airline ambassadors

Newsletter

Spring 2004



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Thanks!



Penny Rambacher in Guatemala

Travel to Makfference



Connie McGuire and friend on a recent mission

We are off to an incredible start in 2004. After surpassing our record last year delivering \$4.3 million in aid, we have not lost any momentum and it appears we will surpass that this year. So far, 19 humanitarian missions to 12 countries have impacted thousands of children. We've escorted children from all over the world, including Budapest, India and even escorted Korean orphans

being adopted in the United States. In May we were granted consultive status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Airline Ambassadors International (AAI) leverages connections with the airline industry to increase sharing and goodwill across countries and cultures. Our members hand deliver aid to children and families and contribute to development projects with long term positive effects for local people and cultures. We make a difference in areas of health, education, child welfare, sustainable development and disaster relief and at the

same time provide opportunities for our members to express their fundamental generosity, selflessness and compassion. Join us in the adventure of a lifetime, helping our planet and its people!



Juan and his new friend thanks to Airline Ambassadors!

Over \$1 Million in Aid for Panama!

William Dise led an Airline Ambassadors team of 30 to hand deliver needed medical supplies and equipment to five hospitals in Panama. Many thanks to Doug Jackson, President of Project Cure in Denver, who arranged the donation with a

retail value of over \$1 million. The AAI team also delivered school and hygiene supplies, baby items, strollers and toys. They painted an orphanage in Boquete, provided a refrigerator (fully stocked) and put on an unforgettable party for the children. The group was joined by local "AA Angels", truly bringing compassion into action.



Sharon Stein and Leeanne Hansen in Mexico

Love and Laughter for the Day of the Child

The First Lady of Coahuila, Mexico, Guadelupe Morales de Martinez, met AAI's Leeanne Hansen, Sharon Stein and Dennis Estes while they were visiting her state with Dr. Patch Adams. Delighted with their antics, she generously offered to host an Airline Ambassador return mission for the festival Day of the Child. She especially hoped to bring some joy to the city of Piedras Negras where 600 families lost their homes in recent flooding. The colorful group of 16 in clown costumes captivated hearts and hand delivered plush toys (a donation from Wyndham Resort & Hotel) while bringing joy, love and laughter to over 25,000 children in five cities in Mexico. The AAI team knew the trip was a success when the Director of the Down's Syndrome and Autistic Home, said with tears in her eyes, that this was the first time she had seen those children respond and smile.

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Message from Nancy Rivard Travelers Philanthrophy



Airline Ambassadors provides opportunities for travelers to match their unique interests and skills to actual world need and help the children, families and communities visited. This concept is catching on with the public. I recently

participated at the "Traveler's Philanthropy Conference" at Stanford University, sponsored by the Center on Ecotourism and Sustainable Development. It was inspiring to meet dozens of travel executives committed to giving financial resources, time and talent back to the communities they serve. Airline Ambassadors will continue our efforts to deepen the commitment of the airline industry to global citizenship and corporate responsibility. We are excited to begin packaging our trips as "Vacations to Do Good" in the very near future, where travelers can have a cultural experience, but also an opportunity to personally make a difference in the lives of those they meet along the way. Please share thoughts and ideas at airlineamb@aol.com

Help Save Fabiola



Returning from routine grocery shopping in Port-au-Prince, vear-old Fabiola Durand was shot twice in the head, caught in

gunfire associated with the recent unrest in Haiti. She spent four days in a coma with no medical help available. Glen Lahey, Kid's Explore (AAI's mission partner) arranged for transport to a hospital in Santo Domingo which miraculously saved her life, stabilized her condition and sustained her vital signs before discharging her to the care of Dr. Gittens of the Royal Columbian Hospital in Vancouver. Bravo for the valiant efforts of AAI members Sharrye Moore and Eddy Delaeu as well as Glen and Debbie Lahey who are hosting Fabiola during her recovery. We are raising funds for her care and return to Haiti. If you would like to help, please send checks to AAI headquarters to be deposited into a restricted fund for this purpose. For more info email Sharrye at airlineambnyc@aol.com.

AAI member Patty Young spearheaded the flight attendants' fight against tobacco companies which ultimately succeeded in eliminating smoking on aircraft, as well as indoors in many US cities! The Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI) was established as Phase 1 of a Class Action lawsuit brought by attorneys Stanley and Susan Rosenblatt in 1991 (Phase II includes damaged flight attendants' individual lawsuits). Its mission is to sponsor scientific and medical research for the early detection, prevention, treatment and cure of diseases and medical conditions caused from exposure to tobacco

In addition to funding medical researchers, FAMRI funds a Center of Excellence at the University of California, San Francisco that focuses on research for pulmonary and heart disease, clinical medicine, epidemiology and education. As a non-smoking flight attendant, you may be eligible to participate at no cost in the studies caused by exposure to second-hand tobacco smoke in airline cabins.

Inspired by FAMRI,s efforts. Ambassadors is now designing health and hygiene training curriculum to teach as part of our mission activities that will educate children and their families at home and abroad about the dangers of smoking and second-hand smoke! If you wish more information or an on-site visit to UCSF FAMRI, please call toll free at 1-800-767-6906. To learn more visit www.famri.org.

Headquarters

Tara Dunn and Sheran James have been with Airline Ambassadors

Tara Dunn on a recent trip to Argentina for over a year. Sheran has recently been named as Director of

Development. She is responsible for making contacts that provide us with in-kind donations, fundraising as well as providing administrative support. Tara is our Administrative Director the friendly voice you hear when you call Headquarters. She oversees all office activities, administrative functions and manages the bookkeeping. Many thanks to these two, our most important supporters!

ESCORI



Margaret (2nd from left), with some of AAI's best escorts

Our Children's Escort Program provides a unique way for airline personnel to volunteer, escorting children to the United States for needed medical care or orphans to a new home. Our escorts save the cost of a full fare airline ticket and provide a caring companion to children on the most life changing trips of their entire lives. For more information contact Margaret Whitehead, the Director of our Escort Program at escort@airlineamb.org



Liz Wilsonscort With the Magic Touch



Liz Wilson is a veteran of over 50 escorts, a remarkable individual who willingly takes on the most arduous assignments with confidence and caring. Thank you Liz for your selfless service and your caring heart.

Recently, Liz escorted Delsey, 5, and Lucy, 3, from Honduras to Albuquerque to undergo life-saving heart surgeries. The children were very weak; Delsey could not even hold a glass of water to take a drink and turned blue on the trip. She was rushed to the hospital upon arrival and it was feared she would not survive the emergency operation. Lucy was operated on several days later. Miraculously, both surgeries were suc-

cessful, and two months later, Liz volunteered to return the little girls to their families. She could not believe these were the same children she had traveled with two months earlier! Upon arrival in Honduras, the parents were reunited with the children. Many tears were shed and no one doubted it was a miracle for both girls to have returned home...healthy for the first time in their lives thanks to the work of Healing the Children and Airline Ambassadors.

From **Escort** Pro to a First Timer....

Mireille Hanna recently completed her first escort mission. Here is her story: "I flew to Santo Domingo on behalf of Healing the Children for my first escort mission. I was to deliver Xavier, a 6year-old who spent three months in Grand Rapids for heart surgery. This surgery saved his life by correcting a serious heart defect. I cannot tell you how heartwarming it was to see the crowd from his village waiting at the airport for the child who had left three months ago in a wheelchair and now returned eight pounds heavier, healthy and loaded with toys and clothes provided by his host family. Once he saw his parents, there was no holding him back. He gleefully ran into their waiting arms and there were cheers and tears of joy all around. Everyone wanted to embrace me and I received as many blessings as I might have deserved if I had been the one who performed the surgey. It is an honor, privledge and blessing to work with such wonderful people."

ESCORTS
ACCOMPANY
Healing the Children
Medical Team



Sue Meringolo, Amy Watson and Cheerie Smith

AAI escorts Sue Meringolo, Amy Watson and Cheerie Smith accompanied a Healing the Children (HTC) medical team to Manta, Ecuador. The medical team provided needed cleft palate surgeries and the AAI volunteers helped transport needed equipment, entertained the children, distributed clothes and toys and at the request of the chief surgeon, Amy took pictures of each phase of several operations for their records. The mission was successful and Amy, Sue and Cheerie received rave reviews from everyone involved!



Airline Ambassadors are often faced with the same challenges as parents traveling with an infant. The Baby B'Air Flight Vest offers a comfortable and economical way to secure a lap child, protecting baby from the dangers of turbulence. The Flight Vest is the only product designed specifically for lap children aboard aircraft and is the only way for parents to secure a lap child. Baby B'Air generously supports Airline Ambassadors by donating Flight Vests for use by our escorts transporting infants. Visit www.babybair.com for more information.



MISSIONS



Peg Meyer in Peru

Each month Airline Ambassadors coordinates 3 - 10 humanitarian missions where volunteers can hand deliver aid and love to children and families in need. These journey's of the heart substantively help children and provide opportunities to bring compassion into action. Many thanks to our Humanitarian Aid Coordinator Peg Meyer, who guides the Mission Coordinators who make these missions possible. (humaid@airlineamb.org)

Argentina:

Food For Thought by Tara Dunn

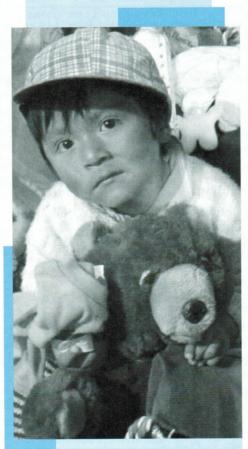


Rachel Martinez in Argentina

I don't tend to think of grocery shopping as that much fun, but on the A i r l i n e Ambassadors' mission to

Argentina, it took on a whole new meaning. Our team visited day care programs in Buenos Aires for children from very poor families. We took crayons to color with the children, then personally handed clothing, shoes, school supplies, toiletries, toys and candy to each of them.. Then the shopping came in! My favorite deliveries were the month's supply of groceries to the daycares, which provide weekend meals for the children. Daily, the children get a lunch at school, but these programs provide the only meal they may get each Saturday or Sunday.

Rachel Martinez is leading regular missions to Buenos Aires. Her trips have rave reviews...."This was the single most impactful experience of my adult life" wrote an attorney on a recent trip. For more information on these humanitarian excursions email rjcm110@aol.com



Haiti is not Forgotten

Despite not being able to travel to Haiti due to recent turmoil, we have not forgotten the children there. Peg Clark continues to coordinate weekly shipments of desperately needed food for the orphanages and schools supported by our Tucson team. She sends boxes each week to Port au Prince to AA employee Maryse Noel, who helps deliver them. "We feel so frustrated not being able to get our hands on those darling children" said Peg, "but we're thankful for Maryse's assistance and the support of American Airlines." When they can return, they plan to install a generator and electrical wiring in the orphanage! Special thanks to LDS charities for supplying dehydrated milk and beans for this project.

Children in Chile

Partnering with WorldCare, a Tuscon, AZ based charity, Airline Ambassadors delivered supplies to Catholic Hermanas Del Buen Samaritano, a long-term care facility for the disadvantaged and Casa de Acogida de Ninas Padre Jose Agustin Gomez, a home for abused and abandoned girls in the city of Molina. They returned two months later for a follow up trip to further support the girls' home, painting, doing light yard work, throwing a party for the girls and even purchasing a new stove, oven and exhaust fan with money collected by members. Enough time was set aside to visit the local vineyards and sample the great Chilean wines.

Agua for Nicaragua



Villagers and their new well in Nicaragua

Though water is a critical component in our daily lives, most people in developed countries don't give it a second thought. For people living in the rural community of Villa Nueva in Nicaragua, though, it's a constant concern. Villagers walk for miles for clean drinking water and in the dry season, have no way to irrigate their crops.

Airline Ambassadors learned of the situation and with the help of Project Esperanza, raised enough funds to build a well. Mission Coordinators Bob Blake and Peg Meyer also brought humanitarian aid to an orphanage, a school for disabled children and a home for the elderly.

Volunteers plan to return this fall with enough funds for another well in remote village near the Honduran border, accessible only by horseback. Visit our website to learn more about this important project: www.airlineamb.org.

Houses for Earthquake victims in El Salvador:

Amber Coffman of the President's Council on Service and livic Participation, joined a team to visit 800 children and help distribute a container load of aid sent to our most substantive sustainable development project - the Kiwanis Village, near Soyapongo, El Salvador. 67 of 150 new homes have been completed at this building site, allowing families to move from tin shacks in the Chatarrera (junkyard) into decent housing. Via an agreement with the government, each family receives the title and owns their new home. The Airline Ambassadors brought gifts for all and coordinated a party for the children. Donations are needed to continue our efforts building a sustainable community for these grateful families. We need to raise money for

the school, health clinic and women's empowerment program we are planning there. The AAI team also delivered computers, school supplies and needed aid



AAI team at Chattarrera Project

to a remote school and home for street children. AAI is proud to partner on this project with Catholic Relief, Homes for the Heart, Kiwanis International and the government of El Salvador. For more information contact Claudia Bonilla at kiwanis_elsalvador@hotmail.com

Chain of Hope for Guatemala



Carlos Gracioso with an HIV positive ld at Clinica Familia Luis Angel Garcia

For over a year AAI has been part of a "chain of hope" made possible by a diverse network of volunteers to help those who suffer from HIV/Aids. Partnering with Other Options, a non profit organization in Oklahoma City, AAI volunteers escort donated medica-

tions to Dr. Eduardo Arathoon at Clinica Familiar Luis Angel Garcia in Guatemala City, who helps more than 1200 men, women and children free of charge. Other Options collects life changing medications and supplies and drives them to Texas. Members from Airline Ambassadors meet the couriers, repack the contents, and organize volunteers to deliver the donations to Guatemala City. Many helping hands work to make this possible, a wonderful example of non-profits networking for the common good. If you travel frequently to Guatemala from DFW, and would like to help, contact Elaine Osborn at airlineambDFW@aol.com or call 972-323-2772.

We support many projects in Guatemala including the Buckner Orphans Home; Vamos Adelante; Safe Passage, a program for children living in the Guatemala City dump and projects supporting remote Mayan villages. Please join us an adventurous journey to this fascinating country.

As one of our busiest mission coordinators, Penny Rambacher leads regular missions to Guatemala. For more information, please contact Penny at

rlineangel@hotmail.com

Bolivia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Honduras and Mexico

Many thanks to Mission Coordinators Paula Moran, Jeni Guzman and Linda Gansler for their ongoing efforts to help children in Bolivia, to Lois Werner and Sharrye Moore, who have brightened the lives of hundreds in the Dominican Republic, to Mari Hafner and Corlene Horan who works tirelessly helping in Ecuador and to Kathy Savage and Liz Milne who led teams to Honduras bringing aid and love to children in need. David Downs-Reid recently returned from another great trip to Mexico and Cameron Gray is preparing another mission to El Salvador. We truly appreciate our exceptional volunteer Mission Coordinators.

Mireile Helps Mayans in Chiapas to Bedouins in Jordan

Mireille Hanna hand delivered first aid and school supplies to two hostels housing Mayan children attending secondary school in Chiapas. Conditions were stark: beds were merely wood planks covered with a blanket. She also visited the SYJAC Community Center in San Cristobal and gave a donation to start a sewing school. Mireille returned two months later with an AAI team and backpacks and gifts for children at the hostels, a refrigerator and microwave oven for the SYJAC Center and enough funds to pay the salary for a sewing teacher for three months. The system will be sustainable, as the students themselves will teach successive classes, giving

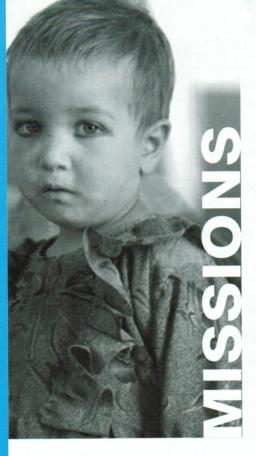
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Mireille Helps

many young people a skill to create a basic income for them and their families.

Mireille also speaks fluent Arabic, and we're thrilled about her upcoming missions to Jordan! Guided by the recommendations of the Princesses Alia and Taghreed charitable groups, don't miss out on the chance to help hand deliver school supplies and clothing to children in small communities near Kerak or tented communities of Bedouin children. Along the way, experience culture and antiquities in Petra, Jerash and Umm Ouais.

Barbies and Beanies for Orphans



Miami based AA flight attendant Myrna Murchison has been collecting Barbies since she was a little girl. She wanted to share her love of dolls with children who have never

had a Barbie, or possibly, never a toy of any kind. Myrna initiated a drive at Miami Flight Service and Barbies began rolling in, new and used. She scheduled a Barbie clinic and invited fellow flight

attendants to clean the dolls with alcohol, comb their hair and dress them new outfit, ready for a brand new owner. The Barbies were such a hit that she expanded her collecting to match box cars and action figures for boys. Her efforts have benefited orphans, children living in garbage dumps and remote mountain villages. Her idea is catching too, Frank Ilkes and Corlene Horan have also had great success with their Barbie drives. If you would like to donate dolls, or hold a drive of your own, call Myrna at 954-340-8999.

Jammin' for Jamaica



A diverse team of Airline Ambassadors including representatives from the Council of the Environment, the United Nations and American Airlines met a 40-ft container of aid that had been filled with supplies for the children of Jamaica. Sharry Moore led the

mission, partnering with Glen and Debbie Lahey of Kids Explore.

They visited children in Bustamonte Hospital, two homes for children with HIV/Aids, a school, a home for pregnant girls and senior citizens bringing joy and goodwill as well as substantive assist The visits were filled with clowning, face paint, bubbles and sharing. A press conference was hosted by the Grand Lido Braco in Trealawny about Airline Ambassadors efforts to positively impact the lives of children in Jamaica.

To Ecuador



Ecuadorianborn Maria Harrison did it again; she made magic happen that resulted in

substantive assistance to her home country. Thousands of dollars worth of medical supplies, hospital beds, cleaning equipment, nurses shoes, mattresses, clothing, school supplies were shipped by Ecuadorian Lines through T. DiBendetto and Mr. Aguirre free of charge. The donations will be distributed to hospitals and foundations with the guidance of Marta de Moncayo, wife of the Mayor of Quito. Ambassador and Mrs.Gallegos, of the Mission of Ecuador to the UN hosted a lovely reception for those who assisted with the project. Mr. N. Barragan and Dr. M. Mancheno were honored for donating aid and transporta-

Meanwhile, Mari Hafner led an AAI team to Quito to meet the container and offer help with distribution. In addition, they brought nearly 100 duffel ba aid to Jerry Carnill of Extreme Response, providing assistance to children living the in the dump outside Quito and across the country.

Sents C All

AAI provides opportunities for our members to participate in local civic and charitable events that increase our understanding of human need and provide important opportunities for networking and spreading goodwill.

2004 School Competition

A Universal Dialogue of Cultures



Chelsea and James Norell, AAI's Youth Ambassadors, helped launch this year's International School Competition at the United Nations. The competition is co-sponsored by Paz y Cooperacion and this year's theme - A Universal Dialogue of Cultures was inspired by the Barcelona Forum. Students of all ages can compete via drawings, stories, plays and projects. Posters describing the contest are available to all. Email Chelsea and James Norell at gypsymoon8@aol.com.

NBC's Peter Greenberg

honored by AAI at United Nations

Peter Greenberg, Travel Editor of the Today Show, was honored at an AAI fundraising luncheon that attracted nearly every major airline and hotel group in the US. Peter has featured AAI three times on his Today Show segment about Volunteer Vacations, and he now serves on the AAI Board of Directors. Thanks to American Airlines, a platinum sponsor, as well as Lowe's Hotels, NBC, Wyndham Hotels, SONY, Universal Resorts, Song, Virtuoso Travel, Brett Tollman and LDS Charities who also sponsored tables. The Flight Attendant Medical Research Institute (FAMRI) made a surprise donation of \$7,500!

Airline Ambassadors featured on

PEACE



Kimberly Bourdo shares Fereal in El Salvador If you're concerned about creating a more loving planet, you can make a difference by making your purchases count towards peace. Instead of visiting the mall, buy from companies with responsible business practices toward humanity and the environment. You can feel good about

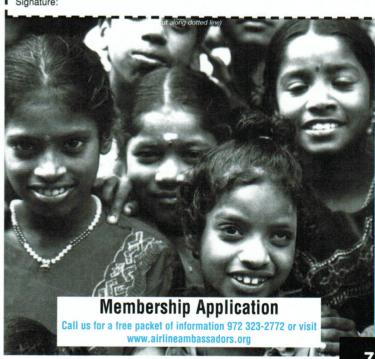
giving to yourself and others by shopping from organizations supporting important causes. Check out Peace Cereal on your next trip to the grocery store....Airline Ambassadors is featured on the box! http://www.peacecereal.com/

President's Award for Service and Civic Participation

75 AAI members have received this prestigious award and a letter from President Bush for exemplary volunteer service. American Airlines VP of Marketing, Dan Garton, and Frank Campagna and Raphael Ciordia of AA Flight Service and Corporate Citizenship, helped present the awards at a special Award Ceremony in May. We are grateful to AAI member Amber Coffman, of the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation, who recommended that Airline Ambassadors be authorized to nominate award winners. See our website for a complete listing of these winners at www.airlineamb.org

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One - time	□ \$ 35	□ \$ 50	□ \$100	□ \$250		
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A World of Thanks



Airline Ambassadors is a grass-roots, volunteer-driven organization. Though our funds are limited, there's no limit to the kindness and generosity of our supporters. Here are just some of the people, companies and organizations who make our work possible.

Cell Phones that **Protect Childr**

Did you know that nearly 2000 children are reported missing every day in the United States? Nearly 1000 each day are abducted. Airline Ambassadors is proud to support the service offered free for any MSN phone through Youth Alert and Secure Net Technologies. Protect your child and loved ones by going to www.youthalert.org or call 1-877-YOUTH-44. Be sure to give Airline Ambassadors Affiliate #129069. Have an old cell phone gathering dust? Recycle it and support Airline Ambassadors. Check out www.airlineamb.org for more info.

AA 50-cent Club AAUW, Bethlehem, PA American Airlines (www.aa.com) Buckner Ornhan Care International **Care Bags Foundation** Cedar Hill Rotary Federal Express **Global Finishing Solutions Golden Temple Prioducts** Healing The Children His Helping Hands, Wichita, KS Interstate Hotels and Resorts Jamaica Hilton Jamaica Pegusus Hote LDS Charities Lowes Hotels National Seating and Mobility **NBC Today Show** Northwest Airlines Orphans of the World Parish of Calvary/St. George **Project Cure** Project Esparanza Rotary International Scottish Rite Hospital, Mobility Department Shurgard Storage (www.shurgard.com) Southwest Medical Aid St. Isidore's Catholic Community Starwood Hotels Super Clubs Grand Lido Braco Super Trans-Continental The Council of the Environment of NYC Treasure Beach Resort Universal Aid Society **United Nations**

Project Cure

Many thanks to Project Cure and especially President Doug Jackson, for donating medical supplies and equipment for five hospitals in Panama with a value of over \$1 million! These donations were gathered based on specific needs of the hospitals and hand delivered in April with our AAI team. We commend the relief efforts of Project

Cure around the world and look forward to collaborating much more in the future. www.projectcure.org

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Bringing Compassion Into Action At Home and Abroad

Airline Ambassadors is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping children in need and traveling to make a difference. Our members are ailrline personnel and others who volunteer as Ambassadors of Goodwill in our home communities and abroad. We hand-deliver humanitarian aid, escort children in need, assist at special events and involve youth in our efforts to build bridges of friendship across countries and cultures. AAI is a 501(c)(3) charity and all donations are fully tax deductible. Please join us bringing compassion into action.

Airline Ambassadors 1625 Crosby Road, Suite 132 Carrollton, TX 75006

Wyndham Hotels and Resorts
World Care (www.worldcare.org)

Unity Church Wheelchair Foundation

World Vision