Caring and Sharing for Each Other and the Earth

Summer 1999

# Airline Ambassadors President Honored as 1999 Woman of Peace!

Habitat for Humanity President - 1999 Man of Peace

Nancy Rivard, President of Airline Ambassadors, and Millard Fuller, President of Habitat for Humanity, were honored as the 1999 Woman and Man of Peace at the International Peace Prayer Day Celebration in Espanola, New Mexico on June 19, 1999.

Dr. Inderjit Kahn presented the award from the International Peace Prayer Day organization and handed Nancy an engraved sculpture in front of an audience of 2,000 to commemorate her leadership and compassion providing humanitarian aid to children worldwide.

At the event, Airline Ambassadors also received a Peace Cereal Grant of \$5,000 awarded by Golden Temple Natural Foods. This socially responsible company shares its profits to support organizations or individuals working for peace.



Nancy Rivard and Millard Fuller 1999 "Woman and Man of Peace"



Airline Ambassadors & "Clown Doctors" at Macedonian Refugee Camp

### Dr. Patch Adams Joins Airline Ambassadors to Help Kosovo Refugees

Thirty-two Airline Ambassadors traveled to Skopije, Macedonia from May 24 - June 1 on a mission to assist refugees from Kosovo. While bombs shook the ground, they walked through rows of tents, visited with refugees and provided aid and programs for children.

The U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees authorized Airline Ambassadors International (AAI) to enter the camps. AAI arranged for a large medical donation from

B. Braun Medical, and coordinated an art and letter writing program for youth. The children also enjoyed the "clowning" of Patch Adams and his crew of "clown doctors". (The life and work of Patch Adams was recently featured in a popular film starring Robin Williams. He is founder of Gesundheit! Institute dedicated to bringing fun and friendship to healthcare.)

The AAI team was riveted by the stories of the refugees. Most had been forced from their homes at gunpoint, hid for weeks or months in the forests, seen the brutal deaths of women and children and watched their homes and villages burn. They were grateful for tens-of-thousands of dollars of medical supplies and gifts from the group and to know there were those who cared about them. "Thank God you've come" one refugee woman said, "you have brought your love, and you have helped our children laugh again."

Journeys of the Heart to 12 Countries

Escorting 70 Children in Need

Youth Programs Expand

Upcoming Events and President's Report (insert)

# Journeys of the Heart



Rebecca Williams with refugee in Honduras

Airline Ambassador humanitarian missions give us a chance to travel in a way that deepens our connection to our human family and to use our unique skills and goodwill to help children in different countries and cultures. Many have found that using holiday time to serve, such as helping orphans in Haiti, disabled children in El Salvador or refugees in Honduras, is actually more fulfilling than traditional vacationing.

Airline Ambassadors International (AAI) thanks the hundreds of volunteers who have participated on our humanitarian missions to 12 countries this quarter.

#### **Brazil**

Airline Ambassador Youth Advisors Kori Smith and Natalye Alhonte, both 16-year-olds, took an innovative summer vacation in July. They volunteered to help children in Brazil. Inspired by experiences on past missions, they led a group of six young people to assist at facilities of the Legion of Goodwill. They delivered supplies, taught basic English and cared for children at Paiva Netto Institute in Sao Paolo, and also brought aid to orphans in Glorinha. "It was a trip of a lifetime!" exclaimed Natalye. Their mission was supervised by Maria Malaman of the Legion of Goodwill and AAI member Kathryn Fergenbaum.

#### Colombia

Airline Ambassadors continued assistance to Hogares Luz y Vida Orphanage for disabled children in Bogota. Glenda Johnson of American Airlines Cargo arranged for the donation and delivery of 12 wheelchairs (5 motorized) in June. In July she will see her gifts in use when she joins doctors and youth on a mission to the orphanage. The doctors volunteered to help when they saw FOX TV coverage of the Airline Ambassadors' Christmas party there last year. (FOX TV will be covering the July mission also.)

American Airlines pilot Kevin Smith volunteered to escort a child home to Cali, Colombia after surgery in the United States. While there he visited the "Indian House," a special hotel for indigenous people receiving hospital treatment. He found it was in desperate need of supplies as a result of the recent earthquake. On his next trip in March he returned with thousands of dollars of donations including linens, supplies and electric fans.

#### El Salvador

Regional Director Kathy Savage led an AAI team to El Salvador from June 14 - 17. They visited six orphanages and

delivered 17 desperately needed child-size wheelchairs and promoted an International Art Competition called "My Dream for a Better World." They gave prizes and medals to the winners at each orphanage, and delighted all the children with a special party.



Glenda Johnson "Sharing Love"

Glenda Johnson

was so moved by the special needs of the handicapped children at the Home for Abandoned Handicapped Children that she arranged the donation and delivery of 20 more wheelchairs, leg braces, and related handicapped equipment the following week. Thanks to Glenda's efforts, AAI's total donation of wheelchairs in June was worth over \$100,000.

Thanks to Andre Murad who obtained candy from Walgreens in Chicago, AA DFW Cargo for delivery of the wheelchairs, and to AAI members Cathy Orten, Paula Thomas and Diane Zimmer.



Mayan Girl in Guatemala

### Guatemala

In May, AAI conducted a humanitarian research mission to bring supplies to Zargossa Orphanage outside Antigua, Guatemala. "It was heart-rending to see those little children and know how much they would

like to have a family," said Michael Powers. As a well-known photojournalist, he was used to adventure travel, but this experience was a first. "It gave me a wonderful feeling to deliver clothes to the orphanage, and realize how much our visit meant to the little ones."

In August, AAI will bring life-saving seeds and other supplies to a remote Mayan community. A recent earthquake and torrential rains have destroyed seedlings and crops the Mayans require for food. We will also revisit Zargossa Orphanage.

Thank you to Walgreen's in Seaside, CA for the donation of prenatal vitamins and to Bob Stender.

#### Haiti

William Dice, American Airlines Cargo Chief and Project Coordinator, arranged for the delivery of over 90 boxes of clothing, shoes, strollers and even two beds to Haiti, one of the poorest nations in the Western Hemisphere. The AAI team delivered their gifts to Eden Mission, Sister-Sister Orphanage for Girls, and Mother Theresa's Home for Babies. They were greeted by song and showered with hugs and kisses by the children and rewarded with angelic smiles from the babies as they bathed, fed and changed them. The whole group was moved by the incredible need and warmth of the Haitian people.

Thank you to Delta F/A Marline Oliver, AA F/A Annette Gardiner, Glenda Johnson, AA DFW Cargo and Terry Cottrerall-Lagana, AA LGA medical nurse and her niece 16year-old Mary Robertshaw who remained after the group left to work at Father Damien's Hospital for Acutely Ill Children.

### **Honduras**

Twelve Airline Ambassadors hand delivered medical supplies, blankets, clothing, and gifts to San Pedro Sula, Honduras at the end of March. They found many survivors of Hurricane Mitch still living in cardboard boxes inside an old gym or in tents outside. They were so inspired by their tour of houses recently built by Ken Key and Missions Unlimited that they helped build a house for a Honduran family, as part of a Habitat for Humanity Global Village Work Camp. Reporters from FOX TV

News broadcast a report of AAI's mission helping those still in need in the aftermath of the hurricane.

They delivered medical supplies to a local hospital, and visited the children at the orphanage and HIV home where they had hosted holiday parties. The children greeted their Airline Amabassador friends with open arms. Rebecca Williams conducted a seminar on dental hygiene for a fascinated audience. Airline Ambassador M.J. Manocchio, who was making her third visit to the HIV house since . November, said "it is probably the most rewarding thing I have ever done; when I am here I experience unconditional love."



M.J. Manocchio, Bob Ouellette, Ken Key and John Mosley with orphans in Honduras.

Irene Logan returned to Honduras in June to bring lifesaving medicine to her friend Glenda. She had met the 27year-old, who has an inoperable brain tumor, last year. Irene's faithful efforts to find medical treatment have given Glenda back her hope.

Thanks to the FOX News team Oristina Gonzalez and Patti Ballaz, Carla Galindo, AA F/A's Leeanne Hansen, and Nancy Rivard, Hannah Shmid, Rebecca Williams, NW F/A Anne Demarais, and UA pilots John Mosley, and Bob Ouellette. Thank you to American Airlines for the donation of 80 First Class blankets for this mission.

### Jamaica

Sharrye Moore continued our work in Jamaica with Ziggy Marley's group "URGE" arranging for the donation and delivery of 53 boxes of clothes and medical supplies to Bustamonte Hospital. She is working closely with the Jamaican Ministry of Health, planning the Airline Ambassadors medical and youth mission in August.

### Macedonia

The AAI team in Skopje, Macedonia delivered thousands of pounds of aid including medical supplies, clothing, art, school and sports equipment to refugees from Kosovo. Nancy Rivard and Irene Logan, of American and Anne

Demarais of Northwest coordinated an art and letter writing program for 100 children in Cegrane and Neprosteno Refugee Camps. The young people's pictures and letters gave them a way to share their experience and begin to heal emotionally.

Patch Adams coordinated a group of "clown doctors" that were the hit of the refugee camp! The troubadours were received with delight by thousands of children a welcome respite of fun and laughter. Airline Ambassadors now want



Dr. Patch Adams and Mark Steiman clowning for Kosovo Refugees

to include clowning on many of their missions.

Thank you to Dan Rice, Vice President of B. Braun Medical, who authorized a \$300,000 donation of medical supplies to assist the

refugees and joined the mission, and also to Beach Clown, Patch Adams' assistant, who coordinated the donation of all medical supplies necessary to open the Center for Protection of Women and Children in Tetova.

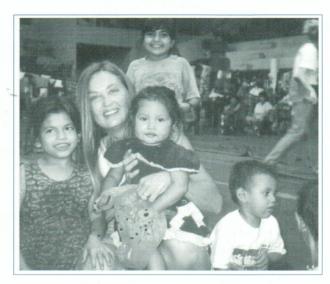
Thank you to Melanie Grimes, John Melnychuk, Jackie Miller, Andy Michaels, Rama Vernon, Richard Madiera and the "clown doctors" from Italy, Austria, and the USA. Also thanks to Missions Unlimited and American Airlines for shipping a pallet of "Kosovo Love Buckets" for the refugees.

#### **Mexico**

Rae England coordinated this rewarding mission to "House of Hope," an orphanage for over 50 abandoned children in Anahuac, Mexico. These orphans assisted AAI to help the poorest of the poor in their own community. They packed \$1,000 worth of rice, beans, and potatoes and helped the team deliver packages house to house. These children experienced the special joy of helping others.

Those receiving the food expressed gratitude, and although virtually penniless, lived in great dignity. "We were shamed by all we have and the great need of our neighbor (Mexico) so close to us" said Rae. She later arranged a 40 foot container of food, clothing, shoes and supplies to be sent to the orphanage through her own non-profit Love in Action.

Janet DeShon and Nancy Petta also brought toys and candy for the delighted children on this very rewarding mission. Nancy arranged for one of the children she met, six-year old Karen Cruz, to travel to Dallas for heart surgery in June.



Nancy Petta with new friends

#### **Nicaragua**

In April FOX TV News also covered the Airline Ambassadors mission to Nicaragua. The team traveled in an open-air cattle truck on a 12 hour journey to San Jose de Bocay, a remote location receiving almost no other aid. People there still suffer the aftermath of Nicaragua's long civil war. The government has no money to provide schooling for all children and the clinic is without sheets or even basic medications.

AAI member Janet Weininger had been able to deliver a whole planeload of donations to this community last \*December (thanks to Delta Airlines). She arranged for the team to deliver medical supplies to the clinic, clothing to the villagers and hundreds of Beanie Babies to school children. They obtained letters for hand-delivery back to school children in Greenwich, CT, delivered blankets by horseback to people not accessible by road and fell in love with the simplicity and openness of the Nicaraguan people. Hannah Schmid remained a few extra days helping women and children, and returned home to mobilize a large donation of hospital equipment to help clinics in the remote areas.

Thanks to Janet and Oristina Weininger, Jackie Bryan, and Leeanne Hansen, Nancy Rivard, Northwest Airlines F/A Anne Demarais, and to American Airlines for donation of 80 blankets for this mission.

### Nepal

Thirty Airline Ambassadors participated in two missions to Nepal in April and June. Joyce Amrien led the first group on an unforgettable trek into the Himalayas delivering thousands of dollars worth of medical supplies and aid to orphanages, clinics and schools, and they even saved a young girl's life.

# Children's Escort Program

The rewards of escorting a child in need are irrefutable. Airline Ambassadors works with adoption agencies and non-profits to provide volunteers to escort orphans to a new home, or children in need of medical care not available in their home country. During the last four months Airline Ambassadors has provided critical escorts to over 70 children.

A special thank you to Margaret Whitehead, who has been coordinating the Children's Escort Program for over three years, as a full-time volunteer. Her tireless efforts are deeply appreciated by all. Volunteers are needed immediately to help Margaret. Please call (650) 685-6262 for more information.

# **Escorting Children** in Need



Amy Kahle escorts Shani to her new family

Amy Kahle's eyes welled up with tears of joy when she delivered baby Shani, an orphan from Atlanta, Georgia, into the arms of her new mother and father in Seattle. "She was such an angel; escorting her was my great privilege" said Amy.

Nubia, a toddler from El Salvador endured a fire that left her feet so



Gloria Reid and Nubia, age 7.

scarred and disfigured she had never been able to wear shoes. The non-profit, Children's Cross Connection arranged for her surgery by doctors in Atlanta and she can now walk as a normal seven-year old. Gloria Reid, National Coordinator for AAI, escorted Nubia back to her grateful family. "I thought I was part of a miracle," she said, "Nubia was brought here in a wheelchair and she returned to El Salvador walking and skipping."

Many escorts also go far above the call of duty. Margaret Strohl's husband drove her four hours to get Delvys on his flight. Paula Ladishaw rented a car and drove from Detroit to Grand Rapids so young Mayerick could get home as planned. Masako Fetts agreed to a quick turn-around escort but when it took three days, she didn't falter in an effort to get Jessica to the life saving surgery she needed. Kevin



Kevin Smith on a recent escort

Smith picked Grace up from her hut in the wilds of Kenya to escort her for heart surgery in Michigan. Little did he know that due to cancellations and full flights, it would take him five days to get home.

Fernando Garcia, an American Airlines agent from Honduras said it best. "Sometimes things go smoothly, but we just can't count on that. It's good to remember one bad day for us may mean a lifetime to them. What is guaranteed is the great feeling we have when we get a child to his or her destination."

# A New Twist on Escorting

Lee Hamer jumped in with both feet for her first escort of four orphans all the way to Ethiopia in May. She also identified a new and related program for Airline Ambassadors.

Every month, Holt Adoption Agency arranges for the adoption of many Korean orphans by families in the United States. Professional escorts from Korea bring the babies into San Francisco, Detroit, and Seattle and then to other cities where their new families await them. Volunteers are needed to meet these flights daily and hold, play with and nurture the babies before the final leg of their trip to a new home. Call Lee Hamer for more details at 650-594-9202.



Robert & Lee Hamer with Korean babies

# Youth Programs

Airline Ambassadors youth programs have expanded rapidly over-the last quarter, providing educational opportunities for young people to learn about and appreciate other cultures, make a positive difference in the global community and grow in self esteem. AAI Youth Advisors led an adult-supervised mission to Brazil, and joined those to Haiti, Jamaica and Nicaragua. Schools throughout the country assisted in gathering donations for our missions.

"Our goal is to connect youth with youth to educate them about diversity and social responsibility, and to establish relationships, sponsorships and assistance for children whose lives have been challenged by abandonment or neglect."

Collen Morey, Director of Education and Youth Outreach

### **Sponsorship Program**

This program establishes relationships between children in the United States and children in orphanages abroad. Airline Ambassadors interview children at orphanages they are visiting. They complete a "Profile Form" for each child, consisting of the child's name, age, interests, and other information and include a photograph, letter, and/or a picture for hand delivery back to the United States.

These Profile Forms are matched with youth or individuals in the U.S. who have indicated a desire to participate. Sponsors will write return letters and may gather donations for delivery on Ambassador return missions. For information, call Colleen Morey at 203-259-6266.

### **Refugee Youth Share Art and Letters**

Airline Ambassadors brought muslin squares, paints and crayons to children in Macedonian refugee camps. They asked the children to express their visions of a peaceful future as part of a "Children's Peace Quilt". This project was started in Bosnia and has been displayed at international conferences throughout the world. The children seemed



Typical picture from refugee youth

anxious to participate, but their pictures reflected the horrors of the war. Expressing their experiences did however help begin the healing process. Airline Ambassadors also coordinated a letter writing program to connect the young refugees to their counterparts in the United States. The children received a Polaroid picture, and another was attached to the letter they were sending to the U.S. Students from the International School and the Lutheran School of San Mateo wrote return letters and sent pictures in June. Here are two examples:

Dear New Friend,

My name is Hekuron. I am 16yrs old and was attending school in Pristina before the war. It was Saturday when paramilitary police entered our house and gave us 5 minutes to leave. We lined up outside and they began shooting at us. My family and I escaped to the forest and walked 30 hours to the border - we had no food. Now we stay at Neprosteno refugee camp. We were lucky as many others were murdered by the Serbs. I cannot believe the things I have seen. Enough bad stuff. My interests are playing Nintendo and video games and I also like soccer and basketball. How about you? What is it like in the US?

Bye for now,

Hekuron

Dear Hekuron,

My name is Anita. Im 1 lyrs old and I am very happy to write you. I'm so sorry about what happened to you. You must have been very frightened. Our class is really trying to help. We made Web pages and a CD ROM. We sold them and gave the money to the Red Gross and they will bring you toys, food and clothes. My hobbies are soccer, ballet, karate and listening to music. I also have Nintendo. I don't play it very often but my brother does. What kind of music do you like? I like the Backstreet Boys.

Love, Anita

PS I hope you will write back

### Airline Ambassadors Host United Nations Panel Meet with Secretary General's Wife

Airline Ambassadors hosted a Panel on Sustainable Tourism at the United Nations Headquarters in April. Nancy Rivard, AAI President, introduced Chris Clouser, VP Northwest Airlines, Dr. Noel Brown, former Director of the UN Environment Programme, Dr Rashmi Mayur, President of the Int'l Inst. for a Sustainable Future, Lou, D'Amore, President of the Int'l Inst. Of Peace through Tourism, and Scott Wayne representing the World Travel and Tourism Council.



Airline Ambassadors at United Nations with Mrs. Kofi Annan

Northwest Airlines AirCares in-flight video was featured as one of the most innovative programs in the airline industry. Each quarter the airline chooses a non-profit partner to support with an in-flight video that builds awareness, mileage and funding for the organization.

Twenty-six Airline Ambassadors representing four different airlines attended and were interviewed for their

Airline Ambassadors International is a non-profit organization affiliated with the United Nations. It is made up of over 1500 airline employees and others who volunteer as "Ambassadors of Goodwill" in their home communitie 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.

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thoughts on tourism, volunteerism and "traveling to make a difference." The Secretary General's wife, Mrs. Kofi Annan, met privately with the group and listened to heartwarming stories of Airline Ambassadors humanitarian efforts to help children in need around the world.

Thank you to Sharrye Moore who coordinated the event and to Oristina Andersen, Edith Bramerie, Maria Chalk, William Dise, Betty and Tim Dougherty, Paula Freeman, Erin Isebrands, Sharilyn Jensen, David Kahn, Gail Lima, Monika Lunser, MJ Mannocchio, John and Ariel Mosley, Bob Oullette, Cathy Orten, Joel Petersen, Gloria Reid, Nancy Rivard, Kathy Savage and Connie Sheehan.

#### You Already Know What To Do

Airline Ambassador Sharon Franquemont's new book, *You Already Know What to Do* was just released by Tarcher Putnam and she has just completed a successful book tour around the United States. This book is helps you unfold your intuition and features a chapter called *Discover Purpose* that contains the story of the founding of Airline Ambassadors. A must read!

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