

# Airline Ambassadors



Caring and Sharing for  
Each Other and the Earth

Spring 1999

## Orphanage Christmas Parties A Huge Success!



Karen Walker with Luis Miguel, an orphan in Honduras

Airline Ambassadors conducted Orphanage Christmas parties in Colombia, El Salvador, Honduras and Haiti. 73 Airline Ambassadors brightened the day for orphans, brought 1000's of gifts and supplies and experienced the miracle of the Season - joyous and unconditional love.

## Holiday in Honduras

by Cathy Knutson

Imagine buildings smothered in mud, houses uprooted and tossed out of sight, children left without parents, farm crops gone as if they never existed, and survivors huddled under plastic tarps and bathing in contaminated waters.

People called us crazy for wanting to go to San Pedro Sula for an orphanage Christmas Party shortly after Hurricane Mitch which had left 8,000 dead and 10,000 missing, but if anything, this was the best time to go. We were truly needed.

Airline Ambassadors brought dozens of boxes of toys, stuffed animals and decorations for the Christmas party as well as clothes, and medical and school supplies. When we arrived in Honduras on Dec. 8th, we noticed a stain on the wall of the Custom's area about 5 feet high that had been left by mud. Can you imagine digging 5 feet of mud out of an airport? The water had reached the second story of the building, leaving families stranded for days without food or water.

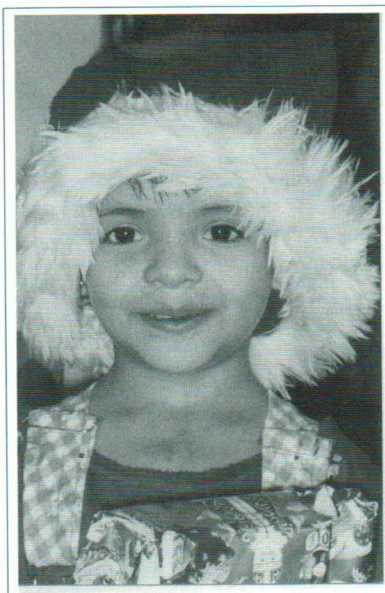
We sorted and wrapped our gifts and set out for Amor y Vida Home founded by Maria Elena Micheletti. She cares for 15 HIV + children in a modest two bedroom house where we shared a family style Christmas celebration. five years ago Maria found a two year old girl who had been abandoned. She learned that little Jessica had been raped and left HIV+. Maria took her home to care for her. Word got out that Maria was taking care of Aids children and soon 15 others were at her door.

Not Jessica, or any of the children looked ill. They grinned from ear to ear and greeted us with hugs and kisses. I watched her open her present pulling out plastic pink dress up shoes with matching clip on earrings and found myself blurry eyed with tears of joy. She clinked around like Cinderella showing off her rosy slippers to everyone she saw.

At midday we headed over to Hogar de Ninos Emmanuel Orphanage where over 80 children greeted

*Irene Logan coordinated a special party for orphans in Honduras. Just after returning from her planning trip, Hurricane Mitch hit. 12 Airline Ambassadors helped give a very special party to those most in need.*

us with open arms. They latched on to us as we got out of the car and asked if we were their "amigo". When we answered yes they shrieked and danced around with delight. They gave us a concert and sang Christmas carols. I noticed a little five year old swaying to the music and belting out the songs. When he smiled I could see he was missing his two front teeth.



"Cinderella Jessica"

I was amazed at how well mannered the children were. We had stacked over 100 stuffed animals along the wall of the orphanage, set up cookies, candy and juice on the tables and presents under the tree. Not one of the children touched a thing until it was handed to them. They lined up from youngest to oldest. Little Miguel stepped up and surprised me...out of all the new stuffed animals, beanie babies and Barney's, he chose the most homely of the bunch, a raggedy old teddy bear with an ear falling off and a bald spot where some fur was missing. Perhaps Miguel related to this bear and felt that it, out of all of them, needed his love the most.

On our way to the airport we saw a stadium with over 2,000 people living under plastic tarps their laundry covering every inch of the fence surrounding the stadium. We did not have enough presents for all, but did save presents for some of the families living by the roadside.

Now when I am called out on reserve at 4am for a 6am departure, I burn myself on the oven and the woman in seat 3A is upset because I ran out of omelets....I think of Rosa who is pregnant, living under a plastic tarp with three children under the age of 5 and a disabled husband out of work and I get through the day counting my blessings.

This is my third year at an orphanage Christmas party and I can't imagine Christmas without it. So I thank Cinderella Jessica for her joy, the toothless boy for his happy tunes, Miguel for his unconditional love for the homeliest one, and Rosa for a reality check on how good I have it. You have all touched us with your love and for that I am very grateful. Thanks to Irene Logan for all of her hard work and all of you with whom I was able to share the experience.

Thank you to those who participated: Irene Logan, Bruce Bannon, Karen Walker, Kathy Knudsen, MJ Manocchio, Liz Milne, Ann Demaris, Mirthala Garcia, Kathy Savage, Joan Harrington, Lee Ann Crocker, Chris Berth, and Donnalee Rooks.

## The Day 12 Angels Came to Visit Us

*This Touching Note was received from the Orphanage in Honduras after the party*

The day some angels came to visit us was right before Christmas. That day a tall man came into the house with so much love to give that you could see it through his eyes! Right afterwards came 11 women who all looked like the dolls you see in the big stores. They were wearing red and white caps which I'm sure that Santa gave them. They all talk a language which I don't speak, but I could understand every word. You know why? Well, simple, when angels speak they do it with a big smile and sometimes you can even see tears coming down their eyes. All of the sudden they started opening some huge bags full of different packages. Each package had a name written on it...our names!!! How did they know our names? Easy, very easy....Angels know everything.



Then an angel with skin so white that it looked like snow and eyes as blue as the sea, started calling in her own language our names to collect our very own presents. Each one was special unlike anything we have seen before. Suddenly the angels started singing in their own language, and although I don't speak it, it was the sweetest song I ever heard. When they left there was a light shining in our hearts.

How do I know they were angels? Well, only Angels do this even if you can't see their wings. What I still don't understand is why they called us Angels. Is it possible I am an Angel myself and I just don't know?

*Unnamed Orphan, Author*

## MJ Revisits HIV Home and Orphanage

MJ Manocchio used her vacation time to return to the HIV home and orphanage in Honduras Feb. 2 —7. She came bearing gifts of antibiotics, children's multi-vitamins, bedding, crib sheets, clothes and treats!

*"My first visit with Airline Ambassadors was such a powerful experience for me, I've now made a personal commitment to help Amor y Vida get the medical supplies they need."* MJ contacted the Director of the Pharmacy at Mills Peninsula Hospital near San Francisco and donated special antibiotics and vitamins needed by the children.

*"The kids totally remembered me"* said MJ *"and loved seeing themselves in the photo albums I shared from the Christmas parties"*. She took pictures of each child and wrote up a short bio on each hoping to coordinate for U.S. children to "adopt" an orphan in Honduras. It is planned for children in the U.S. to send pictures, birthday and Christmas cards as well as helping to solicit donations for "hand delivery."

*"If you're looking for something to fill a void in your life, get involved with humanitarian work and learn how to give. I can't wait to go back"* said MJ, her eyes shining with happiness.



MJ at HIV Home

## Christmas in Colombia



Thank you to Frank Marchetti, who coordinated a wonderful Christmas party at Hogar y Vida Orphanage in Bogota. It is the only orphanage in Colombia that takes any child, regardless of the disability. Many of the children in the orphanage have mild to severe handicaps or disabilities, but all are in need of love. Sister Valeriana, who founded and runs the facility hopes to expand it to the lot next door and provide a school for the children as well. Dr. Rolf Kennaugh learned of her dream at the event and when he returned home began to work on fundraising the \$65,000 to help Sister Valeriana's wish come true. Thank you Rolf!

Colleen's words in her Christmas letter echo the sentiments of many who came to Bogota.....

*"The reunion with these little ones captured my heart again and again. Like "old friends" they leaped into our arms and clung to our necks, or smiled to us from the confines of their wheelchairs and cots of from the prisons of*

*their deformed and disabled bodies. Their delight was beyond what they were physically capable of expressing, beyond heartwarming, beyond my comprehension. The love they had stored for a year and longed to share was poured out on all of us in the few hours we gathered together.*

*A five year old deaf boy, Michael, who robbed a piece of my heart last Christmas, took an even larger piece this year, and gave me a bit of his in return. And when we parted, we wept...the two of us without a common language to exchange — spoke through our tight hugs and embraces, through the broadest of smiles and heartiest of laughter, through the tears running down our cheeks.*

*I am finding as I return home, that the humble, innocent, vulnerable love, so graciously expressed to us has me distracted — in a most wonderful way. I have the feeling you get when there is something new or exciting that has happened and you can't wait to tell everyone about.*



Michael with Colleen Morey in Bogota

KTTV FOX Channel 11 joined 27 Airline Ambassadors in Bogota Colombia for the second Airline Ambassador Christmas Party at Hogar de Luz y Vida Orphanage. Their touching piece aired all on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> throughout the United States. Ask your Regional Director to see the video.

it...Actually it's like falling in love...And I cannot help but to wonder, that this is exactly the way our Lord intended us to be with one another in our lives and in our world.

Colleen Morey and Cheerie Smith returned to the orphanage in early March to organize for a medical mission in April of specialist who saw the TV program and want to help.

Thanks to those who participated: Natalie Alhonte, Christina Andersen, Rolf Kennaugh, Frank Marchetti, John Melnychuk, Colleen Morey, Nancy Rivard, Michael and Stephanie Sawyer, Patti Ballaz, Leeanne Hansen, Shea Hurst, Linda Joyce, K.C. Schillihan, Cheerie Smith, Linda Smith, Kori, Travis, Nancy and Mark Smith, Alex Wahl and Lisa and 3 nurses from AA medical.

## El Salvador- Journey of the Heart

Thank you to 24 Airline Ambassadors and to Gloria Reid, Project Coordinator of our second party in El Salvador, and the generosity of hundreds that enabled the team to give gifts to over 1,000 children! They delivered one ton of gifts, clothes, orphanage and medical supplies to Instituto de Proteccion al Menor Orphanage in a heartwarming trip that enriched the lives of all who participated. Thank you to American Airlines, Sandra Garcia and family, the First Lady of El Salvador and all who helped make the trip possible.

Chuck Alcedo of AA TV made a video of the event called *"Journey of the Heart"* It is a beautiful tribute to the Airline Ambassadors as well as the children who so eagerly accepted our gifts and our love. A big thank you to Peggy Sterling, DFW Flight Service for enabling Chuck to join the group. Check in your base operations area or ask your Regional Director to see a copy of the beautiful and moving video.



Airline Ambassadors in El Salvador

This is an excerpt from a letter from Gloria Reid ...

*There are so many rewards in this: not only are the children the benefactors but so are we. It was an opportunity to touch a child's life in a positive way letting him or her know how special they are and that someone from far away cares enough to make a memorable day for them and hopefully their lives a little better. It was worth every minute of time and effort spent collecting, sorting, packing and escorting more than 150 boxes, and when we got there, unpacking, re-sorting, gift-wrapping everything we possibly could (and tying bows on things we couldn't) to see the expressions of excitement and sheer delight!*

*Somehow, in the exchange of smiles, touches and hugs, as well as gifts, something beautiful happened to us all. We came away with poignant sights, sounds and scenes of precious children in our hearts and stories on our lips. Everyone who went told me that their involvement and participation with the children in the orphanages had had an incredible impact on their lives. (It certainly put things in perspective!) As I reflect on our experience after the fact, I realize with awe how we worked seamlessly, with oneness of heart throughout the busy days. There is no negative story to tell! That in itself is a miracle!*

Thank you to those who participated from (DFW) Cathy Autem, Dennis Bagby, Colleen Brenner, DeAnna Craig, Char Goodman, Laura Hernandez, Tamala Kirkman, Laura Latham, John Lively, Teri Martin, Cathy Orten, Elaine Osborne, Suzi Setchell, Daggi Wallace, Lisa Wolf, Evelyn Young and Joyce Bethune, (MIA) Bibiani Bottini-Velarde, Freddie Turcios, (BOS) Kelly Fealy, (JFK) Marilynn Shanks and TACA F/A Liz Pastore.

## Heartwarming experience in Haiti

Jennifer Butler coordinated a special celebration at orphanages and schools in Haiti. She brought toys and hand wrapped shoe boxes full of donations from St. Rose of Lima School. Thank you for help from Jackie Bryan (MIA Flt Svc.) and Danielle Longo (POP) two of the students from the St. Rose of Lima school joined the trip in an unforgettable visit of love to one of the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere. One of the students, Stephanie Renee Ruby wrote a beautiful essay about her experience of the children of Haiti teaching her to see



Max Church with Haitian Orphan

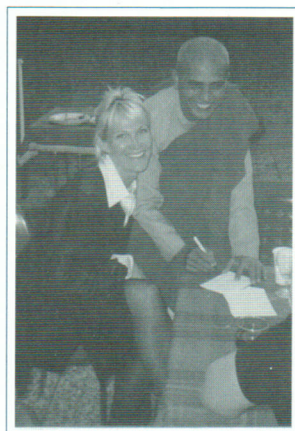
*"Jesus in Disguise"* of all people who strive each day to help others.

Thank you to William Dise of Denver for coordinating another celebration for children in Haiti for the orphanage founded by Father Max Church and Eden Orphanage near Port-au-Prince. His team brought toys and goodies for these children and made plans to build floors, walls and roofs on a return visit March 22nd. These orphans have no beds and barely enough food to eat. Some have never before received a present. Jody Alweis loved visiting with these delightful children, who like all little ones, need

to know that someone cares. Sylvan Salser, is now soliciting donations to put together an Airline Ambassador tool kit to be used on construction projects on our missions all over the world. *"Operation Tool Chest"*

## India Itinerary

Feb. 1 - 15 Airline Ambassadors visited the slums of Bombay, delivered medical supplies to clinics in Pune, met human rights leaders, visited the unforgettable Ajanta caves, and delivered toys and supplies to orphanages near Delhi. Thank you



Connie Sheehan planning the trip

to Nishikant Wahgmare, our Asia / Pacific Director who helped coordinate details, Mrs. Yogi Bhajan who identified orphanages near Delhi, and to Connie Sheehan who coordinated the mission.

## Feb 15- 19 Journey to Jamaica

Ambassador Taylor of Jamaica and Carleen Samuels helped set the agenda for this mission to connect youth with youth and assist children in Jamaica. The Airline Ambassador team of eight including 3 young people visited HIV+ children at Bustamonte Hospital in Kingston. They brightened the day of orphans at Marigold Daycare Center and Maxfield Children's Home, The group bonded with the darling children, laughed and played games, fed, bathed and powdered the "tweenies" (babies between one and two years), and conducted an extensive needs study to coordinate for future donations.

Thank you to American Airlines for shipping a large donation of clothes and supplies. Sharrye Moore, who

coordinated the trip, said she plans an ongoing drive for diapers, disinfectant wipes, bottles, baby items and clothes. The same group plans to return this summer with 135 pairs of Mickey Mouse Socks and 200 Hercules buckets donated by Disney/ABC to delight the little ones!

Brenda Weiss represented URGE (Unlimited Resources Giving Enlightenment) a non-profit organization founded by reggae musician Ziggy Marley and the Melody Makers. URGE donated cribs for Bustamonte Hospital and plans to partner with Airline Ambassadors in our work for children in the U.S., Jamaica, Haiti and Ethiopia.

*Thank to Sharrye Moore, Andrea Kiese, John Melnychuk, and Martine Moore, Kori Smith, Melanie Walker, Brenda Weiss.*

## Nicaragua Mission of Valor

Janet Weininger spent Thanksgiving in the mountains of Bocay, Nicaragua loading up 40 burros to take supplies into remote areas. She returned in Feb with 14 MD's to work in Managua and nine of the team accompanied Janet to serve the needy in the remote areas. She has managed to coordinate 70 pallets worth of donations including a generator, antibiotics, medical supplies, food, clothing and 50,000 Beanie Babies



Janet Weininger arrives in Managua

donated by Casa Alianza/Covenant House. Her donations are worth over \$500,000. Thank you to Homestead Airforce Reserve for providing warehouse space and Fine Air for assisting with transport for this exciting mission.

## Research Mission to Nepal

Leeanne Hansen, Alex Burgnon and Michael Rhodes from LAX led a scouting mission to Nepal Feb 19 - March 1 to assess the needs of Tibetan refugees in and near Katmandhu. Their itinerary had been partially coordinated by Rinchen Dharlo President of the Tibet Fund who was the Dalai Lama's first representative in the United States. The team had an inspiring trip visiting refugee centers orphanages in Katmandhu and Pokora. Here is an excerpt from an email from Leeanne in Nepal as they made arrangements for follow up mission in June.

*"Upon arrival in Kathmandu via Muscat, Abu Dabi and Oman it was a beautiful sight to see a little man with big smile and a sign that said "Airline Ambassadors"! After 12 hours sleep following our two days in a plane we were ready to rock, and that we did all day. We had a two hour interview with a representative of His Holiness, the 14<sup>th</sup> Dalai Lama, and toured the Tibetan Refugee Reception Center and a home for Tibetan*



*elderly which needs everything including teeth.*

*The next day we traveled to Pokhara to photograph refugee children It's a seven hour bus ride each way, not including a two hour flat tire change in the middle of the Himalayas. The road was ripe with yaks and elephants for our touring pleasure. By the way the yak cheese we had today for lunch was deedlicious. (MMMMM no joke)"*

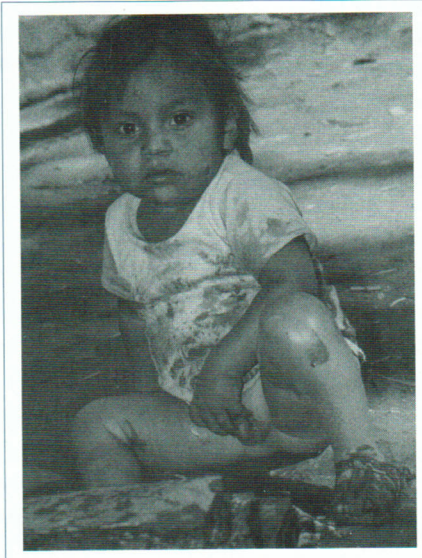
# Humanitarian Aid

## 91 Pallets of Rice Milk!

Airline Ambassadors received a donation of 91 pallets of Rice Milk donated by Child Health Organization.

Knowing that this nutritious food could meet the need of many hungry children in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, Sharrye Moore contacted the International Hospital for Children who assisted us in getting the rice milk to children in El Salvador and Guatemala as well as Honduras and Nicaragua.

Thank you to all involved.



Nicaraguan child waits for our aid

## 67 Boxes to Russian Orphanages

Father Mark Brown from Mission Russia Outreach picked up 67 boxes of clothes, toys and supplies collected by students in Greenwich Connecticut to go to Russian Orphans in March. Airline Ambassadors are invited to join these trips to Russia which are scheduled all through the summer. (see upcoming events)

## Golden Temple donates Cereal and Grain!



Thank you to Golden Temple Products who are donating Peace Cereal to Airline Ambassadors to distribute to children in need throughout the world. Golden Temple is based in Portland Oregon and has a socially responsible marketing plan. Their delicious cereal is made with organic and nutritious products. 1/10 of their profits go to fund non-profit work around the world. They also donated one ton of grain to

assist Honduran victims of Hurricane Mitch.

## Birthday Bash Helps Tibetan Children

Deborah Moldow had a birthday party in New York City on Dec. 19th. Instead of presents, Deborah asked that guests bring donations for Tibetan children to be hand delivered on Airline Ambassadors mission to Nepal.

Deborah, who used to entertain on Broadway, entertained the group and many danced for hours. Thanks to all for the wonderful donations of cash, toys and clothes to be used on our Nepal mission.

## Thank you Andre

Thank you to Andre Murad, father of Airline Ambassador Rachel Martinez who has collected donations from major stores in Chicago. He collected 22 bags of candy donated to local disabled children through St.Vincent de Paul, 20 bags of Christmas ornaments, candy and toys for Catholic Sisters of Chicago, and 20 more bags for our India mission. six bags for our Haiti party and 20 bags of Valentine candy to Chicago's Chrysalis for Homeless Women and Children. One person can certainly make a difference!



Walgreens Assistant Manager and Andre Murad

## Thanks to the Heroes



Airline Ambassadors chartered a plane to take donations to Honduras

Thank you to hundreds of Airline personnel students and others who donated humanitarian supplies for our missions.

Thank you for donations from:

Disney Corporation for: donating 135 pairs of Mickey Mouse socks and 200 Hercules buckets

Covenant House for: donating thousands of beanie babies and

teddy bears

Walgreen's for: donating 88 boxes of candy, toys and goodies for our missions

Winn Dixie for: donating party treats for Haitian Orphans

Mills Peninsula Hospital for: antibiotics and Children's vitamins

Those who shared a D3 pass so others could "Travel and Make a Difference" (*We have a constant need for D3s - let your Regional Director know if you would like to contribute*)

**Thank you to American Airlines for authorizing shipment of:**

11 cribs and 40 boxes of supplies to Jamaica and

100 boxes for the Cardiac team traveling to Quito

**Thanks to those that shared their time, money and creativity**

To Suyapa Quinn and Sharrye Moore for: coordinating a fundraiser for victims of the Hurricane Mitch..

To Gloria Reid for: helping to get boxes from SEA to paramedics in Guatemala,

To Gail Lima and Sue Walsh for: arranging shipment of boxes to the Dominican Republic.

To Marty Sanders for: coordinating shipment from SEA to MIA for Colombian Earthquake victims

To Jackie Bryan in MIA for: coordinating aid boxes to Haiti, St. Kitts and Colombia out of Miami

To Linda Gwynn, Connie Sheehan and Sue Albers for: coordinating boxes from ORD to Haiti and India

To Monica Lunser in JFK for: coordinating 100 items, expediting boxes and locating bug spray!

To Debbie Tokumoto in SFO for: helping get life saving medicine "Factor F" a to children in Belize.

To Captain Rob Knapp for: coordinating shipment of relief to Belize, Honduras Colombia and more

To all of our escorts, project coordinators and those unnamed who give of their energy, time and money to build a better world.

## Los Angeles AA Operations



Thank you to Airline Ambassadors in LA have filled 26 boxes in AA Operations with donations of Medical Supplies, Toys, Clothes and Amenities!

# Escorts

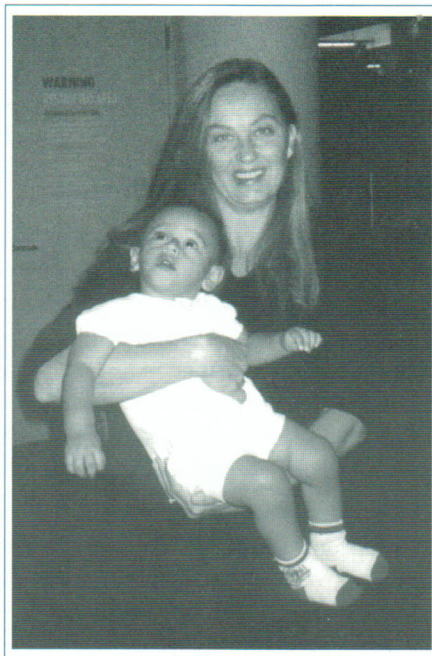
ESCORT STORIES FROM MARGARET WHITEHEAD

IN 1998 MARGARET COORDINATED 173 ESCORTS AND 1999 PROMISES TO BE EVEN BUSIER! NOTE MARGARET'S NEW # IS 770-487-6887

Although most of our escorts are to the Dominican Republic, Honduras, Colombia or Guatemala we have varied opportunities each month. Recently, John Cushman traveled to Riga, Latvia where he took 12 yr. old Lasma Zander home after successful heart surgery. Her tearful family was so happy to see her and learn of her clean bill of health. After spending a day and night in this ancient city, John traveled back to the U.S. with Dimitrij Hipenkov where he is undergoing surgery for multiple leg deformities. Jackie Miller Erskine escorted Shakti, from Kazakhstan to the U.S. several months ago and was able to escort a healthy little Shakti on her way home after surgery on a most rewarding trip. Our busiest escort, Kevin Smith, recently made the long trip to Nairobi Kenya. It is great that some of our escorts prefer the long trips (like Kevin and John) and others prefer shorter, less exotic jaunts to South America, and still others prefer only to do domestic escorting where they can return home in a day.

## Welcome to New Escorts

There have been several new Airline Ambassadors who have returned our escort application and some have already been on trips. I would like to say a big "welcome" and I really look forward to working with each of you. One way all of you can really help me is to call or email me each month with your availability. This saves me a tremendous amount of time and is greatly appreciated.



Nancy Petta "On these escorts I always feel an angel watching over me", escorting Kevin for heart surgery

## Escorting Aid

When Hurricane Mitch spread devastation across St. Kitts, Dr. Patrick Martin sent out an e-mail asking for assistance from Airline Ambassadors. Pam Burns in BOS and Jackie Bryan in MIA got busy and collected and shipped several hundred pounds of much needed clothing and other items to those who were left homeless after the storm. Jackie even escorted supplies down to the island, where she was met by a grateful, Dr. Martin.

Captain Rob Knapp (MIA) provides assistance by coordinating shipment of boxes whenever we have an escort to Honduras or Colombia. With this kind of team effort we can accomplish even more. My goal is to have boxes of supplies packed and stored at DFW, ORD and MIA and each time an escort goes through one of these cities he or she can check two boxes to their destination.

*Thanks to Flight Service Support of Joyce Bethune (DFW), Sue Albers (ORD) and Jackie Bryan (MIA) this program is beginning to work. If you have an escort, through one of these cities, be sure to ask if there are Airline Ambassador boxes for you to check. They will be marked with this label:*



## The Job of Escort Coordinator

I was once asked to write a job description. Well, I can't! Every day is unique and every day new situations arise. My experience working in the control center for Eastern Airlines and as a gate supervisor have given me a lot of background in the airline industry. I coordinated the children's escort program for Eastern and volunteered at a different orphanage each month, so have a working knowledge of how each agency we work with operates.

I must often work against time because a surgery date has been scheduled for a child, and if we miss the date the child may have to wait months for another. This is why I am sometimes frantically looking for an escort. Then there is the problem of full flights and D2's. Not every day is chaotic but many are. Even so I do enjoy coordinating our escort trips. It definitely beats sitting home and watching the soaps. The best part is simply knowing that we've all worked together to make a difference in a child's life.

## Youth

### Art Competition Award Ceremony in Madrid

Kim Schroeder and Kathy Johnson from San Francisco traveled to Madrid to help host the festivities for this year's international art competition "Traveling to Make a Difference". 5,000 children from 54 countries participated in the contest which was organized by Paz y Cooperacion and co-sponsored by Airline Ambassadors and the World Tourism Organization.

The ceremony took place at the civic center in Madrid called FITUR. Joaquin Antuna, President of Paz y Cooperacion acted as Master of Ceremonies and distributed the Peace and Cooperation School Awards. Speeches were made to honor international winners by the head of the World Tourism Organization, the Mayor of Madrid and Kim Schroeder, representing Airline Ambassadors.



American Airlines provided two tickets to fly U.S. winners to Madrid for the event. Elizabeth Hilman Boxhill and John Mahoney recorded a winning song "Citizen's of the World" composed by Jr. high school students at Lincoln Academy in New York. Edith has her own non-profit (SAVE Students Against Violence Everywhere) She and John Mahoney hope that the song will become an international youth peace anthem. Airline Ambassadors and U.S. winners all had a great time in Madrid.

### United Nations Press Conference Launches 1999 Youth Art Competition.

Feb. 10 1999 Airline Ambassadors announced their youth art competition for 1999 Visions for the Third Millenium with their joint sponsor Paz y Cooperacion, a Spanish NGO. The competition is open to young people from age 7-17, and also for educators and schools. Categories for submissions include drawings, short stories, poetry, essays, plays or posters and slogans. The theme *Visions for a Third Millenium* was inspired by the General Assembly of the United Nations with its proclamation of the year 2000 as "The Year of a Culture of Peace" and the years 2001-2010 as "The International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence".

We were honored to have the Spanish Ambassador, Inocencio Arias and Actor John Amos join us at the press conference as well. United Nations officials, Airline Ambassadors, students and teachers from Arch School also



attended. Thank you to Sharrye Moore who coordinated the event, arranged a live broadcast interview with Felipe Luciano of WLIB Radio, a lovely luncheon for all at the Delegate's Dining Room and a workshop after the event.



Joaquin Antura, Spanish Ambassador, John Amos & Sherrye Moore

### Youth AirlineAmbassadors Inspire Tasteberry Tales for Teens!

Bettie Youngs had just completed Taste Berry Tales a book of short stories for adult readers highlighting wonderful ways people make a difference in the lives of others, when she received a touching Christmas letter from her old friend, Colleen Morey. Learning about students work with the Airline Ambassadors helped inspire her to do a new book for young people - *"Taste-Berries for Teens"*.



Bettie Youngs & daughter Jennifer

A taste-berry is a glorious little fruit that mysteriously convinces the taste buds that all food, even if it's distasteful is delicious. The bright little berry has been used by aboriginal tribes across the world for centuries. The good news is that we can be taste-berries for one another. We invite youth Airline Ambassadors to contribute their own inspiring experiences for the next book Taste-berry Teens II c/o Tina Moreno, 3060 Racetrack View Drive, Del Mar, CA 92014.

### Students Assist Humanitarian Missions

Students from Connecticut, California, Florida, Michigan, Texas and Washington D.C assisted us in collecting donations for Christmas parties. Pre-school students collected pennies, elementary students made Christmas cards, high school students coordinated a drive for toys, clothes and orphanage supplies. They weighed and measured each box. Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, church groups and synagogue youth did the same. Miami students wrapped individual shoe boxes with gifts for needy children. It was rewarding for the students to be involved in "adopting" an orphanage and to have the experience of

serving humanity.

Kori Smith and Natalie Alhonte are two of our youth advisors and have participated on several missions in experiences that have changed their life forever. Kori, just returned from the mission to Jamaica, was asked to speak on the popular radio channel WSNX in Grand Rapids Michigan. She announced the youth memberships in Airline Ambassadors and invited local young people to participate by coordinating donations from their school or perhaps adopting a specific orphanage.



Rosa and kids in Honduras saying "thank you Airline Ambassadors"

Colleen Morey, Program Coordinator for Greenwich public schools in Greenwich Connecticut is acting as our Director of youth. She is putting together a list of orphanages and their needs and interested schools in the U.S. She has watched the effect the program has had on kids at 15 schools in Arch Connecticut and feels the program holds powerful potential to raise self esteem, grades and instill values in young people. For more information on our youth programs, please call Colleen at 203-259-6266.

Decide to network  
 Use every letter you write  
 Every conversation you have  
 To express your  
 fundamental beliefs & dreams  
 Affirm to others the vision  
 Of the world you want  
 Network through thought  
 Network through action  
 Network through love.  
*Assistant Secretary General UN.  
 Robert Ruller, (Ret)*

## **New Detroit Region - Welcome Northwest Airlines**

Welcome to our new members from Northwest Airlines especially Erin Isebrands the new Regional Director in Detroit. Erin spent two and a half years working her way around the world and plans to lead a mission to New Zealand in the future!

## **Shift in Values for the New Millenium**

As part of the Baby Boomer Generation many of us grew up with the American Dream.. We would go to college, get a good job, get married, have children, buy a big house and nice car and have a wonderful life. Somewhere, between the carport and the barbecue pit that dream began to change. Life seemed more complex than ever. The trophy home was in place and looked good...but something was missing. For many the sense of satisfaction was not only elusive, it seemed to have evaporated altogether.

As the new millenium approaches, there appears to be a seismic shift in values. A sea of change in the way people

are thinking about true wealth, true happiness. What had reigned was not just more, but excess. And excess was too much. Recent studies show the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population, nearly one quarter of all Americans, want to simplify, to get in touch with their feelings, their environment, one another and the world they live in.

*Traveling to Make a Difference* meets a need in us to share our unique talents and skills in a way that is truly useful in the world community. It breaks us out of the hypnotic trance of our everyday complex life and gives us an adventurous experience of expressing ourselves, not just impressing others. It gives us a chance to relate to one another in our common humanity and in a spirit of brotherhood and friendship.

**After such a trip the old allurements no longer hold their same luster. The pivotal question of our lives becomes less "What can I get?" and more "What can I give".** For truly it is in dying (to self) that we gain life of so much more abundance. Ask anyone who has taken a "Journey of the Heart".

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## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

*Open your Heart, Share your Love....Join us on a Journey of the Heart*

### **March 23 – 26 Mexico Mission**

Join Rae England and Love in Action International on this mission to alleviate extreme poverty and hunger in Chihuahua Mexico. Meet in El Paso to bag beans and rice and drive the donations to Mexico for hand delivery. Call Rae England 972-278-1885

### **March 27-29 Planeload of Love to Honduras**

A volunteer airline crew of pilots and flight attendants will take a United 727 into San Pedro Sula with 40,000 lbs of medical supplies, 30 doctors, Airline Ambassadors and a FOX TV news crew. The Ambassador of Honduras to the United States may join the trip to deliver aid to those in Honduras suffering in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch. Call Nancy Rivard 650-685-6262.

### **April and May Beanie Babies to Nicaragua!**

Join the "One Armed Bandits" (one armed baseball players) for a week in Managua featuring visits to orphanages and clinics and a special game by the team. Those having more time may stay for a visit to the remote villages with Project Coordinator Janet Weinger 305-255-0606.

### **April 7- 12 Medical Mission to Colombia**

Medical mission with specialist MD's to visit orphanages, clinics, hospitals and schools in Bogota. Special attention will be given to children in the barrios with no other medical care. Volunteers needed to help the doctors and coordinate patients etc. KTTV FOX will cover the story. Colleen Morey 203-259-6266.

### **April 29 Sustainable Tourism Roundtable**

Airline Ambassadors are hosting this exciting meeting at the United Nations to highlight new thinking in tourism during this important meeting of the Commission on Sustainable Development. Call Nancy Rivard 650-685-6262.

### **April 24 – May 5 Transformational Trekking to Nepal**

Join this trip to trek medical supplies to remote clinics rarely seen by tourists and visit orphanages in Katmandhu. Hand deliver these needed supplies in an exotic and beautiful country. Physical conditioning required. Call Joyce Amrien 703-532-5509 or 202-942-3648.

### **May 20 -30 Assist the Maya in Guatemala**

This humanitarian mission is planned to assist a traditional Mayan K'iche tribe that has been pushed off their rightful land. Members are living as refugees in 6 other impoverished communities. The hurricane winds of November swept through the villages and destroyed all food crops and about 20 houses. There is almost no help available to these people except that which we plan to deliver. Learn about the work of Los Cimientos Alliance in helping the Mayan people. Assist at a community health clinic, bio-intensive agricultural and housing project. Call Francis Ala 831-644-6363.

### **May 22-25 Help Orphans in Haiti**

This trip is planned to assist orphans in Haiti at Eden orphanage. Come and bring love, and supplies to the children in this poorest country in the Northern Hemisphere. Cheryl Eital 212-717-4472 Edith Bramerie 212-665-9014 or William Dise 303-366-3753

**June 1 -15 Tibetan Refugee Humanitarian Mission**  
Join this trip to Katmandhu to deliver supplies and funds raised in the Santih concert to assist Tibetan refugees at camps in Katmandhu and Pokora. When Tibetans risk their lives to escape Tibet over the Himalayas these are the camps that receive them. Call Leeanne Hansen 323-650-3153

**June 4 - 18 Russian Orphan Outreach**  
Join Father Mark Brown on this special trip to visit the summer youth camps for Russian orphans. Bring clothes, school sports and medical supplies and volunteer to help the children on this evangelical / friendship trip. Many other trips are planned throughout the summer, one of which is especially for dentists and hygienists. Call Mark Brown 203-966-0000 smarkb@idt.net or Colleen Morey at 203-259-6266.

**June 4 - 11 Trip to Western Siberia**  
Join this humanitarian mission to assist people living in Moslimova. They are still suffering the effects of a nuclear accident five times worse than Chernobyl. Villagers were never told that they were being exposed to toxic waste. Victims of contamination now desperately need medicine, bed-linens, and food. The Russian government says it has no money and cannot help. Join this mission of mercy and Episcopal churches in a humanitarian visit to help these people. Call Barbara van Gaasbeek 714-543-9092.

**July 15 -22 Help Refugees in Hungary**  
Assist the efforts of Cheru Newhouse bringing medicine and essential supplies into Drebecen Camp in Hungary, now flooded with thousands of international refugees. Call Debrah Newhouse 717-755-8965

**August 1 - 10 Cambodian Orphanages**  
Join Phoumara (13) and Maya (8) in revisiting the orphanage from which they were adopted 7 years ago. Bring needed supplies and assistance to the other "brothers and sisters" remaining in Cambodia. Call Elisabet Sahtouris email at lifeweb@igc.org..

**REMINDER: Due to unforeseen circumstances, dates or destinations may change. If you have contact with an orphanage or clinic, call your Regional Director to coordinate a mission.**



SFO Airline Ambassadors Kathy Johnson, Dana Davis, Kelly Morrison and Laura Jean McBride help paint the Center for Abused and Abandoned Children.

**Sept 1 - 7 Humanitarian Mission to Bolivia**  
Join this mission to visit orphanages and clinics in La Paz and Santa Cruz. Join native shaman for traditional blessing and assist doctors in remote areas. Call Linda Gansler 734-762-7564.

**Sept. 9 New York Fundraising Dinner**  
Join this beautiful evening of dinner and dancing with a Brazilian flair. Airline Ambassadors is planning our first major fundraiser with The Legion of Goodwill. Call Sharrye Moore 212-532-4038.

**Sept. 25-26 Native American Prayer Vigil**  
Airline Ambassadors is a co-sponsor of this annual event on the Washington D.C. Mall. Join Native American elders and indigenous of many traditions in a circle of tipi's under the shadow of the Washington Monument. Pray for peace and will being of our earth and all her peoples.

**October 1-8 Masai Village in Tanzania**  
Join on this trip to the Masai village of Mbahe near Mount Kilimanjaro. Bring needed supplies to this village, where only one other white person has been invited. Learn customs and lifestyle of the Masai in this pristine environment. This will be a trip of a lifetime. Suzanne Nolan or Alice Hiatt 510-339-2450.

**October 15 -25 Philippine Orphanage**  
Revisit this beautiful orphanage near the South China Sea called Shepard of the Hills. Last year Airline Ambassadors painted murals on the walls and opened their hearts to the beautiful children. We will bring needed supplies and volunteer to assist at the facility. Please call Margaret Whitehead at 770-487-9212.

**Nov. 1 -15 Brazilian Healers and Legion of Goodwill**  
Join this Airline Ambassador mission to Brazil focussed on healers and healing. Bring needed medical supplies to the facilities of the Legion of Goodwill in Brazil and visit their temple in Brasilia. Document the work of the famous Brazilian healers "Fritz" and "Odeon" and experience indigenous healing rituals in a native environment. Call Sharon Franquemont. 510-531-3842.

"The traveler was active: he went strenuously in search of people, adventure, of experience. The tourist is passive: he expects interesting things to happen to him. He goes sight-seeing." Daniel Boorstin, American writer



Airline Ambassadors with Paiva Betto, President of the Legion of Goodwill on cover of LBV magazine.

**A**irline Ambassadors International is a non-profit organization affiliated with the United Nations. It is made up of over 1000 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 their industry and in the world.

**PROGRAM DIRECTORS:**

Escort Coordinator	Margaret Whitehead	770-487-6887
Humanitarian Aid	Ande Thollander	206-463-5090
Special Events	Christina Andersen	212-308-1933

**REGIONAL DIRECTORS:**

Boston	Kelly Fealey	978-352-3113
Chicago	Connie Sheehan	773-227-7055
Dallas / Fort Worth	Gloria Reid	817-268-2410
Detroit	Erin Isebrands	734-663-1592
Los Angeles	Leeanne Hansen	213-650-3153
Miami	Ana Kinese	305-271-4565
New York	Cheryl Eital	212-717-4472
San Francisco	Kathy Johnson	415-923-0444
Seattle	Marty Sanders	206-281-1579
Washington D.C.	Irene Logan	703-820-8918

**New York Office for Airline Ambassadors!**

A big thank you to the Legion of Goodwill for sharing their office space with Airline Ambassadors at **385 Fifth Avenue**, New York NY 10016. Our phone there is 212-532-4038. Please visit our new New York Headquarters.

The Legion of Goodwill is the largest NGO in Brasil and maintains over 400 facilities including day-care centers, schools, orphanages, shelters etc. All of their services are offered free of charge and they have used radio and television to mobilize thousands of people to volunteer to help those in need. A joint fundraiser is planned in New York on Sept. 9th. We are delighted to partner with the Legion of Goodwill as they expand in North America.

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Please make checks to Airline Ambassadors Intl. and give your Regional Director or send to:  
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