



*Airline Ambassadors International is a non-profit organization made up of over 600 airline employees from various airlines and others who volunteer their time 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. The goal of the organization is to help the travel industry play a more important role in building a better world.*

### 3 Orphanage Christmas Parties!

*All three of the Orphanage Christmas Parties in Bogota, Ciudad del Carmen and San Salvador were a resounding success! The lives of the orphans and volunteers were enriched and they experienced the meaning of Christmas in a very special way. Although our newsletter can not tell all of the stories, we thank the dozens of volunteers who worked so hard and with so much love.*

### Reflections, by Colleen Morey



Touched by our Love, as we were touched by hers.

Christmas came to life for me in a small orphanage located in the foothills of Bogota, Columbia. I am humbled before you as I face the reality of the trip. To say that it was life changing only diminishes the essence of all it was. I had yet in my life to encounter children who had never seen or received presents.

As I struggle with "re-entry" into my structured life of schedules, phone calls and meetings, I am faced with emotions that are firsts for me. I had thought I was going there to troubleshoot and fix. I learned that we were there to love. Just when I thought that we were there to love these precious little children, I realized also they needed to give their love to us. That is all they longed to do. We were overcome by its purity; its unconditional nature; its child filled eagerness and candor; and its completeness.

The crippled little hands that clutched in their clumsy way to our necks, clutched more so to our hearts and resurrected within me the Spirit of this joyous season. Inside my heart is a fresh new joy that has been given to me by the two, three, five and seven year old little ones who leaped into my arms on sight, clung to my hands and pulled at my arm with tears in their faces when the hour came for us to depart. It was not for anything we had done or brought to them, but rather, we were there for them to love. Who would have known that in the end .....the true gift became ours.

*(This letter expresses the experience of many who attended the Christmas parties this year.)*

### A Holiday Miracle

Thank you to all the flight attendants who contributed toys, gifts, clothes and supplies to our November Christmas Drive. We collected 3,000 lbs of toys, decorations and clothes, but without a sleigh and Santa's reindeer, we had to pull off a miracle to get our gifts delivered in the face of airline box embargoes.



Frank Marchetti, Project Coordinator for Bogota, talked Fed Ex into shipping 28 huge boxes to Miami at a special rate and Louis Mejia got the cargo airline Aero Floral to ship them free of charge to Bogota for us. A letter of support from the Consul General of Columbia helped manifest more holiday magic by expediting the clearance of the boxes through customs!

Gloria Reid, Project Coordinator for San Salvador, called from Central America 24 hours before her party to report that 48 boxes had not arrived and were still waiting stand-by at AA Freight in Miami. Another miracle occurred due to the fast organizing efforts by Colleen Brenner, Carol Schaper, Angela Miller and Margaret Whitehead and all the Airline Ambassadors connecting in Miami for the party. Each F/A brought extra luggage to pack as many gifts as possible. (Ande Roth even bought 6 suitcases on the way to the airport that morning!) Unbelievably, all of our donations were delivered in time for the festivities.

## El Salvador, December 9



"Irene Logan at San Salvador Party"

17 Airline Ambassadors attended the San Salvador orphanage parties at Instituto Al Proteccion de Menor heartfully organized by DFW Regional Director Gloria Reid! Volunteers decorated and provided a beautiful Christmas tree at two simultaneous parties took place; one for boys 5 years and up and the other for girls and small children. The local American Airlines Sales office arranged for a special visit from Santa! The Kiwanis Club hosted the group and Stephanie Shurr, our Regional Coordinator, made sure the event made national news in El Salvador. The orphans were thrilled to receive the toys, supplies and love we brought.

Every child received a stuffed animal and two toys which included Barbies, baby dolls, sparkling bracelets, necklaces, lotions, cars, trucks and lego-type blocks. Every boy 11 years and older received tennis shoes and

new baseball equipment including balls, bats, bases, helmets, gloves, catcher's mitts, shirts and socks which was enough to outfit an entire team!

Meanwhile, Ande Roth (Humanitarian Aid Director) and Bibiana Bottini-Velarde (Airline Angel) found the local infirmary. They decorated the walls and gave each child a stuffed animal and a variety of other toys. The clinic was delighted to receive our gift of 18 boxes of medical equipment to stock the barren shelves.



"Cathy Knudsen, Mirtala Garcia and Ande Roth in Holiday Spirits"

## Bogota, Columbia, December 11

Frank Marchetti added a special twist to the orphanage party he organized in Bogota. He worked closely with high school students from Arch School in Greenwich, Connecticut who adopted the project. The kids, "Arch Ambassadors" (as they called themselves), contacted all the schools in their community and involved the whole town soliciting donations. A local elementary school designed Christmas cards and a pre-school collected pennies weekly to support the campaign. Each week the children turned in their pennies at the local bank (who matched their donations) and went together to the toy store to buy special presents for the orphans.

The students sent Colleen Morey, Program Coordinator for Greenwich Public Schools, to Bogota as their emissary (See article p.1, "Reflections"). She used a donated D3 ticket to join the heartwarming party for 121 children. Colleen was able to report to the kids that they had indeed affected positive change on a global basis. "I came back energized personally as well as professionally," said Colleen.

Cheerie Smith had made a pre-trip to Bogota in November and prepared the Airline Ambassadors to meet



## *Bogota, Continued ...*

children with daunting physical disabilities. Frank had made a special effort on his flights to raise money for canes for the visually impaired and personally delivered them to the children in need. Although the party had to be put off by two days, it was a big success due to the special efforts of Frank, Cheerie, Leeanne Hanson, Colleen Morey and Luis Mejia. The love and presents shared at Hogar y Vida will be remembered and cherished by the volunteers and orphans alike.

## **Ciudad del Carmen, December 18**



*"Juan Carlos Realapozo (ala Santa) with orphan at Casa Hogar"*

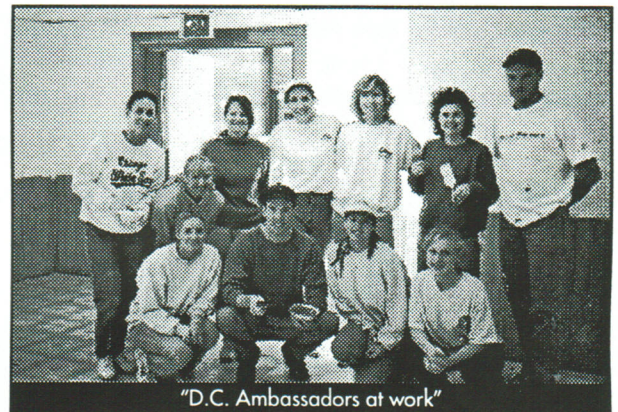
Polly Realapozo coordinated the 3rd annual holiday party at Casa Hogar orphanage in Ciudad del Carmen, Mexico for 67 orphans ages 3 to 17. Instead of soliciting for general donations, she arranged for each child to be given a special present that had been bought just for them. Rachel Martinez (who had coordinated a large donation of clothes as well) was bumped in Mexico City, but due to her persistence Mexicana Cargo was able to get her presents delivered. The piñata, music, dancing and of course, "Santa's arrival" made the party an unforgettable experience. Many thanks to the donations from Children's Exchange in Miami.

## **Christmas Cards Across Cultures**

Airline Ambassadors helped build bridges of friendship between children by hand delivering Christmas cards from young students in the U.S. to Latin American orphans. Hundreds of unique creations with Spanish greetings and sparkles were sent to our holiday parties from school children in Greenwich, Miami and San Francisco. These were the first Christmas cards many of the orphans had ever received.

\* \* \*

## **Focus on Washington, D.C.**



*"D.C. Ambassadors at work"*

12 DC area volunteers, including Irene Logan (DC Regional Director) and Jim Welsh of Champions Restaurant, helped brighten the lives of the residents at the Baptist Home for Children and Families by spending Nov. 18 painting the "Tea" room in light cheery colors. The BHCF provides shelter, food and clothes for people in the greater Washington DC area who face despair, homelessness, abuse or neglect.

The transformation of the room helped create an environment where hope, dignity and self-confidence can be restored to the residents. Airline Ambassadors hosted a fundraiser at Champions Bar in Georgetown to raise money for this project. McCormick Paint Co. donated all of the paint and other needed supplies. Local companies assisted with wallpaper and carpet installation. A heartfelt "thank you" to all who contributed time and money to this holiday event.



## Escort Stories:

*Each month we need 10 -12 escorts to assist orphans and children that need medical care not available in their home country. Just a day or two of your time can save the lives of some of these little ones. Please notify our Escort Coordinator, Margaret Whitehead, if you are interested in this very rewarding opportunity. 770-487-9212.*

### Reunion in Lithuania

*(by Delores Hayman Johns)*

I met little Ruta in Chicago where another Airline Ambassador had brought her from Grand Rapids. She understood English quite well and was so loving and easy to care for. It was hard for me to believe she was only 2 1/2 years old.

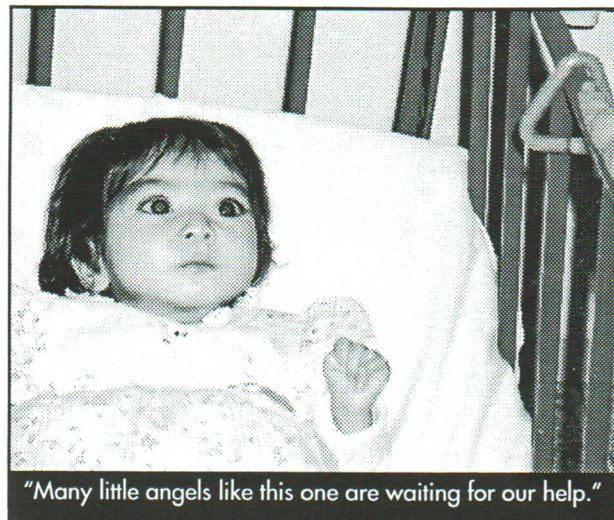
We left Chicago for Frankfurt, Germany in the late afternoon, where we changed planes for Vilnius, Lithuania. Ruta played with her *Winnie the Pooh* doll and sang American songs she had learned, including Happy Birthday. I wondered if she knew where we were going on such a long journey and if she knew who was awaiting her upon our arrival in Vilnius, the capitol of Lithuania.

Ruta's mother, dad, sister and brother greeted us with tears in their eyes, overjoyed to be finally together as a family. They gave me a bouquet and treated me as a queen. Ruta's family lived several hours outside of Vilnius so we all spent the evening at relative's home in the capital city. I was the guest of honor for having returned little Ruta safe and healthy. Although no one spoke English fluently, with the language of the heart, we made ourselves understood.

The next morning I was treated to a tour of the city. Truly, they could not do enough for me. Such a gracious family and such a glorious treat to be able to stay in their home and partake of their joy and celebration. I was given a beautiful Lithuanian tablecloth and doll as a memento of my visit. Words cannot express what a blessing this trip was for me. Indeed, I feel I received so much more than I gave.



Cathy Knudsen and 10 Airline Ambassadors escort 2 Yr. old Yanci for heart surgery as they leave El Salvador.



"Many little angels like this one are waiting for our help."

### Touched by an Angel

Kudos to Deanne Myers, based in Seattle, who assisted with an emergency escort recently. Her caring and compassion helped calm the fears of a young couple from Portland who had given birth to a baby with no skull. Their only hope for the baby's survival was to get him to a Dallas MD within hours.

When Deanne, a neo-natal nurse, heard the story from our Escort Coordinator Margaret Whitehead, she realized the seriousness of the situation and dropped all her personal plans. She made arrangements to leave for Portland and was able to get the couple passes donated from the Station Manager's Office. Together, they caught the first flight to Dallas and drove immediately to the hospital.

Although the doctor was not able to offer them hope, Deanne's caring and love helped the healing process begin for the couple and helped them realize that they had done all that they could. Indeed they felt they had been "touched by an angel".

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



## Humanitarian Aid:



"Cheerie Smith delivered aid to Bogota. She will lead the trip to Romania in 1998."

*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. Volunteers are needed to help with delivery of these items to clinics in need. Call Humanitarian Aid Director Ande Roth 650-329-1717.*

Along with the 77 boxes (3,000 lbs) of donations shipped to our Christmas parties, we have coordinated shipping of the following medical supplies in the last 3 months:

- 10 kidney dialysis machines to Barranquilla
- 3 boxes medical supplies to Guatemalan Pediatric Clinic
- 11 boxes to Bolivian Burn Unit
- 29 boxes medical supplies to Mongolian Pediatric Clinic
- 18 boxes to El Salvador for Children's Hospital Clinic
- 1 Infant Respirator and Accessories to Buenos Aires

### The Spirit of Sharing

One way we, as airline personnel, have been able to help others is through sharing a pass. Leeanne Hanson enabled Colleen Morey to join our Bogota party. Glenda Gomez's D3 ticket donation helped unite the family of a young man with terminal cancer and sent a reporter to a conference on spirituality in business. Janet DeShon helped us send a representative to the Global Warming Conference in Japan and sent Louis Mejia to our party in Bogota, Columbia and on to visit the remote Kogi Tribe in the Andes.

If the Kogi are right, that we affect the Whole by radiating goodwill in our everyday lives, these gifts of love from Leanne, Glenda and Janet have already affected the world and made it a better place. May each of us add our own small acts of kindness today.

### See What You Can Do in a Day!



Kathy Johnson in El Salvador

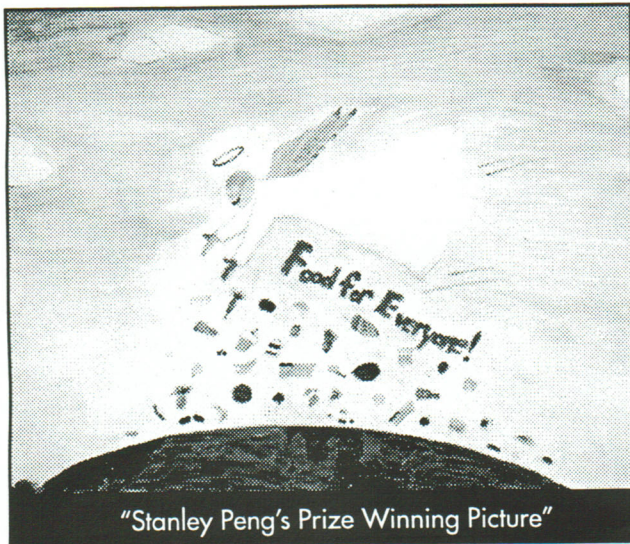
12 Airline Ambassadors participated in "Community Impact Day" in San Francisco on October 4, 1997. We joined 1500 volunteers in completing 500 community service projects. After meeting *en masse* for breakfast and the kick-off rally, all the volunteers split into smaller groups to work together on separate projects. Airline Ambassadors helped Project Open Hand stock food supplies in their new location. Project Open Hand serves the HIV community throughout the Bay Area preparing hot meals and distributing bags of groceries. "It feel really good to do something for San Francisco" said Liz Lee, one of the SFO group. *Thank you to SFO Regional Director Kathy Johnson for organizing this event.*

## Annual Youth Art Competition

Each year until the Year 2000, Airline Ambassadors has committed to cosponsor a world-wide Youth Art Competition on a global issue. Working with Paz y Cooperacion, a non-profit group based in Madrid, Spain, Airline Ambassadors endeavors to bring the complex issues discussed by the United Nations to the future leaders of the world: our school children. Thousands of entries from around the globe mark the growth of ideas from seeds planted by this competition. Children are encouraged to think creatively on a global scale.

The 1997 Competition, "Food For All" was inspired by the World Food Summit in Rome and received 50,000 entries from youth in 56 countries. The theme of the 1998 Competition "Traveling to Make a Difference" will be launched at a United Nations Press Conference on February 12. Airline Ambassadors will actively promote the competition with visits to hundreds of school children. If you are interested in this project or have connections with elementary or junior high schools Call Christina Andersen at 212-308-1933.

### Award Ceremony at Congress 1997 Competition "Food for All"



"Stanley Peng's Prize Winning Picture"

Little Stanley Peng's eyes lit up when Carol Schaper walked him out of his hotel room to look at the United States Capitol in the moonlight. Tomorrow, he would be honored at Congress as the American winner of the global youth art competition "Food for All". Winning this contest may have changed his life forever.

10 year old Stanley became interested when he learned of the contest in his 5th grade art class. Pondering the theme "Food for All" he considered how God must feel looking down at his children on Earth. He drew an angel over the Earth sprinkling food on all. "I was thinking of Thanksgiving" he said. in his speech at Congress the next day."

Nancy Rivard, President of Airline Ambassadors, opened the Congressional Award Ceremony on Oct. 16th. Mr. Riemenschneider, head of the U.S. Office of the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) gave Stanley a special medal. Congressmen Tom Lantos and John Porter

honored him and the two Senators from Florida, Bob Graham and Connie Mack, signed a special letter of congratulations. Music opened the hearts of everyone in the room when Franko Richmond and Gail Lima led local school children in the international children's theme song "The Time Has Come". All joined the chorus "The Time has Come to Sound the Call, to Share our Hearts with Food for All". A standing ovation concluded the Award Ceremony.

Thank you to the Airline Ambassadors who donated D3 passes to fly Stanley, his mother, father and Aileen Bill, his art teacher, to Washington D.C. for the event. Many thanks to Carol Schaper for escorting the group from Miami and acting chief tour guide, and to Rachel Watson who helped coordinate the event and organized a spectacular Congressional art display of children's entries from the Food for All Competition. Airline Ambassadors International hosted the family at the Capital Suites Hilton.

### 1998 Competition Announced in Istanbul

Eileen Hudnall and Christina Andersen, Vice president and director of special events for Airline Ambassador traveled to Istanbul, Turkey in late October to attend the General Assembly meeting of the World Tourism Organization (WTO). Eileen addressed hundreds of Tourism Ministers from around the world and announced the 1998 youth art and essay competition "Traveling to Make a Difference", sponsored by Paz y Cooperacion, the World Tourism Organization and Airline Ambassadors International. The theme of the 1998 competition encourages youth to consider the positive social and humanitarian effects of travel and tourism. Eileen eloquently spoke of the art competition, the goals and activities of Airline Ambassadors and our plan to visit hundreds of school children. "We will encourage our children not to be just tourists and spectators but travelers and participants...citizens of the world...with responsibility to each other and our beautiful blue planet!", she





Christina Andersen, Eileen Hudnall & Joaquin Antuna  
at the WTO General Assembly

said. Response to the competition by WTO delegates was enthusiastic. Winning posters from the 1997 competition, "Food for All, were on display in the conference center lobby.

Eileen and Christina joined an exquisite dinner reception in an old palace, tasted fine Turkish cuisine and admired an extensive display of traditional arts and crafts. They also visited historical sights such as the Hagia Sophia, Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace, Grand Bazaar and indulged at the city's oldest Turkish Bath!

### **Hunger Banquet (by Carol Schaper)**

"We are going to do what? Get up at 6:00 a.m. fly to Washington, D.C. for the day to serve rice?" remarked Carol Reichert, Miami based American Airlines purser. Coupled with the excitement of flying to the nations Capitol for a beautiful autumn day meeting many interesting people, that is just what we did!

The Hunger Banquet, organized by the charity OXFAM, is a meal experience that dramatically portrays the inequitable distribution of resources between people in high, middle and low income groups around the world. 100 guests are randomly assigned a particular income group and receive a corresponding meal, 15 enjoy a lavish gourmet feast, 30 eat very simple meals and 55 are served rice and water.

Winning art from the Food for All youth art competition adorned the walls to give special relevance to the experience while we served rice on a corn husk and a cup of water to most of the attendees. Everyone participating that day was affected by an acute awareness of the hunger problem facing humanity and as Carol

Reichert commented, her perspective on her own life has been forever altered.

### **Halloween at the Mummies Tomb**

Thank you to Luis Gonzales from Miami who organized a gala Halloween fund-raiser which raised money for Airline Ambassadors. His house was a stunning replica of a mummies tomb, complete with a treasure trove, Egyptian reclining room and torches blazing all around the dance floor. A crowd of 600 Halloween revelers attended the party with costumes including Cleopatras, mummies, snake charmers and pharaohs.

Our goal was to raise funds to purchase a cooking stove for Sister Mimi of Cali, Columbia who cares for 7 orphaned young girls. That goal was accomplished and additional funds were raised totaling contributions that went far beyond our hopes. Luis plans to deliver the donations to Cali himself in the near future.

### **Ethics and Values:**

#### **A Global Perspective**

Airline Ambassadors participated in a World Bank Forum on values in Washington, D.C. They were inspired by fascinating speakers and contributed to the Forum by sponsoring a luncheon roundtable on Green Tourism with Dr. Rashmi Mayur, President of the Global Futures Network. That evening they co-hosted a special reception to raise public awareness about the Earth Charter.

The next day Nancy Rivard and Eileen Hudnall, the President and Vice President of Airline Ambassadors, attended a meeting to strategize launching the Earth Charter in the United States. This inspiring document outlines life-enhancing ethics for the human community. It is hoped that the Earth Charter will be adopted by all peoples of the world in the year 2000. Airline Ambassadors plan to spread awareness about the Earth Charter by including it in our 1999 youth art competition..

### **May Peace Prevail on Earth**

Ms. Deborah Muldow of the World Peace Prayer Society designed a special sticker for Airline Ambassadors featuring the sentiment "May Peace Prevail on Earth" that can be used on letters, luggage, etc. We have participated in the World Peace Prayer Ceremony in Istanbul, Port au Prince and Washington D.C, assisting children to wave the national flag of every country while voicing this special prayer. The stickers are printed in blue or gold and a sheet of 21 can be purchased from your Regional Director for \$1.50.



## List of Directors

### Program Directors:

Escort Coordinator	Margaret Whitehead	770-487-9212
Humanitarian Aid	Ande Roth	650-329-1717
Special Events	Christina Andersen	212-308-1933

### Regional Directors:

Boston	Kelly Fealey	508-352-3113
Chicago	Linda Gwynn	770-424-6065
Dallas/Ft. Worth	Gloria Reid	817-268-2410
Los Angeles	Leeanne Hanson	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

## Welcome to Air India Airline Ambassador



Nishikent Waghmare & The Dalai Lama



A big welcome to our first Airline Ambassador from Air India, Nishikent Waghmare. His work with Mother Theresa and the Dalai Lama distinguish him as a dedicated "Ambassador of Goodwill". Nishikent will help identify humanitarian missions for our group. We congratulate Air India on its dedication to social responsibility.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

\$25. 00 1998 Dues \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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