

# Airline Ambassadors



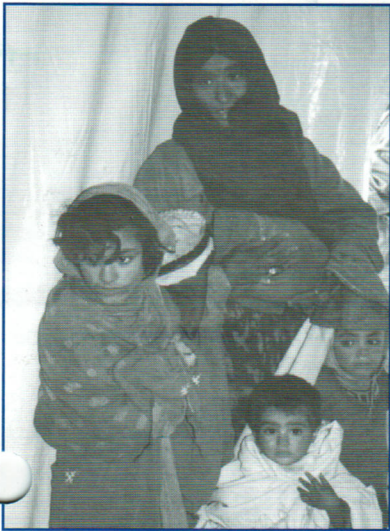
Bringing Compassion into Action  
At Home and Abroad  
Summer 2002

## Aid to Afghanistan

### Camp Lessons in Pakistan

Hand delivering aid. Creating good will.

(by Penny Rambacher)



None of the children had shoes in 20 degree temperatures

My father tried to discourage me. "It's not safe. They're all terrorists. Why do you have to go to Pakistan?" (After all, there were serious safety concerns, especially with a journalist being kidnapped there just 3 days prior to leaving). But Penny Rambacher and Maryanne Havryluck (AAI flight attendants) had already made up their minds. With a passion to help children in need, Penny, Maryanne, and AAI volunteers, set off on an educational journey to

the Middle East. With the help of the host NGO, Church World Services, this AAI team spent 9 days hand-delivering aid to 5,000 refugee children at Dara I Refugee Camp, (UNHCR). In addition, thousands of oranges were distributed to these children whose diet of beans, rice, sugar and oil lacks necessary vitamins.

When you "travel to make a difference," in fact, you make a difference for yourself, as



Dr. Patch Adams with orphans in Afghanistan

well as others. You get back more than you gave. Most often you gain in lessons learned or memories of the faces you just can't forget. After the camps, I'd lie in my warm, comfy bed and remember the refugees sleeping on the ground in a cold, dusty tent. As you wash your face with your pH balanced, facial cleanser, you remember the gaunt, dirt-caked faces of children shivering in torn, thin rags. They have no soap and their course skin is more like elephant hide than the soft peach flesh of youth. How could I ever complain again about inconveniences, about things I wanted, about anything, after seeing thousands living in a freezing desert, a place with not a shred of greenery, not a singing bird, not a laughing child. By the thousands they chose to live there to escape war, killing, and a lack of basic food and shelter.

Beyond the personal lessons of gratitude, I came back with a message for my fellow countrymen. The Afghan people are not all terrorist; they are the terrorized. Many more Afghans have died or been tortured by the hands of Taliban, than Americans. Jews or Europeans. We need to feel compassion and pity for these innocent children. We need to care, share and build peace and understanding. Guns and bombs do not end terrorism, they create more hatred. When we choose to help the poor we build bonds of friendship and sharing that will negate the breeding ground for hatred..., terrorism will end. Let us begin the task of building a world of sharing and goodwill for all people.



First toy for Afghan girl living at UNHCR refugee camp

## Patch Sends Relief to Afghanistan

Airline Ambassadors International Board member and clown doctor, Dr. Patch Adams, visited Kabul Pediatric Hospital in Afghanistan. He was horrified by the scene he witnessed in this war torn city hospital where malnourished children slept three in a bed. There was little medicine, supplies, or food. Upon his return to the US, he made a call for help...and magic happened. Individuals and organizations jumped in to help and within a month manifested 60,000 lbs of needed aid. Lanky the clown, traveled with the shipment, strapped to the jumpseat of a DHL freighter and saw it delivered to the hospital. Special thanks go to Airline Ambassadors, Catholic Medical Mission Board, DHL, Lufthansa Cargo, MAP Intl., Gesundheit!, Rotary International, and World Food Bank. AAI members returned to Kabul twice this summer to follow up on this shipment and expand our humanitarian efforts in Afghanistan.

# Mission Memories

Airline Ambassadors coordinates 3 – 10 missions per month for members to hand-deliver food, medical or school supplies, blankets, clothing, etc. to children in need in orphanages, clinics or remote villages. We have delivered over 9 million in aid in the last 5 years, substantively helping children, and, these experiences are life-changing for the volunteers. Everyone volunteering for an AAI mission or escort returns with memories. The memory could be a special moment, a connecting with a child, or an "ah, ha" learning experience. We would like to share a few memorable moments with you..." If you have a "Mission Memory" you would like to share, please contact Penny at [AirlineAngel@hotmail.com](mailto:AirlineAngel@hotmail.com)

## Cards for Kids, More Than Just a Card

(Peg Meyer)



Orphans in new soccer shirts receive "Cards for Kids" from Peg Meyer.

Whenever I go on a mission to an orphanage or school, I always like to take along cards made by American children. It is such a simple gift - a piece of construction paper with drawings, a few words, a name, and age, maybe some stickers. But, to the children exchanging them, it is a treasured gift, sometimes even more so than a school kit or toy. The card from a stranger opens doors to understanding about fellow child living miles away, from another culture, in a different world. The children exchanging cards learn a little about one another, how they are different, yet the same. Let me share with you two cards that stand out.

A child from St. Joseph's School in Long beach, CA gave us a card for a school in Lima, Peru. The drawing showed two boys shaking hands, one holding a U.S. flag,, and the other showing a Peruvian flag. His message one child reaching out to another.

A valentine card was handmade by Alan, a 12-year old boy who lives at the Guatemala garbage dump. The cover showed an unhappy heart

shaped face. The inside showed a smiling heart shaped face with tears running down. The card said in legible, broken Spanish, "I used to be unhappy living in the dump. Now I go to school, and I have tears of joy." Airline Ambassadors has supported this boy and others living at the garbage dump to attend school, by delivering school and art supplies, hygiene kits, and shoes. Alan, at 12years old, is in the 2nd grade with 7 year old classmates. This is his second year in school, thanks to support from Safe Passage and Airline Ambassadors. Though he attends school with children 5 years younger, his valentine indicates, he is happy at school, and he has learned to write!

If you would like to participate in "Cards for Kids", mail your cards to:

Peg Meyer, 4149 Woodland Ct.,  
Grapevine, TX 76051

## Questions from an Orphan

The orphans we visit on our missions have a curiosity about us, about where we come from, and about children in the United States. On AAI's last visit to Lima, Peru, volunteers visited an orphanage of 500 children. The children were amazingly well behaved, staying in their seats in the lunch cafeteria, as we paraded through with hand puppets and clown noses. They followed us with there eyes and tried to impress us with their knowledge of our homeland and English. They would say, "George Bush", "How are you?" and "Hello". Later, while passing out school kits, a small boy came to Peg Meyer and asked her a question that echoes in her mind, "Do all the children in the U.S. have a mom and dad?" Wow. Makes you want to bundle him up, take him with you, and find him a home with a mom and dad and 2-3 brothers and sisters, rather than an institution of 500 orphans.



Eric Woodson hand delivering toys to Lima orphan. Thank You Toys R Us

## Connecting with Miguel

(Peg Meyer, DFW)



Polaroids - a huge hit with Lima Orphanage

At a school for handicapped children in Lima, we were passing out Beanie Babies (donated by International Toy Bank) and taking Polaroid photos for the children to keep. Miguel, a 14-year old boy with

Cerebral Palsy, was sitting in his wheelchair, unable to hold his head up from the lack of muscle control of his disease. His arms and legs are spindly. cannot speak. But, somehow we connected in that one on one contact you hope for on a mission with 100s of children. Miguel had a blank look on his face, as I snapped his photo on the Polaroid camera. He was handed a Beanie Baby, yet still no reaction. And then the most amazing look of awe came over his face. He watched the small 3"x 3" square photo come to life, and at the same time, Miguel came to life. His face was transformed to speak what he could not say, "Wow! That's me". The sheer joy in his smile and eyes, it said it all, and I will never forget that moment.

## The Jumping Up Girl

Mariley Nasciemento

During the Shanghai, China mission, AAI volunteers had the opportunity to present 50 wheelchairs to disabled children and adults. The Chinese prefer to distribute wheelchairs in a ceremony with speeches, photographs, bows and handshakes. They told us not to be



Mariley Nasciemento and the "jumping up girl"

disappointed if the 50 recipients were already sitting in their chairs, and our part would be to participate in the ceremony to celebrate their gift of mobility. During speeches that seemed just forever, with the translations, I had time to look around at all the handicapped recipients sitting in their new wheelchairs and a chance to examine the expressions on the faces

around me. The girl who touched my heart was a mentally handicapped 15 year old girl, who would not stop smiling. She was so excited that as everyone very formally clapped with the speeches, she would jump up and cheer in a loud moan. Embarrassed by her outbursts, people looked away, and she would sit, and behave herself. It was obvious to me, she was so excited about her new wheelchair, that she needed to be hugged. So after our formal presentation and photographs, I started passing out hugs to the children, making my way to the jumping up girl. When her hug came, I thought she would fall because she leaped from her wheelchair and wrapped her arms around my neck. Oh how much love and excitement was connected to that hug. I won't forget that moment.

## Matt Barker Earns Eagle Scout

Behind the scenes of our Bolivia mission, there is a 16 year old boy, named Matt from Mefa, Arizona. Hearing about the devastating earthquakes in El Salvador, he wanted to help, and in return, earn his Eagle Scout badge. Matt began collecting relief supplies, which grew to 32 large boxes. When Escort Coordinator, Margaret Whitehead got word of Matt's effort, she used the Internet to locate anyone in AAI who may be able to help Matt deliver his boxes. She also suggested to Matt that she knew of a poor orphanage in Bolivia where no one was helping, and possibly he would consider being the one to help them. Since Ruth Ann Rodriguez was the closest AAI contact to Matt, the two were introduced, and you guessed it – Ruth Ann organized a mission to deliver Matt's aid to these very grateful children. After mountains of emails, arrangements, and tremendous perseverance, everything came together. AAI founder Nancy Rivard commented, "When your heart's in the right place, all will happen as it should."

## Boy in the Box

After distributing boxes and boxes of supplies to 3 village schools located on the side of Fuego Volcano in Guatemala, our group was asked, "How would you like to meet Carlota and her family? They are very poor, living in a dirt floor shack near the sugarcane farm." We were all exhausted, but how could we return to our comfortable hotel before delivering food to this family so that they would eat that night. And so we made the visit that changed me forever.



Deborah Williams with "Boy in the Box"

Carlota cares for her 3 grandchildren, one being Brian who was coined "the boy in the box". She kept him in an old sugarcane crate to serve as a crib and playpen. Their shack was rusted corrugated tin sheets and open windows and no doors allowing access to mosquitoes, vermin, and animals. They had no water for cooking or cleaning. The two older children walked miles to get a jug of water for drinking. Leaving food, toys, clothes, and hygiene items, we departed in our air conditioned SUV with smiling faces, waves, and cheers from the children. I lay in my comfy bed that night, grateful for the first time for clean, crisp sheets caressing my weary body. We had to do something. I could no longer bask in the bliss of ignorance after witnessing severe poverty in person

**Addendum:** A donation of \$200 was given to Vamos Adelante, to build Carlota a new house with a cement floor. The house was complete 3 weeks after our visit. Sharon will lead a mission to Guatemala this November because she wants others to know.

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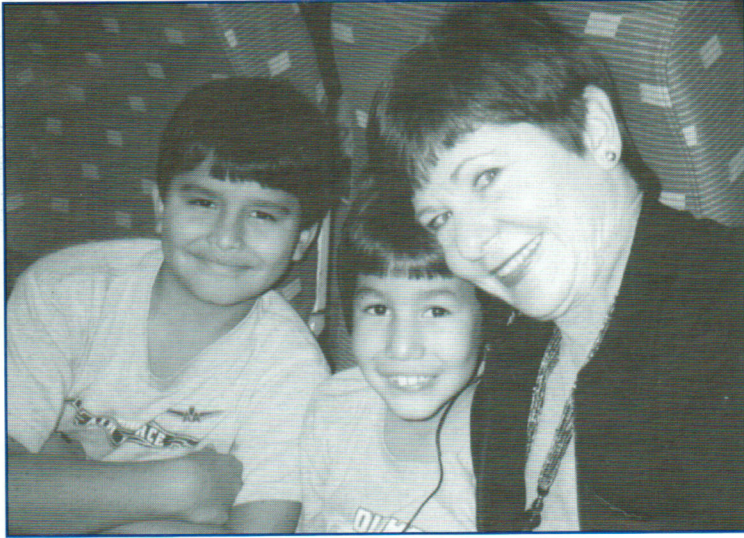
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# Escort Moments

Airline Ambassadors Children's Escort Program is a unique and rewarding way for airline personnel to volunteer, and has provided 70 escorts in just the first six months of 2002. AAI volunteers bring children to the United States for medical care not available in their home country, or escort orphans to their new home and new family. Escorting a child gives you a chance to connect personally, acting as guardian angel for the day. Some of our escorts would like to share some heartwarming stories we call "Escort Moments" If you have an "Escort Moment" you would like to share, or want to learn more about the Escort Program, please contact Margaret Whitehead at Tomar269@cs.com

## Baby Melanie



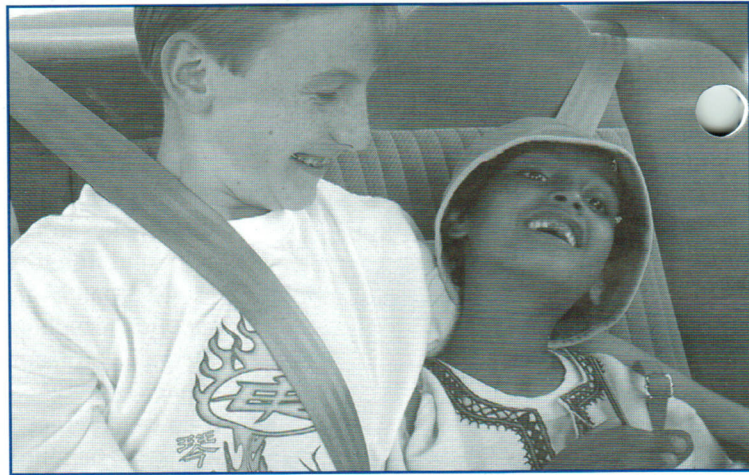
*Corleen Horan on escort*

All 15 family members of 21-month old, Melanie, came to the Guayaquil airport to say "goodbye", not sure they would ever see her again. She was on her way with escort, Corlene Horan, to Seattle's Swedish Medical Center for the repair of a critical heart defect. After a critical surgery and four months, Melanie's ordeal was over. She returned home with Corlene, as a healthy toddler, walking for the first time, even speaking a little English. Another Heal the Children miracle! Thank you American Airlines and frequent flyers for Melanie's tickets.

## Welcome to America Semegne!

*Dawn Rae*

Semegne looked so small and frightened. How in the world would I be able to reassure or comfort her? I didn't speak her language. Semegne, an Ethiopian refugee, had traveled all the way from Addis Ababa to Newark, and now, with me, we were flying on to Charleston, S.C. to meet her adopting family. With 2 hours before our flight, we got to know each other better with some frozen yogurt and my digital camera, snapping photos and showed her the images, and finally - a BIG SMILE! Arriving in Charleston, Mom, Dad and brother Jeremy were waiting. It was an incredibly moving moment and there were few dry eyes around. The Hodges graciously invited me to share a meal with them before my return flight. On the drive to the airport, Jeremy explained to Semegne that they would soon be home. She tipped her face up to him with a big smile and said her first English word - "H O M E" - , in a voice deeper and bigger than we expected. Yes Semegne, you are finally home!



*Jeremy with his new sister, Semegne*

## Escorting Oliver

*Rhonda Bostock*

I was a little nervous about my first escort, the responsibility of traveling with a 14-month old boy with a heart condition. Arriving in Honduras, and seeing Oliver and his family, I knew it would be OK. When his mother gave him to me, as I was anticipating tears and screams. But, he looked up at me, as though he knew I was taking him to make him better. Off to Chicago we flew. I always expected that being an escort would be rewarding, but I didn't realize the depth of my experience until I took Oliver back home to his grateful parents, as good as new! We all just cried and cried! His parents had a plaque made for me, thanking me. It now hangs on my wall. Escorting is a heartfelt experience you will never forget.

*Rhonda Bostock escorted Oliver from Honduras to miami for heart care and then returned him home again.*



# Mission Highlights

## Building Bridges to Bolivia

Ruth Ann Rodriguez (Tucson Regional Director) and her team have been active AALers, holding various fund raising events in the Tucson area. Their group raised cash donations enabling them to buy enough tetanus vaccine for 100 children and powdered milk to last for a month at Orphanage Hogar San Lorenzo. They also donated money for medicine that will help the smallest babies overcome malnutrition. In June the Tucson volunteers held a wine tasting and silent auction and raised \$15,000 to help orphans in Haiti. Thank you also to Hans Keller, Jeni Guzman and Linda Gansler for ongoing efforts helping needy children in Bolivia.



*Penny Rambacher makes friends with rice paddy farmers, Guilin, China*

## 1<sup>st</sup> Mission to Shanghai, China

Volunteer Odyssey (a UN TV crew) covered the efforts of Airline Ambassadors in Shanghai, China this month/April. Thanks again to the



*Shanghai team on route to orphanage practicing their part for the party*

Wheelchair Foundation who assisted in wheelchair distribution to over 100 grateful disabled recipients. Many thanks to United Airlines management employees who helped arrange visits to a maternity hospital, a large orphanage, and kindergartens. Wait! There's more: "Thank you" to actress Loretta Swit, AAI's International



*Loretta Xu, Sherry Keiter, Loretta Swit, Darrian Wannebo & Penny Rambacher distribute LDS toys and health kits to disabled children in Shanghai, China*

Spokesperson who assisted in the hand delivery of dozens of duffel bags of newborn kits and baby quilts. A research trip to Guilin, China concluded the mission when Penny Rambacher visited an orphanage, and then a side trip visit with rice paddy farmers working in the fields. See photo – Cute hat Penny. In words spoken by new AAI member, Cindy Winstead: "Regardless of the variety of our skin colors, the color within is the same that runs through our veins. This red blood pumps through out hearts feels the same emotions in every culture - joy, sorrow, love, pain, happiness, but most of all, love."

## Cleft Palate Surgeries in Ecuador

More than 100 children with cleft lip and palate malformations were examined by a NYC medical team from Columbia Presbyterian Hospital, and 51 received corrective surgery. AAI's Ecuador Country Director, Maria Harrison arranged for Dr. Steven Roser and Dr. Patricia Crespo to lead a team of 5 surgeons and 5 anesthesiologists to volunteer their time and medical skills to dramatically improve the lives of children in Guayaquil.



*Ecuador - boy after cleft palate surgery enjoys his new cow Beanie Buddy*

## Monthly Missions to El Salvador

Airline Ambassadors has continued to lead over a mission a

month into El Salvador serving the needy and partnering with local NGO's (non-governmental organizations) Elaine Osborne, DFW Regional Director, was able to adopt little



*Elementary Children receive kits made by Friends of the Americas.*

Gabriella this summer, the baby she fell in love with at first sight when she held her at a Salvadoran orphanage last fall. Welcome also to Mrs. Lourdes Rodriguez de Flore, First Lady of El Salvador, who joined AAI's Advisory Board and will assist our humanitarian efforts in her country.

## Giving in Guatemala

Being a Guatemalan Mayan, AA flight attendant Lesvia Queme Thompson was the perfect mission coordinator to lead her group to the remote state of Alta Verapaz. Truckloads of supplies were distributed to Mayan families living in the villages that dot the mountainside and forests. The area has been plagued with drought, causing malnutrition and loss of life in mostly children. Airline Ambassadors were a welcomed sight, bringing much needed aid.

American Airlines authorized extra cargo in June to inaugurate their new flight DFW – GUA. Three AAI missions coordinators used the opportunity to help give back in Guatemala. Lesvia led another mission help the Mayans in Alta Verapaz; Glenda Johnson led a medical team to treat children living in the City Dump and Penny Rambacher traveled to a remote orphanage and clinic bringing much needed medicine and aid..and as a birthday present to herself took a small team to deliver wheelchairs near Lake Atitlan.



*Lesvia Thompson distributes AA blankets to Mayan families*

## The Guatemalan Quilt

By Marcene Larkin, memories of a mission



*"The Guatemalan Quilt" mission, delivering toys to Santa Cruz school reachable only by boat.*

*This friendship quilt is stitched together with many colorful memories. Two blue jugs squares for the native women carrying water on their heads.*

*One bright red square for the lava in the night sky.*

*Two aqua boat squares for travel to the remote Mayan Villages.*

*One red truck square for the open ride to the school up top.*

*A row of grey cobblestone squares for the hours of walking.*

*Twelve shiny beaded squares for the fund raising events.*

*Thirty-four green squares for duffels filled with 2000 lbs of aid.*

*Six colorful squares for shopping at the local markets.*

*One black card square marked "ATM".*

*Eight smiley face squares for each school receiving supplies.*

*Four silver wheel squares for the people with their new wheelchairs.*

*Three white sock squares for the 300 children's feet covered.*

*Three pink toothbrush squares for the 300 toothbrushes and lessons.*

*These Gringos filling in the missing Squares for 1200 children.*

*Airline Ambassadors International helping Guatemala with this friendship quilt of love.*



*"The Guatemalon Quilt" mission, delivers LDS soap & a handwashing lesson to Mayan school.*

## Disaster Relief in Jamaica

Thank you to American Airlines for transporting 5,000 lbs of aid donated by ABC Disney, Course in Miracles, International Toy Bank, LDS Charities, Temple Israel 7th Graders and the United Nations, for those suffering from recent flooding. Sharrye Moore led the AAI volunteer team that worked closely with the Red Cross in Jamaica.



*Glenda Johnson & Sharrye Moore with Jamaican children*

## Mobilizing for Mexico

AAI's first mission to Zihuatenejo, co-ordinated by Robert Blake (NWA), provided U.S. children an opportunity to give to less fortunate children in Mexico. Thanks to help of Robbinsdale



*Bob Blake, (NW Airlines) making a difference in Mexico*

Spanish Immersion School (RSI), Friends of Niños Adelante (Children Forward) in Minnesota and Niños Adelante in Zihuatenejo. The kids at RSI donated hundreds of school supplies and clothing. 500 pounds of supplies plus two laptop computers (donated by NW) were hand delivered to village schools in the foothills of Zihuatenejo. The children of RSI and Niños Adelante will continue this new friendship in a "Pen Pal" program – a fun way to practice their Spanish skills.

## Angels in Action in Panama

Kerry Keith and William Dise (Denver) along with 35 AAI volunteers paired up with Panama AA employees distributing 300 cases of aid to 5 orphanages. The AA Panama team was part of a

community service group called Angel's in Action. Since 9/11 the group was inactive, however after our successful mission to landscape, paint and rejuvenate orphanages, the Angels in Action are re-inspired with a new enthusiasm. Plans are being made for the next partner mission.



*Kerry Keith, Angel in Action in Panama*

## Hooked on Helping in Peru

Our April mission to Lima was a combined effort of AAI medical team and humanitarian team, along with local AA Lima employees who served to escort us around town, translate, and assist at the airport. The Lima-based airline employees got "hooked on helping" and they traveled to Guatemala join AAI missions again in June, and plan to assist more in their own country as well.

## India Ongoing 2002

AAI member Rosalie Giffoniello has worked 9 months in Calcutta, developing educational programs at Mother Teresa's orphanage. The programs aid handicapped children and those living in the streets. Rosalie invites volunteers to come join her in India during her stay August 2002 – March 2003. If you wish to help, please contact her at [giffoniello@hotmail.com](mailto:giffoniello@hotmail.com).

## Orphans in Romania

In April, Deborah Quigley (UA Customer Service), her mother & photographer Denise Blievert, teamed up with Vienna-based "Project Centipede" for a 20 hour bus ride delivering hundreds of boxes of aid, computers, baby kits, and handmade quilts to orphans and other children-in-need in the heart of Transylvania. The end of the trip was highlighted by meeting up with AAI member, Mi Kim (NW), now a Peace Corps worker in Romania.



*Deborah Quigley & her Mom deliver LDS newborn kits in Romania*

## Transforming a School in Senegal

Julie Horan and her AAI team delivered supplies to a school with no water or electricity in Grand Yoff, North of Dakar in Africa. The only teaching aids previously were a chalkboard and a willing teacher. The AAI team painted and decorated the kindergarten. The community thanked the volunteers with a special dinner.

## Two Tons of Aid to Thailand

Memories linger of jasmine and temple bells and oh so many warm smiles when 10 AAI angels delivered \$24,000 worth of aid to 1,200 children. The team, led by Debbie Blackmore, delivered aid to a babies orphanage; danced, sang, clowned and played beauty shop with children at a handicapped



*AAI Aid delivery is blessed.*

home and delivered aid to a remote school where 400 children there squealed with delight when they saw 6 brand new soccer balls. They had never had more than one!



# Special Events

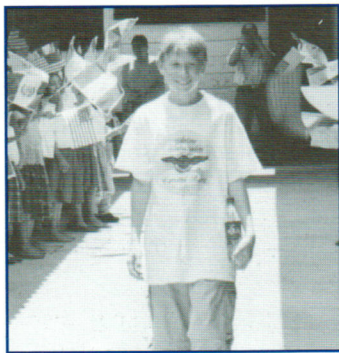
Airline Ambassador's members participate at conferences and volunteer at charitable and civic events dedicated to building a better world. Presence at international conferences enriches members' awareness of social issues and provides opportunities to network with others helping children and families in need locally and internationally

## Celebrating Peace by Making a Difference – April 11, 2002



Special thanks to Tom Kelley and Eileen Vaquilar for coordinating AAI to be one of the recipients for Rotary International Foundation's elegant black tie, food and wine tasting event, at Oheka Castle. Hundreds attended the elegant event honoring the Kim Foundation, the Halo Trust and Airline Ambassadors.

## Youth Inspiration Run



Mathew Malon on AAI mission in Guatemala

10 year old Mathew Malon of Crystal Lake, IL watched a building fall, and then another...he watched with the rest of the world as America was transformed into a dust filled tragedy of inhuman proportions. After three days, he could not watch anymore. He realized that adults were not going to build a world without terrorism, the children would have to show them how. On Sept. 11, 2002, Mathew will join hundreds of children

running with the flag of the United States, and flags of all countries in the world from the Pentagon to the nation's Capitol Building as part of an event called Today's Children – Tomorrow's world.

The event will announce their plans to run next year July 4 – Sept. 11, 2003 from Disneyland to New York, with fire and rescue workers, as well as local youth. The children plan to participate in community service projects in each city they run

through, and make a difference that spreads from town to town, state to state and eventually nation to nation. They will inaugurate the Airline Ambassadors Youth Ambassador program and carry a simple message: to let the children of the world know that inconceivable tragedies can be overpowered by peace, people and unity. Learn more at [www.YIRun.org](http://www.YIRun.org).

## International Aid and Trade

Airline Ambassadors joined international relief organizations, governmental agencies and NGO's at International Aid and Trade in New York.

This trade fair led to fruitful partnerships and new relationships with humanitarian organizations. These partners

will be useful as we prepare for the United Nations Johannesburg Summit, the 10 year follow up to the Earth Summit where Airline Ambassadors will host a roundtable on Voluntary Service Towards Sustainability in the 21st Century.



## First Lady of El Salvador Joins AAI Board

First Lady of El Salvador, Lourdes Rodriguez de Flores participated at a moving ceremony at Casserio la Loma with Airline Ambassadors, AA employees and Friends of America's. She visited the children,



El Salvador First Lady, joins Nancy and Dave Rivard and Danny Robles delivering 400 school kits, backpacks and books to a remote school rebuilt after the devastating earthquakes last

classroom by classroom in a moving expression of her concern for the children of her country. AAI is honored to have her join our Board of Advisors.

## Join Us on a Mission

For your next travel adventure, try a Journey of the Heart, we guarantee, it will be the best vacation you ever have. A current list of our upcoming missions will be posted at our website [www.AirlineAmb.org](http://www.AirlineAmb.org). This list is updated regularly, so check it frequently. Be sure to contact the mission coordinator early to secure your place. Upcoming destinations: Algeria, El Salvador, Vietnam, South Africa, Belize, Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Mexico, and many more.



*Rachel Martinez (United) assists in painting project. Shanghai*

### Procedures for Mission Participants

- 1.) All mission participants are responsible for their own travel expenses.
- 2.) When emailing the coordinator, please include a little information about yourself.
- 3.) Email is the BEST way to reach the mission coordinators, unless otherwise noted.
- 4.) Mission participants will be asked to collect specific donations for the mission.
- 5.) Every mission participant must have a signed Release Statement on file at AAI.
- 6.) Secure your place on a mission by mailing a \$25 check (payable to AAI) to the coordinator. This fee is non-refundable, unless the mission is cancelled.

*Thank you to Golden Temple Products for featuring Airline Ambassador pictures in each box of Peace Cereal! Buy this delicious cereal and support Golden Temple's efforts to help others through Peace Cereal grants. [grants@peacereal.com](mailto:grants@peacereal.com)*

*Thank you to actress and Carre Otis for support and promotion of Airline Ambassadors in TV and magazine interviews. An AAI mission to Nepal, inspired Carre to change her life and try to make a real difference.*

*Many thanks to Nishikant Waghmare, our Asian Pacific Director, for arranging for Air India's generous donation of freight space to AAI in 2002-2003!*

## Opportunities To Help



*Joy as simple as a ballon & smiley ring*

Often people want to help and they do not know how. Delivering aid to needy children on missions or escorting a child for medical care are the obvious ways for AAI members to help. For those who do not have time or means to travel and make a difference, your financial or fund raising support is always needed and appreciated. Here are some suggestions of ways to help:

You can send \$\$ for specific aid you would like to provide. Donations are a tax deductible, and a photo and/or receipt will be provided to donors.

- \$3 buys party for 1 orphan or student
- \$75 buys a wheelchair
- \$10 buys a soccer ball for a school
- \$100 buys fuel-efficient stove
- \$15 buys school supplies for 1 child/year
- \$200 buys home with concrete floor
- \$30 buys a bed for a family
- \$6,000 buys a village school

You can donate Something Special (SOS) cards. These cards are given to American Airlines Gold and Platinum Advantage members to give to AA employees as thanks.

If you are a single airline employee and your company travel benefits offer discounted flying for a registered companion, you can select a non-airline AAI volunteer as your companion. The gift of discount travel for a non-airline volunteer leading frequent AAI missions will enable them to lead more missions without the high cost of travel.

You can donate frequent flier miles. For those who have more miles than they can use, you can donate tickets to mission leaders or to bring children to the US for medical care. Contact AAI Headquarters at [info@airlineamb.org](mailto:info@airlineamb.org)

## Donors of a Different Kind –

Airline Ambassadors benefits from in-kind donations for volunteers to hand deliver on missions. Special thanks to:



*Care Bags show we care - El Salvador*

- LDS Charities for pallet-loads of baby kits, school kits, hygiene kits, handmade quilts, bars of soap, and bails of clothes.
- National Cheer and AAI member Cameron Gray for brand new soccer clothes.
- Nancy Butner and the International Toy Bank, along with TY Beanie Babies.
- Rotary International for toothbrushes, vitamins, and spiral notebooks.
- Toys R Us for toys..., of course
- 12-year old Annie Wignall of Care Bag Foundation for those cute personalized tote bags full of goodies.
- George Zettel of Global Food Bank for 10 pallets of food for Afghanistan.
- Wrap Them in Love ([www.wrappheminlove.org](http://www.wrappheminlove.org)) for the beautiful handmade baby quilts.

Another type of in kind donation is the donation of time. **Time** is the most precious and limited gift we can give, especially in service to others. Airline Ambassadors wishes to thank all of our volunteers helping out in the office, attending missions, escorting children, packing and collecting aid, raising funds, and on and on.

We especially want to thank the medical teams who have given of their time and talents to join our efforts to help children. Glenda Johnson has coordinated at least one medical mission per month and worked hard to find affordable tickets for the doctors to join our AAI/Medical



*Maria Harrison, Dr. Crespo and medical team in Ecuador.*

Wings missions, with support from Dr. Mike Tolle and Prizem Dental. Thank you also to Dr. Smith and Dr. Crespo, of Columbia Hospital in New York who led the AAI medical team giving cleft palate surgeries in Guayaquil, Ecuador.



*Alex on the shores of Lake Atitlan "just happens to get" a new Wheelchair Foundation chair.*

## Wheelchair Escorts

### Alex's Story

Alex Cutz lives in Santiago de Atitlan in Guatemala. Seven years ago he was born with Cerebral Palsy, and has had to be carried everywhere by his mother, Andrea, an artisan at a beaded jewelry workshop. On April 26th, a synchronization of events occurred changing Alex and Andrea's lives forever. Alex was given the gift of mobility through a wheelchair donated by Wheelchair Foundation (WF).

The story on how this "miracle of events" took place begins with Angel, a 15 year old boy living 1 hour away from Alex. Angel received a W.F. wheelchair in January of this year, but the chair was a little too small for him. AAI member Penny Rambacher, happened to check on Angel, while on a mission in Guatemala...she happened to have a larger wheelchair in

her hotel room, so they made an exchange. The following day, AAI volunteers were visiting the jewelry workshop where Andrea works, and Penny just happened to mention the wheelchair exchange. "Would the small size chair be available for my son, Alex?" Andrea asked hopefully. Quickly arrangements were made to bring Alex on a boat to Panajachel where Penny had the wheelchair. Less than 17 hours later, Alex was carried off the boat by his mother and placed in his bright red wheelchair. The smaller chair exchanged by Angel just happened to be a perfect fit, just as the sequence of events just happened to be a perfect fit.

For those who cannot walk, they often refer to their wheelchair as their best friend. Thanks to Airline Ambassadors, Wheelchair Foundation, American Airlines (transporting wheelchairs), and the Creator of Miracles, Alex has a new friend and a life with mobility.

If you would like to give the gift of mobility and fund a W.F. wheelchair for AAI to hand deliver to someone who cannot one, contact Penny Rambacher at AirlineAngel@hotmail.com

**Five Simple Rules To Be Happy:**

1. Free your heart from hatred.
2. Free your mind from worries.
3. Live simply.
4. Give more.
5. Expect less.

**Returned Gifts**

Often times the children we visit want to do something for us in return for the gifts, parties, and love we bring to them. Taking treats, a soda or a handicraft from poor children is difficult for me, but I know I will hurt their feelings by turning away their offering. My favorite return gift is always a music or dance performance. The children practice their routines over and over, and are often shy about performing for strangers. In faded, well-used costumes and hats, they beat drums made from buckets and a small girl strums a warped guitar with a two-finger hand. Speeches by a courageous class orator, though not understood by their English speaking audience, are delivered with such pride and sincerity, that you sense the message. Few of our performers can copy what they have seen in movies and TV, since they have no media, no auditorium, and no theater. Song and dance are often handed down from generation to generation, and we are the fortunate witnesses to a cultural sharing, unavailable on MTV.



*Children teach Airline Ambassadors how to perform their traditional dances from Thailand*



**We're wishing our Best** to Monica Oliva (on the left, shown with Loretta Swit, AAI's International Spokesperson) who has been our creative and energetic Executive Director over the last year. Her spirit and big heart have been a blessing to us and we send her off with love and light.

PLEASE NOTE OUR NEW ADDRESS BELOW

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Company/Position: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY/STATE/ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Please make your tax-deductible donation payable to:

Airline Ambassadors, 3525 Cedar Springs, Dallas, TX 75219 phone 214-780-9600 fax 214-780-9603

Or you can sign up on line at: [www.airlineamb.org](http://www.airlineamb.org) THANK YOU.

\_\_\_ \$35    \_\_\_ \$50    \_\_\_ \$100    \_\_\_ \$250    \_\_\_ \$500    \_\_\_ \$ Other

Airline Ambassadors is a non profit organization dedicated to bringing compassion into action by hand dilivering aid and love to children and families in need. It is made up of almost 4000 members who volunteer as Ambassadors of Goodwill in their home communities and avroad. Members escort children in need, hand deliver humanitarian aid, assist at special events and invovle youth in our programs worldwide.

For more information or to join Airline Ambassadors visit our website at: [www.airlineamb.org](http://www.airlineamb.org).

## ***Airline Ambassadors Partners with Ambassadors for Children***

In an effort to provide more global volunteerism opportunities helping children in need to our non-airline members, Airline Ambassadors is pleased to announce a partnership with Ambassadors for Children. Trips are offered as more traditional travel packages and planned further in advance for those who cannot buy their tickets at the last minute. We are



happy also to be supporting the medical efforts of the Timmy Foundation as well. Please check our website for a list of upcoming trips with both of these organizations at [www.airlineamb.org](http://www.airlineamb.org).



## ***Have the Adventure of a Lifetime Helping our Planet and It's People!***

Join Airline Ambassadors on a Journey of the Heart, hand-delivering aid and love to children and families in need worldwide. [www.airlineamb.org](http://www.airlineamb.org)



*AAI photographer Denise Blievert with Romanian Street Chlidren*

## ***Bring Compassion Into Action At Home and Abroad***



**AIRLINE AMBASSADORS**

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