

Airline Ambassadors

Helping Children in Need
At Home and Abroad



Airline Ambassadors, Kiwanis and the American Medical Association

Summer 2001

Unite to Help the Children of the World

Our gratitude is extended to the Kiwanis Clubs of El Salvador who have hosted over 100 Airline Ambassador volunteers. These volunteers have been returning to the country to provide thousands of orphans with humanitarian and medical aid. They have assisted with disaster relief efforts after the earthquake that left over 500,000 people homeless.

American Airlines donated a 757 airplane which volunteers filled with donations. These items were hand-delivered to nine different orphanages in early January. Hours after leaving El Salvador, the major earthquake struck. Since then, AAI volunteers have been returning regularly to provide relief supplies, medical support, and housing materials.

President of Kiwanis International, Bo Shafer, a medical team, and a National Geographic crew joined the AAI mission in mid-February. The second major quake hit just after the group's arrival.

AAI doctors rushed to the disaster scene, and team members distributed water, blankets and food. The medical team worked at Cafetelon Refugee Camp, treating over 1,000 patients in one day, identifying 30 patients needing surgery and returned in March to perform them. (Thanks Dr. Tolle and Dr. Arnold.)

Bo Shafer dedicated a new Kiwanis-Airline Ambassador clinic in the indigenous village of Santo Tomas. AAI President, Nancy Rivard, Miami AAI member, Freddy Gomez, and Earl Calleson, of the Wheelchair Foundation, also launched a weekly TV show in San Salvador, where wheelchairs are presented weekly to those in need.

Many thanks to Cameron Gray, the President of Orphans for the World, who has worked for many years for the poor in El Salvador and leads monthly AAI missions there. He is now coordinating a shelter for the homeless, providing warmth, rehabilitation and guidance through his remarkable support of "Christ in the Streets". This program is spearheaded by local young people, who cook a warm meal and deliver it on Friday nights to more than 300 people who sleep in the streets. Thank you also to Danny Robles who has mobilized donations from American Airlines employees and has returned to San Salvador, personally bringing those donations to families and children in need.



Actress, Loretta Swit, joined an AAI mission in April and has agreed to be our international spokesperson. She will help promote the concept of "Vacationing to do Good" and is helping coordinate a jewelry line and catalogue for Airline Ambassadors. Thank you Loretta - you are our angel!



Bo Shafer with AAI in Cafetelon Refugee Camp



Danny Robles Delivering Aid

27 missions to 16 countries

Children's Escorts

Youth & Special Events

Upcoming Missions



Nancy Rivard, President

Airline Ambassadors

Dear Treasured Members,

Airline Ambassadors is experiencing unprecedented growth. We have evolved from a small group of dedicated friends to an organization of 3000 members helping thousands of children in need reflecting countless voluntary hours and resources selflessly given by all of you.

Along with our successes and our burgeoning growth now come new responsibilities. How can we keep the quality of our missions and continue to produce the quantity of volunteer opportunities demanded by our new members? How can we enlist new resources and international logistics enabling us to serve humanity in a consistent and valuable manner?

We can no longer share “buddy passes” with non-airline members because of growing problems of demand and problems with low priority stand-by for these tickets. However, we will redouble our efforts to encourage airlines to give low cost “humanitarian fares” and create mileage banks that could collect miles for our charitable efforts. We are, for the first time hiring a full time staff member to offer our members the support they need. Our goal is to raise \$20,000 by July 1st for this position. *Please see form on Pg. 6.*

We have managed to keep pace with the demands and responsibilities of a growing new membership by nurturing the incredible talent among us and by partnering with others. We have worked with American, Northwest and United Airlines, the AMA, Kiwanis International, Church of the Latter Day Saints Charities, the U.N. High Commission on Refugees and the Wheelchair Foundation and more. These partners have assisted our efforts to match world resource to actual world need, and as we grow, will be indispensable to our success.

The need for humanitarian aid organizations is growing as the dichotomy between the “have’s” and “have not’s” increases. There are now over 6 billion people on the planet – over half of whom earn under \$500 per year. This is creating the need for more humanitarian organizations and more caring individuals to get involved – helping those less fortunate than themselves. The welfare or even life of another individual may depend on your willingness to share, to give of your time and energy.

None of us can individually solve the complex global problems we face, but each of us can help at least one person. We can bring a jacket to an orphan that is cold, we can give a blanket to homeless person, deliver medical supplies to a clinic, or volunteer our skills, whether we be a doctor, builder, flight attendant or a mother. Our effort may prove to be life-saving for another human being. At the same time, we will experience individually, that giving is more joyous than receiving. We will begin to shine with an inner light that will affect those around us and inspire them also to bring compassion into action.

Every major world movement has begun with the personal decision of a solitary individual. Will I use my energy and time to serve another, or will I not? Your support of Airline Ambassadors reflects your individual choice to serve. You are part of a movement that can spark a tidal wave of goodwill unleashing creative potential unlike anything the world has seen. May your lives reflect the blessings you are bringing to others

In Shared Dedication,

Nancy Rivard
Nancy Rivard

BOARD OF ADVISORS

Dr. Patch Adams
Founder and President
Gesundheit! Institute

H. E. Inocencio Arias
Ambassador of Spain

Dr. Noel Brown
Former Director
U.N. Environment Program

Maria Isabel de Noboa
First Lady of Ecuador

Lou D'Amore
President, Int'l Institute
for Peace Through Tourism

Garry Flake
President, LDS Charities

Francesco Frangialli
Secretary General
World Tourism Organization

Millard Fuller
President and Founder
Habitat for Humanity

Fred Gerhard
Executive Director, Wheelchairs for the
World Foundation

Kumar Ketkar
Editor
Maharashtra Times

Annette Lantos
Director, Congressional
Human Rights Caucus

Representative Tom Lantos
U.S. Congressman

Geoffrey Lipman
President
World Travel and Tourism

Dr. Rashmi Mayur
President, Int'l Institute
for Sustainable Development

Bob McGregor
Past President, Minnesota
Center for Corporate Responsibility

Dr. Robert Muller
Under Secretary General
United Nations (Ret.)

Dr. Wally N'Dow
Secretary General
United Nations Habitat II

Dr. Elisabet Sahtouris
Author, Biologist

Hiroo Saionji
President
World Peace Prayer Society

Humanitarian Aid Missions

AAI's humanitarian aid missions provide substantive aid to children in need. We coordinate 2 to 10 missions each month that supply medical and dental care, first aid, baby and school supplies, clothing, sports equipment and toys. These trips offer our members a way to travel and make a difference. Please join us on a "Journey of the Heart".

Building Bridges to Bolivia



Airline Ambassadors traveled to La Paz, Bolivia, in late March with clothing, toys, and school and medical supplies. Linda Gansler and Jeni Guzman led the volunteers in visits to hospitals and orphanages, where they delivered supplies and painted cartoons on orphanage walls. The group also visited Viacha, a town that lost everything due to flooding. Three vans loaded with donations were distributed to very grateful families now living in tents. Before heading home, the Ambassadors appeared on a local TV show featuring their humanitarian efforts.

Blessings to Brazil

An Airline Ambassador team traveled to Rio de Janeiro in March of this year to assist facilities of the Brazilian, Christian-based organization, the Legion of Goodwill. 158 boxes of humanitarian aid were shipped including 100 boxes of toys, reading glasses, school supplies, and blankets from the International Toy Bank. Although hold-ups at customs were disappointing to the volunteers, we are happy to report that ultimately the donations were released from customs and given to the Legion for delivery. Volunteers had a rewarding experience giving a warm meal to those in the flavelas (slums) outside the city.

To the Former Yugoslavia, With Love

AAI volunteers returned again to the former Yugoslavia. They delivered supplies and played with children at a hospital near Zagreb and assisted a group of mentally handicapped children. Each child received a "Magi Gift," which had been prepared by churches, schools, Girl Scout groups, and individuals in a cooperative effort by Manna Int'l and Love into Action Int'l. Toys, diapers, and other items were also distributed. A school in Bihac, repaired as a result of the AAI trip in 1998, received school supplies and toys.

Mission Coordinator Rae England traveled to Kosovo, visiting an institution for the mentally handicapped and preparing a shipment of containers for later this year. Fred Gerhard of the Wheelchair Foundation led another team of volunteers to Sarjevo. The group met the head of logistics for NATO and helped document the delivery of wheelchairs to many needy victims of the recent war.

Donations to the Dominican Republic

AAI members coordinated two missions bringing medical aid, school kits, shoes, toiletries, dried milk, food, clothing, and beanie babies to hundreds of children in orphanages. Thank you to Sharrye Moore for identifying clinics in need and for bringing Felipe Luciano, New York radio and TV personality, to experience an AAI mission first-hand. Glenda Johnson, medical coordinator, befriended a 30-year



old disabled man, whose only mode of transportation was sitting on a small skateboard. Through a series of remarkable coincidences, they met again, and this time, Glenda gave him a wheelchair, changing his life and hers.

AMA in Ecuador

The President of the American Medical Association (AMA), Dr. Randy Smoak, joined a February medical mission to Quito. The group delivered 100 wheelchairs to the First Lady, Ms. Isabela de Noboa, thanks to partner organizations, Wheelchair Foundation and American Airlines. They coordinated a medical and eye clinic at ABEI Infantil, treating over 100 patients. An AAI nurse, Kathy Smith, was also able to deliver 30,000 doses of flu vaccine. \$2000 was donated to ABEI Infantil for needed medical equipment, thanks to the creation of an AAchievers Bank, set up by Gladys Levy (see page 6).

Delivering Diana's Arms



Maurice LeBlanc and Diana

The most touching part of the trip in February to Quito was the delivery of prosthetic arms and hands to Diana. On the last mission, the team learned that while cooking, the 8-yr. old had been electrocuted. Due to an infection, her forearms were amputated. She looked at AAI volunteer, Maria Harrison, and said with a trusting spirit, "Please bring me my arms." "I will do everything I can," said Maria, not knowing how she would be able to accomplish this difficult task. Due to the cooperation of the World Rehabilitation Fund and Hosmer Medical Supply, the renowned prosthetic expert, Maurice LeBlanc, joined the team, delivering her arms, hooks, and hands for little Diana. Her family's tearful thanks warmed the hearts of all.

Thank you to Ancient Forests, Intl. and AAI volunteers who traveled on an ecotour/humanitarian mission to the Amazon in Ecuador. The team helped the indigenous people while learning the importance of preserving the forest.

Giving in Guatemala

Thank you, Barbara Brown, for coordinating this trip to help the C'eqchi people of Rio Dulce. They visited Ak 'Tenamit, a grass roots community project focused on health education and income generation for local people. They journeyed down the river to work at a local health clinic, where health kits and dental care supplies were brought and techniques for use were demonstrated. They also distributed school kits at a local school. The next day, the team built stoves for the local residents.

Myrna Freeman led the next mission to deliver rainboots and supplies to assist the children at Vamos Adelante, enabling hundreds of children to walk to school and continue their education during the rainy season.

Helping in Haiti

This medical mission to remote Juampas treated 1200 patients! Ground was broken to begin building the first medical/dental clinic in the area as a direct result of the efforts of Glenda Johnson and Marlene and John Olivier. The entire community participated, children carried stones to the site, women carried water on their heads, as men dug trenches. Many thanks to Bill Timm and Mt. Carroll Church group who helped raise \$8,000 for the effort. The local school received clothes, shoes and school supplies as well.

Mother Teresa's in India

Airline Ambassador, Rosalie Giffoniello, spent several months in Calcutta, transforming Daya Dan Orphanage from a custodial care facility into a learning environment. When she requested a physical therapist to help, Jodi Williamson-Horsman and a team of 7 volunteers, set out for India. The team provided physical therapy assessments, taught children how to sit, stand and operate a walker or wheelchair. They delivered medical supplies, children's clothes, toys and 10 wheelchairs, provided by the Wheelchair Foundation. The AAI team gave love, compassion and the gift of mobility to these orphans who were able to now go to the zoo for the first time. Sister Nirmula was so grateful, she referred to the volunteers as the "Wheelchair Queens of Calcutta." AAI was able to arrange the delivery of 42 more wheelchairs following their visit and hopes to send regular AAI teams to Calcutta in the future.



Jodi Giving the Gift of Mobility

*May all things move and be moved in me
and know and be known in me*

*May all creation
dance for joy within me*

~Chinook Psalter

Mission to the Middle East

Airline Ambassadors joined Fred Gerhard of the Wheelchair Foundation in distributing 1,000 wheelchairs to both Israeli hospitals and Palestinian refugee camps along the Gaza Strip. AAI volunteers also took 475 beanie babies to give to children on this remarkable effort helping both sides of the Middle East conflict.

Support for Mexico

Despite a little rain, the mission to San Quintin was a huge success! Airline Ambassadors' mission coordinator, Sheran James, and AAI volunteers hand-delivered 4500 toys, 2200 blankets, 1700 sweaters, 20 wheelchairs, 10 bicycles, medical and schools supplies for the children and families of the San Quintin community. The volunteers visited a village where 35 families live in cardboard houses, and brought them food and blankets also. Thank you to the Homeowner Association of La Mision, who arranged for the transportation and lodging of all the AAI volunteers. Another team returned shortly after the first group left, bringing more supplies and love to the people of San Quintin.



Gary Delivering Shoes

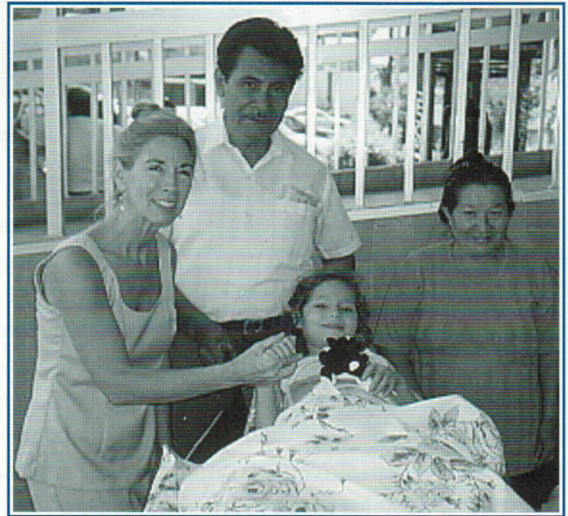
The next project will be to collect donations for a used van for the orphanage to transport the children to school. Thank you to Kevin Christ, who began a blue jean fundraiser to help (See page 6). Activities on this mission will include painting and repairs at the orphanage.

Trekking in Nepal

Airline Ambassadors traveled to Nepal to participate in a dramatic 8-day trek to the Langtang Region delivering medical supplies to 6 remote village clinics against a spectacular backdrop of the majestic Himalayas. Prior to the trip, the team, led by Erica Reed, delivered school supplies, children's over-the-counter medicine, multi-vitamins, and first aid items to the Tibetan Refugee Center in Patan, as well as three orphanages in Katmandu: Child Haven, The Nepal Children Welfare Service Center and Sarki Lama's Children Children. An AAI team, led by Glenda Johnson, offered a free health clinic to help 1500 people who could not afford hospital or doctor visits. Nepal's Minister of Health and the Mayor of Katmandu honored the Airline Ambassadors for their efforts.

Joel Hodge, of the Wheelchair Foundation, coordinated the delivery of 1000 wheelchairs to those in need in Katmandu. Members interviewed and documented each person receiving a wheelchair. The gratitude of the Nepalese people was overwhelming.

Philanthropy in Peru



Gail Giving a Beanie Baby

Gail Lima and Peg Meyer led this special mission to Lima, Peru to hand-deliver aid to a local girl's school and hospital. AAI members, along with Motorola Corporation volunteers, arrived at the school to lines of girls clapping and dancing. Toys and school supplies were distributed to all. The hospital, which they visited, was deeply grateful for the needed supplies. Some members continued the trip to plan for future missions to Cusco and Iquitos.

Relief for Romania

Cathie Braun joined Fr. Bill Haymaker on a research mission to Oradea, Romania, hours outside of Bucurest. Fr. Bill owns an orphanage in the city, and Cathie brought baby supplies, humanitarian aid and love for these abandoned children. Many poor families and children live on these streets, existing in extreme cold and suffering.

Hope in the Sahrawi Refugee Camps

Dr. Patch Adams, "clown doctors" and AAI volunteers joined a dramatic mission to help refugees in the Sahrawi Camps in Northern Africa. Each volunteer brought donations of first aid, school and hygiene supplies, as well as clothing. The team spent a week living in tents with the refugees, who depend fully on aid as they await the return to their homeland.



Janet Kumbier and Rebecca Kipfel

Compassion into Action

Airline Ambassadors International (AAI) wishes to honor a few individuals for their outstanding dedication and initiative in helping others.

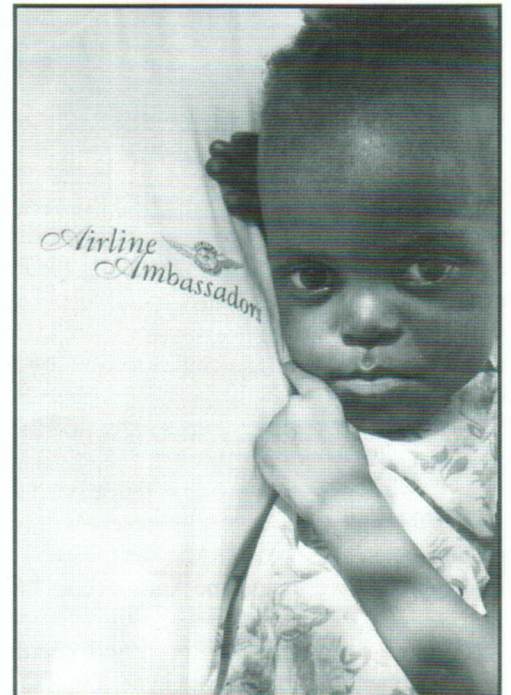
Gladys Levy, AAI Canadian Regional Director

Gladys Levy is well known among her peers for her humanitarian efforts in Mexico. When on the AAI mission in Ecuador last November, she listened carefully to the need for funding at ABEI Infantil, a family medical clinic, and resolved to help. She spearheaded efforts to establish a special AAchievers Bank to raise money for this, and other projects. Within American Airlines (AA) 100,000 employees regularly receive *Someone Special* cards from passengers for outstanding performance. These can be submitted for gift certificates or money. Her efforts created a way for AA employees to donate these awards, and in April, ABEI Infantil was awarded a \$2,000 check from Airline Ambassadors. If you would like to donate AAchiever Points, mail Lois Bridges c/o AAcheiver's P.O. Box 619616, MD 5249, HDQ DFW Airport, TX 76155; or if you have any questions, please contact Gladys at gladlevy@aol.com. Thank you American Airlines' employees and thank you, Gladys!



Kevin Christ Launches Blue Jeans for a Cause!

Kevin became active in Airline Ambassadors both through local work on the Dallas/Ft. Worth (DFW) project, the Jeffries Street Learning Center. Soon, he traveled to San Quintin, Mexico. There, he saw first-hand the difference which can be made by actively helping others. He was touched by the children in an orphanage there, and when he returned home, was motivated to find a way to help. Working in the financial department in American Airlines, he had participated in the March of Dimes, Blue Jeans for a Cause, and similarly, thought it would be a great way to raise money for those children. This campaign gives employees in Kevin's department the opportunity to wear jeans and tennis shoes to work by donating \$5.00. He is working toward buying a used van to allow for transportation. Thank you to Kevin for this creative way of raising awareness and bringing Compassion into Action!



A Tribute to Barbara Benner

We wish to extend our sincere condolences to the family and friends of AAI member, Barb Benner, who passed away in April. AAI's postcard, "Giving Wings to Love," features a photograph taken by Barb last June at Mother Teresa's Home in Haiti. Barb's spirit will live on in our hearts and through her touching photography.

*We may wonder whom can I love and serve?
The answer is simple. That naked one. That
lonely one. That unwanted one is my brother and
my sister. If we have no peace, it is because we
have forgotten that we belong to each other.*

~Mother Teresa

Giving Wings to Love

Children's Escort Program

Airline Ambassadors' Escorts bring children to the U.S. for adoption or for medical procedures that cannot be performed in the child's home country. This is the story of one of our escorts, Darlene Rau, and her experience.

"Bringing the ten-month old baby from India to the U.S. was a very beautiful and worthwhile experience. She was the most precious child. Holding her for 38 hours was incredible. It was so easy to become attached to her. We played Patty Cake together, and by the time we arrived in Portland, she was doing it all on her own. My heart was overflowing. I will never forget Konchona. I have continued to stay in touch with her and her new family. They are so delighted to have her with them. My daughter and I plan to visit the family and Konchona this summer. Now my daughter want to adopt a baby from India. I, too, am waiting for that day. This is one of the most wonderful times of my life--to bring that baby to her new home."



Darlene Holding Konchona

Upcoming Missions

Lebanon

June 18-25

Join the Wheelchair Foundation to assist in the delivery of wheelchairs, by giving the gift of mobility. Contact Fred Gerhard at fgerhard@wheelchairfoundation.org.

Colombia

June 27-30

Join AAI volunteers on a return mission to Hogar Luz y Vida orphanage in Bogota, helping physically disabled children and bringing basic medical care. Contact Colleen at cemorey@aol.com.

El Salvador

June 27-30

Join an AAI volunteer team in helping children in and surrounding San Salvador, also participate with the Christ in the Streets program. Contact Elaine Osborn at IEOsborn@aol.com.

El Salvador

July

Join monthly AAI team helping victims of earthquake disaster and help feed the homeless in San Salvador with Christ in the Streets. Contact Cameron at ow1@ix.netcom.com.

Guatemala

July 30 - August 7

AAI volunteers will travel to Rio Dulce, Guatemala, to build stoves, deliver basic health care supplies to a clinic and help establish a water system. Contact Lesvia Thompson at quemeth@dellepro.com.

Colombia

August

Join AAI volunteers traveling to Hogar Luz y Vida orphanage in Bogota, helping physically disabled children. Contact Colleen at cemorey@aol.com.

Mexico

August

Join an AAI team to assist children in an orphanage in Puerto Vallarta. Contact Gladys Levy at gladlevy@aol.com.

India

August

Help the people affected by the earthquake on this medical mission, bringing supplies and giving care. Contact Glenda at zefie@flash.net or Shaakira at shaakira22@hotmail.com.

Philippines

September 11 - 17

Join AAI volunteers to return to Shepard of the Hills Orphanage and visit children in need. Bring humanitarian aid, vitamins and spend time with children. Contact Robert Blake at Robert.blake@nwa.com.

United Nations, NY

September 10 -12 / 19 -21

Join AAI at the annual DPI / NGO Conference and the World Summit of Children. Contact Sharrye Moore at sharrye@earthlink.net

Washington, DC

September 22-23

Join Native American Elders and leaders from all faiths to pray for our earth and her peoples in a circle of tipis near the Washington Monument. Contact Faith Probst at oneprayer4@aol.com.

Sahrawi Refugee Camp

October

Join a return dental mission to the Refugee Camps helping the Sahrawi. A dental team is needed to work in the refugee camp. Please contact Carlos Wilson at csahwari@aol.com.

Calcutta

June - November

AAI member, Rosalie Giofanello, will be working in Calcutta at Mother Teresa's orphanage helping handicapped children in need. She welcomes individuals or teams of volunteers. Email her at giofanello@hotmail.com.

Kosovo

June - November

AAI member, Andy Houglen will be working in Prestina for 6 months with handicapped programs. He welcomes individuals or teams of volunteers. Email him at andrewdh@earthlink.net.

Airline Ambassadors' representatives from Northwest Airlines are planning missions to the following locations early next year:

Seoul, Mexico and India. Please contact Janeen McAllister at jemcall@nwa.com for more information.

Dates and locations may change due to unforeseen circumstances. Visit our website for updates at www.airlineamb.org

NAME: _____ AIRLINE/COMPANY: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIPCODE: _____

PHONE: _____ FAX: _____ EMAIL: _____

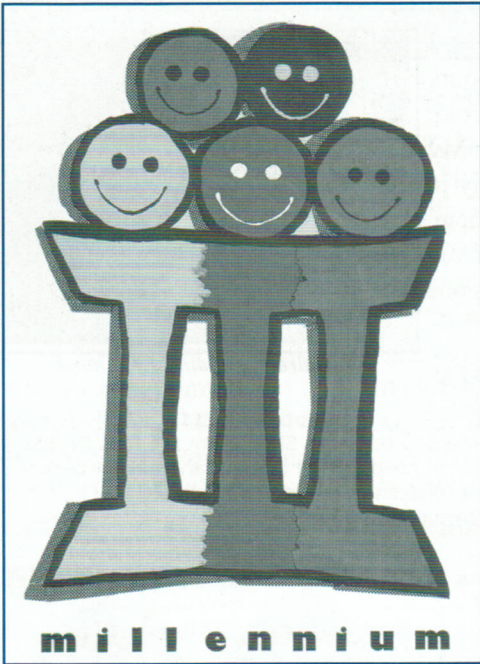
If you would like to donate to hire our first Office Manager, please make a note on your check for "AAI Office Manager"

Sign up on-line at www.airlineamb.org or Please make your tax-deductible donation payable to:

Airline Ambassadors, 19 South B St., Suite 1, San Mateo, CA 94401. Thank you!

_____ \$25 Volunteer _____ \$35 Basic _____ \$50 Supporter _____ \$100 Patron _____ \$500 Angel _____ Office Manager

**United Nations Headquarters -
AAI Launches International School
Competition on Volunteerism**



Airline Ambassadors International is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children in need. It is made up of more than 3,000 members--airline personnel and others--who volunteer as "Ambassadors of Goodwill" in their home communities and abroad. They hand-deliver humanitarian aid, escort children in need, assist at special events and involve youth in humanitarian projects. Through service and compassion they are raising awareness in their industry and around the world.

To join Airline Ambassadors or to learn more visit our website at www.airlineamb.org or call 650 -347-3500

Rosie Travels to Thailand



Local journalist and host, Felipe Luciano, joined Airline Ambassadors and Paz y Cooperacion at the United Nations Headquarters for a press conference on February 16, 2001. They launched the 2001 International School Competition, "**Together We Can Do It,**" designed to support the UN International Year of Volunteers and calls upon students and teachers of the world to get involved locally and globally. A poster describing the contest is available on our Airline Ambassador website, www.airlineamb.org.

Airline Ambassador volunteers traveled to Thailand and co-sponsored a youth ethics competition given by Dhammakaya Foundation. This month, AAI volunteers are returning to Thailand on a humanitarian aid research mission, to assist children in need. Rosie O'Donnell dolls continue to travel with us around the world, brightening the lives of children everywhere.

*May the love that is in my heart
pass from my hand to yours.*



Airline Ambassadors

19 South B Street, Suite 1
San Mateo, CA 94401

Nancy Rivard
510 Almer Rd. #6
Burlingame, CA 94010-3939

Presorted Standard
U.S. Postage
Paid
Burlingame, CA
Permit No. 417

