites. Games, songs, lessons and treats make the children feel special and loved and restores their faith and hope. In addition, backpacks with school supplies are provided for the school year as well as Christmas stockings for the Holidays. Special thanks to flight attendant Christi Ehrett, owner of Evening Star Cafe in Arlington, VA for hosting the Fund-raiser, which was attended by more than 70 people.

## Memorial to Bella Abzug

Died March 31, 1998



Cathy Knudsen and Lynn Bovay with Bella last year

Airline Ambassadors sends our condolences to the NGO community and all women due to the recent death of our nation's first Congresswoman, Bella Abzug. To say that she was the foremost champion of women's rights during our time does not begin to honor all that she contributed to the underprivileged of our society and to the natural environment. Well done Bella!





## Escort Stories

*Each month we need 10 -12 escorts to assist orphans and children that need medical care not available in their home country. Notify our Escort Coordinator, Margaret Whitehead, if you are interested in this very rewarding opportunity. 770-487-9212.*



*Aquanetta Johnson escorting Elise home.*

### Ismael, Oh Ismael, by Nancy Waller

I arrived at Newark Airport, feeling a little nervous, at 5:15 am, one day after my forty-seventh birthday. This is where I was to meet Joseph Skrobala, the host father, and Ismael, a two-year-old boy from Santo Domingo. As I searched for them, I worried if this baby would accept me, a complete stranger, and allow me to take him in my arms and care for him for the next six hours, as I escorted him back to his homeland.

I saw a tall, gentle looking man holding the cutest little boy. The boy was unable to walk at all, after the surgery to fix both his feet. Ismael was so sleepy that he allowed me to hold him the moment I put my arms out. As I boarded the flight I thought how hard this must be for Joseph and his wife Kathleen who had been caring for him for six months as one of their own.

After takeoff, Ismael began looking around, smiling an infectious smile and discovering how the window shade worked and the light turned on and off. Soon he tired and took his first of many small naps. He wouldn't leave my arms for even a second. I hugged and kissed him many times during the flight, and he would tap my arm and say "Ma".

Changing planes in San Juan, I was helped by loving flight attendants and agents who knew that we were part of Airline Ambassadors International. This was my first trip escorting for the organization, and felt proud and special to be entrusted with carrying a precious child home.

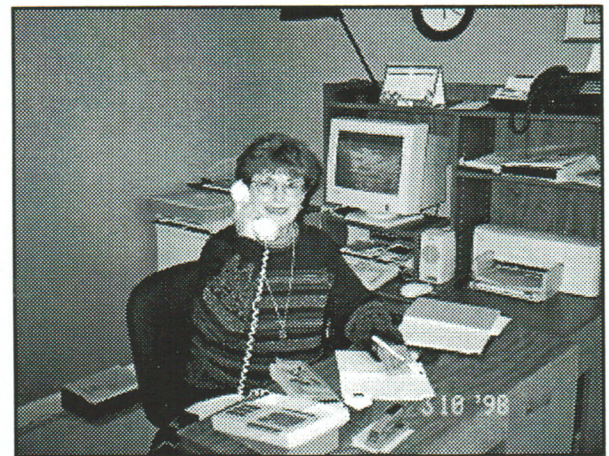
In Santo Domingo I cleared customs and walked outside with Ismael's arms still wrapped around my neck. I knew his mother was somewhere in this crowd and could only imagine her emotions as she waited to greet her tiny son who had been away so long, enduring hospitals and medicines without her.

It was then I heard a faint whisper behind me calling, "Ismael, oh Ismael!" I turned and carefully handed the baby over to his mother, whose eyes were filled with joy. Sadly, tears ran down Ismael's cheeks and he screamed to come back to me. He was confused by the crowd, and had been

away from his mother and didn't understand who she was! I wiped my own tears away, knowing that all would soon be well and felt both happy and sad that my job was completed. Ismael did more for me than I could have for him. The love I felt in my heart will be a memory that I shall treasure forever. What a wonderful birthday gift this had been.

### A Day in the Life, by Margaret Whitehead

*Coordinating almost 200 escorts per year is no small feat. Here is a behind the scenes look at a typical night for Margaret Whitehead, our Escort Coordinator. She has coordinated 35 escorts so far this year.*



*Margaret behind the scenes*

Monday evening, just before 7 p.m., I sit down with my Escort checklist. There are three escort trips scheduled to three different countries in the next three days, with one more phone call and one more fax. I should be finished, and able to watch the American Music Awards on TV. Alexander Wahl, who is flying down to Quito, Ecuador tomorrow night to escort a child to Miami Wednesday morning, needs to give me a fax number for his paperwork. The phone rings. It is Colleen Brenner, the escort for a child from Guatemala City to Miami tomorrow. She is in bed with the flu. After reassuring her that we will cover the trip, she promises not to worry and to seek medical attention.

The little girl has a vital doctor's appointment in Chicago on Wednesday so she must travel tomorrow! I begin calling other volunteers, leaving about 25 messages before I reach Shelly Mullins. She can't go to Guatemala, but she begins to make calls on my behalf. She finally locates Lori Ervin, one of the flight attendants working the flight from Guatemala to Miami, who volunteers her time to meet the child's parents in the Guatemala airport, take her on board the aircraft, and after the flight, assist her through customs and immigration in Miami and take her to meet Marni. Perfect!





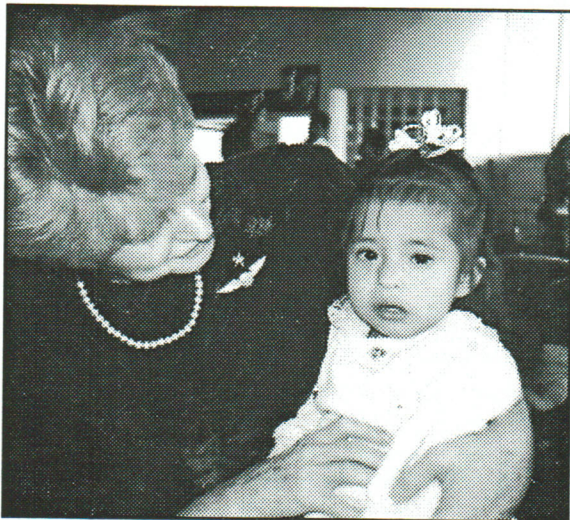
Meanwhile, Teri Martin calls from Las Vegas to confirm her escort trip to Cali, Columbia on Wednesday. She will fly down to Cali and escort a two-year-old back to Miami on Thursday. She agrees to meet Alexander in the airport, and take "his" little girl with them to Chicago, so that Alexander can continue home to New York City to work the next day.

At 10:00 p.m., Alexander calls and I fax him his papers. The phone rings again! A child needs to be escorted to Haiti in two weeks. Then the calls begin from all the escorts who had received my desperate messages earlier. I assure them that we have solved the problem of escorts for the next three days and thank them for their dedication. Finally, I watch the last ten minutes of the Music Awards program uninterrupted.

People often ask me why I continue to do this volunteer work since it is so time consuming. But really, I don't mind the nights spent on the telephone. Since I no longer work for an airline and can't make these trips myself, I feel that I am still contributing by arranging these trips for others. When put into the proper perspective, these problems are unimportant when compared to the future of a child. Without the help of so many caring people, most of these children would be condemned to a life of pain and suffering. Yet, with our combined efforts, these little ones are given

## Gloria's Story

Each of our escorts is indeed a life changing experience for the child involved. Occasionally we are asked to bring an orphan to meet his new family for the first time. The child we are escorting may be receiving a life saving operation or surgery that will allow him to see or to walk or to live a normal life. Great sensitivity and compassion is needed by Airline Ambassador escorts in caring for these precious little ones for the time they are entrusted to us.



*Gloria Reid escorting child*

Gloria Reid, Regional Director for DFW is very familiar with dealing with children. A mother of three herself she also supervised church nursery's for several years. Little children just gravitate to her loving and nurturing manner.

"I speak softly and never over-stimulate the children," she said, "what they need more than anything is a quiet place to rest. I gently let them come to me." Gloria recounts the story of little 10-year-old Obil she escorted from Grand Rapids to his home in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, after his surgery....

Gloria let Obil sit by the window while she quietly sat in the aisle seat. They exchanged smiles and after a while she heard his shy little voice say "You nice lady." She turned and looked at little Obil sideways and answered gently "I heard you." Embarrassed, he looked out the window as his face turned red, but even his brown little fingers could not cover a beautiful smile. "Would you like me to sit by you?" she continued. Little Obil beamed at her invitation and spent the rest of the trip nestled against her. "You never forget these children," Gloria said, "you hold them in your heart forever."



*Alex Wahl with new friends*

Besides the warm glow in our hearts that comes from truly assisting another, the children we escort teach us in more profound ways. Alex Wahl, New York Regional Director, said "I had no idea that receiving the love of children from another culture could be so rewarding and expand my understanding." Frank Marchetti from New York who later organized the Bogota Orphanage party said "My escort completely changed my life." May we open our hearts at the privilege to be of service in this very special way.

## Emergency Rescue Saves Honduran Girl with Snake Bite

Margaret Whitehead knew she had only hours to arrange transport and escort of 8 year old Maria from Tegucigulpa who had been seriously bitten in the leg by a poisonous snake. Thank you to the dedication of Cornelia Wick in Miami who rushed a pass to the airport at midnight, and the efforts of T.C. Roberson. DFW 3E Flight Service General Manager who moved mountains to get a ticket authorized. Maria made it to Grand Rapids in time to see a specialist MD and is doing fine.





# Airline Ambassadors



*"Caring and Sharing for Each Other & The Earth"*

## What's Coming:



### April 1 - June 1 Local School Visits

Deliver colorful posters to local schools and invite students to participate in our 1998 art/essay contest **"Traveling to Make a Difference"**. Regional Directors have curriculum booklets and handouts for you or call Christina Andersen at 212-308-1933.

### April 1 - 9 Humanitarian Mission to Senegal

Travel to Senegal to deliver medical supplies and assist at a new clinic. Receive training in "story-telling on health education to share with villagers and children. Call Ama Tanks at 718-467-0269.

### April 16 - 23 Humanitarian Mission to Guatemala

This fascinating trip will assist indigenous people and children in Guatemala and deliver supplies to clinics and an Aids Hospice. Call Cheerie Smith 703-548-8011

### April 20 - 29 Humanitarian Mission to Bosnia

Join this research trip to the Srebreniza area of war torn Bosnia. General Deviak, formerly with the Serbian Army, will join our team to assist children in need in five cities. For details call Rae England 972-278-1885.

### May 15 Miami Airline Ambassadors Fund-Raiser

Experience a "Night in Buenos Aires" at this fabulous event. Music, dancing and entertainment Luis Gonzales 305-754-9956.

### May 20 - 30 Humanitarian Mission Philippine Orphanage

A beautiful orphanage has requested our assistance. Room and board available for 20 volunteers! Call Margaret Whitehead 770-487-9212.

### July Mission to assist Indigenous People in Panama

Join this mission to help develop special pre-school campuses in order to preserve the cultural heritage of indigenous tribes in Panama. Nancy Rivard 650-685-6262.

### July 11-19 Medical Mission to Honduras

Join Missionary Ventures medical unit's visit to La Ceiba, Honduras. Help set up village clinics \$430 pp. Call Betty Sue 407-859-7322

### August 18 - 21 World Philosophers Meeting Geneva, Switzerland

Attend and assist at this prestigious meeting to discuss values. Airline Ambassador Nishikant Waghmare was the Secy/General of this Conference in 1996. Call Nancy Rivard 650-685-6262.

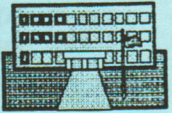
### August 21-23 Vermont Visioning Meeting/ Youth Outreach

Join this visioning meeting with Project Adventure to deepen our commitment and discuss a global youth program. Call Colleen Morey at 203-259-6266



### September 18-20 U. N. DPI/NGO Conference

All interested are invited to attend and assist at this annual United Nations NGO Conference. Call Sharrye Moore at 888-855-0699.



### Oct. Art Competition Award Ceremonies Madrid and D.C.

Join the official Award Ceremonies for **"Traveling to Make a Difference"** in Madrid or at the United States Congress. Dates to be set. Nancy Rivard 650-685-6262



### October 20 - 30 Humanitarian Mission to Nepal

Join this fabulous trip to assist Tibetan refugees in Kathmandu and an reforestation project in the jungles of Baglung! Call Rachel Watson 703-519-5730



October - November  
**Christmas Party Drive**  
Join at each base in collecting toys, clothes and decorations for our 1998 Orphanage Christmas parties.



### December Orphanage Christmas Parties!

Join our 1998 Christmas parties at 3 locations to be announced next newsletter!







# Airline Ambassadors - Local Events

## April 2 Season of Non-Violence (NYC)

Participate at this closing ceremony celebrating the lives of Mahatma Ghandi and Dr. Martin Luther King at St. Bartholomew's Church Call Sharrye Smith - 888-855-0699

## April 4 March of Dimes: WALKAMERICA (MIA)

Airline Ambassadors will join this special walk-a-thon through beautiful Coconut Grove to help raise money for medical research of birth defects. Call Carol Schaper at 305-441-8683.

## April 14 Spring Fling Social (MIA)

Meet one another by attending an Airline Ambassadors social and luncheon at the Sonesta Beach Resort in Key Biscayne. Call Carol Schaper 305-441-8683.

## April 16-17 World Information Transfer Conference (NYC)

Volunteers are needed to assist again this year at this fascinating conference on Health and the Environment to be held at the United Nations. Call Sharrye Smith 888-855-0699.



## April 18 - 19 International Friendship Festival (LAX)

Volunteers are needed for this celebration on the Queen Mary of Earth Day, Year of the Ocean, cultural harmony and planetary preservation. Sharing of world music and dance, ethnic delicacies, unique arts and crafts and educational workshops. Over 100 performers participating including Stevie Wonder. Call Dawn Elder 805-963-2415.

## April 20-22 and 27-29 Commission on Sustainable Development (NYC)

Volunteers are needed at this important United Nations meeting following up on the Earth Summit. Tourism is on the agenda for next year and Airline Ambassadors plans an important Roundtable in 1999. Help us stay abreast of Commission issues by assisting this year. Sharrye Smith 888-855-0699.

## April 22 Earth Day SOS Beach Cleanup (SFO)

Volunteer to coordinate 1,000 local school kids at this fun beach event. Help them send out an SOS to protect the California Coastline and the World's Oceans. For details- John Quigley 415-904-5219.



## April 23 Values Caucus Reception for Ambassadors (NYC)

Volunteers are needed to assist at this special reception to honor the Ambassadors from 11 countries who have participated with the Values Caucus's series of informal coffees. Special guest will be "Peace Troubador", James Twyman, author of *Emissary of Light* who has performed in Bosnia, Baghdad and Belfast. Call Sharrye Smith 888-855-0609.

## May 14 United Youth International (NYC)

Volunteers are needed to assist with over 300 students leaders participating at this United Nations Youth event. Young activists who have already proven "the power of one" will speak of their accomplishments motivating others to get globally active. Sharrye Moore 888-855-0699.

**"A picture is worth 1000 words, but, experience is worth 1,000 pictures"**

**Steve Beam**





## Humanitarian Aid

*Humanitarian Aid delivery is an expanding program. In 1997 we delivered \$2,225,000 worth of equipment! We are currently working with several hospitals in the United States who regularly donate sterile bandages, syringes, surgical gloves, catheters and blood pressure cuffs, etc. First quarter 1998 accomplishments include delivery of 30 boxes to Romania, 9 boxes to Honduras, 7 boxes for Mongolian clinic, 17 boxes to Bolivia and 35 boxes to New York for Senegal, West Africa! To assist call Humanitarian Aid Director Ande Roth 650-233-1777.*

## Mom-to-Be Makes Humanitarian Shipment

*Baby almost born at AA Freight*



*Linda Gansler with Autumn Nicole  
Our Newest Ambassador*

"Now what clinic will receive these donations?" asked the man from AA Freight in DTW. It was Friday, March 13 and Linda Gansler had just delivered 17 big boxes bound for a hospital in Bogota. "I'll tell you in a minute, Linda groaned breathlessly, "as soon as this contraction stops." Linda's baby was due but even though her labor had already begun she wanted to get this shipment going!

Linda, who works with Family Adoption Consultants near Detroit, has been assisting Airline Ambassadors coordinate donations of medical supplies from University of Michigan Hospital. Once a month, American Airlines has generously offered to assist us with shipping via AA Freight. This month, we shipped two major shipments from DTW one day apart. Linda insisted she was able to manage getting the boxes sorted, weighed and measured and delivered to the airport with help from her husband Karl and other friends. Her dedication is awesome. Little Autumn Nicole was born on Sunday, March 15, weighing 8lbs, 6oz.

## Goodwill Ambassador for D.C. School

Irene Logan personally escorted 30 boxes (484 lbs. of donated school and art supplies, clothing and toys) to the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos Orphanage in Honduras. She was the "Goodwill Ambassador" for St. Francis School in D.C. The school has adopted this orphanage and had invited Irene to assist them by escorting their donations personally. To have Irene return and share with the students her experience, show them pictures and give true stories about how the gifts were appreciated made the project come alive for the youngsters.

## Support from the "Arch Ambassadors"

Bravo to the "Arch School Ambassadors" from Greenwich Connecticut who have continued to support Airline Ambassador projects since the Bogota Christmas party. They have designed a whole class on global outreach around our work, sent a representative on the mission to Romania, attended our U.N. Press Conference at the and have e-mailed all schools in their area to promote the "Traveling to Make a Difference" Art/Essay Competition. They are planning to join our Orphanage Christmas party this year as well.

Colleen Morey, Program Coordinator for Arch Schools is inspired by the power of these projects to raise self esteem and perk the enthusiasm and initiative of students. She believes Arch Schools could be a model for Airline Ambassadors work with a national school outreach program. We have already begun working with a school in DC and become a "Dade" Partner in Miami working to link schools and community. A training is being offered for Airline Ambassadors who are interested in furthering their work with youth, and adventure travel this August in Vermont. (See What's Coming).

*\*Ask your Regional Director to see the heartwarming video on the Bogota orphanage party or a video of our U.N. Press Conference.*

## Focus on Chicago



*Ginger Carter & Linda Gwynn with donations*

Chicago is developing a special twist to our humanitarian aid program. Andre Murad is the father of Miami based Airline Ambassador Rachel Martinez. He is helping us by soliciting donations of candy, promotional items, clothing and toys from local stores including Walgreen's and Marshall Field's. Some of these donations have already gone to Cali, Columbia and another large shipment is ready to go to Bosnia. Ginger Carter, ORD Humanitarian Aid Director has been very busy organizing the donations, most of which have been stored at her apartment! If anyone can help provide storage space, please contact her at 773-975-8554. Thank you so much to Ginger and Andre for all your hard work!





## Annual Youth Art Competition

*Each year Airline Ambassadors helps sponsor a world-wide Youth Art Competition on a global issue. Working with Paz y Cooperacion, a non-profit based in Madrid, Spain, we endeavor to bring the complex issues discussed by the United Nations to the future leaders of the world. This years competition is called "Traveling to Make a Difference".*

## United Nations Press Conference

Airline Ambassadors hosted a dynamic Press Conference at the U.N. on February 12, to launch the 1998 Youth Art/Essay Competition - "Traveling to Make a Difference".

Nancy Rivard, President of Airline Ambassadors welcomed the press and introduced H.E. Inocencio Arias, Ambassador of Spain, Mr. Joaquin Antuna, President of Paz y Cooperacion and Mr. Felipe Luciano, NY media celebrity. "Traveling to make a difference, she explained, "is the theme behind Airline Ambassadors activities." We hope to inspire and involve the traveling public in our programs. We take particular joy in promoting this competition to school children in the United States and around the world."



U.N. Press Conference

Joaquin Antuna unveiled a colorful poster describing the contest. It is entitled *The Right to Travel in a World without Frontiers - Traveling to Make a Difference*. It depicts a huge bird, a rising Phoenix, flying over the earth with many happy youngsters on its back. The back of the poster describes the contest in detail and explains the age groups and categories. 15,000 posters were printed in five languages and will be distributed by the World Tourism Organization and Airline Ambassadors. Paz y Cooperacion will again serve as the Secretariat for the competition.

Mr. Antuna pointed out the "Right to Travel" is supported in Articles 13 and 24 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 50th Anniversary of which is being celebrated this year.

Nancy described Airline Ambassadors plans to actively promote the competition with personal visits to schools in nine major U.S. cities. She thanked American Airlines for providing Grand Prize tickets for winners to attend Award Ceremonies in Madrid on World Tourism Day in September,

and announced Airline Ambassadors plans to coordinate a National Award Ceremony at the United States Congress.

Felipe Luciano mesmerized the crowd with a riveting series of questions that helped everyone to see the importance of travel as a basis for understanding, friendship and global peace. "What would happen if a kid from Harlem could visit the Middle East without being behind an M1 tank - without having an "us" and "them" but seeing us all as part of the global community? Do you think we would go to war?" Ambassador Arias was very supportive and even signed up as a dues paying Airline Ambassador at the end of the meeting!

26 Airline Ambassadors attended, including a team of students and teachers from Arch school. Many thanks to Sharrye Moore and Christina Anderson who organized an interesting day for all. The group met for a morning briefing on the competition, shared lunch at the Delegates Dining Room, attended the Press Conference, listened to a short talk by Elaine Valdoff, Chair of the NGO Executive Committee and discussed global youth outreach.

## Traveling to Make a Difference

### School Outreach Program



Christina Andersen, Cheryl Eitel & Alex Wahl

Many thanks to Christina Anderson, Special Events Director, for coordinating the School Outreach Program for *Traveling to Make a Difference*, to Stephanie Shurr, Regional Coordinator, who designed a curriculum booklet to support our efforts and to Lisa Wolf who volunteered to receive U.S. entries at her Texas address.

Airline Ambassadors are encouraged to visit local schools this spring to enroll young people from ages 5 - 16 in our international art/essay competition. If you have children, nieces or nephews, ask their teachers if you could make a class presentation. The subject of travel lends itself to diversity and tolerance education as well as the student's study of language, geography, social studies, art and writing.

We encourage Airline Ambassadors to wear their airline uniforms and share personal travel experiences. Your Regional Director has posters describing details of the competition, curriculum booklets that will help you lead an interesting class discussion and school handouts on the Benefits of Tourism (*World Tourism Organization*) and a Code of Ethics for Travelers (*International Institute for Peace through Tourism*).

Please keep your Regional Director informed about the schools you visit and your experiences. For more details contact Christina Andersen (212) 308-1933 or hannechris@aol.com.





# List of Directors

## Thanks to Congressman and Mrs. Lantos

### Program Directors:

Escort Coordinator	Margaret Whitehead	770-487-9212
Humanitarian Aid	Ande Roth	650 233-1777
Special Events	Christina Andersen	212-308-1933

### Regional Directors:

Boston	Kelly Fealey	978-352-3113
Chicago	Linda Gwynn	770-424-6065
Dallas/Ft. Worth	Gloria Reid	817-268-2410
Los Angeles	Lecanne Hansen	213-650-3153
Miami	Carol Schaper	305-441-8683
New York	Alex Wahl	212-633-1866
San Francisco	Kathy Johnson	415-923-0444
Seattle	Marty Sanders	206-281-1579
Washington, D.C.	Irene Logan	703-820-8918



Many thanks to the support from Congressman Tom Lantos and his wife Annette. Mrs. Lantos is the Executive Director of the Congressional Human Rights Caucus and serves on our Board of Advisors. They both escaped Hungary during Hitler's reign and their experience has led to their stalwart support of human rights. Annette was responsible for getting Raoul Wallenberg (who assisted thousands of Jews to escape Hungary) recognized as an international hero. Tom is fighting child labor and promoting better education and recently received honor for his work facilitating international adoptions.

Congressman Lantos honored our organization in the Congressional Record in 1996. They helped to organize our Art Competition Award Ceremonies at the U.S. Congress in 1996 and 1997, and provided diplomatic connections for our 1998 mission to Romania. Most recently Annette is helping facilitate Embassy support of our humanitarian shipments. Both publicly and behind the scenes Congressman and Mrs. Lantos are working tirelessly to create a better world. Airline Ambassadors is inspired by their example.

*Thank you to Ms. Jane Allen, Vice President Flight Service, American Airlines for recent support and encouragement, and to Cornelia Wick who helped make this newsletter possible with her generous donation.*



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Airline, Base \_\_\_\_\_

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Please make checks to Airline Ambassadors Intl. and give to your Regional Director or send to:  
 Airline Ambassadors International, Attn. Eileen Hudnall, 4636 Fairfax Ave. Dallas, TX 75209