



# Mission of Love NEWS



*You are not here to save the world, but to touch the hands that are in your reach.*

## Headed to Isla Mujeres

*The beautiful island off of Cancun is the birth place of the Mission of Love*

On August 1, 1998 we will fly south to Isla Mujeres (Island of Women), a beautiful island off the coast of Cancun, to build a medical clinic and fix two other buildings. As with all MOL missions, we have a lot to accomplish in one week. The support of all of the people back home who donated clothes, shoes, food, medical supplies and building materials coupled with all of the people who worked on loading the airlifts will stay with us as we put the donations to good use.

Once we get down there we will work as a team to help those less fortunate. People of all walks of life will come together to give of themselves to improve other lives and make an impact on people they may never see again.

Yes, the people of Isla Mujeres will benefit from the mission, but we the volunteers will take away more. We will fall in love with the Mayan people

and their culture. For one week we will live a simple, uncluttered life that is focused on people and children. Our work will be simple, our meals hearty and authentic. The smiles will be endless and the children's laughter will forever ring in our memories reminding us that through giving we receive -- so much more than we could ever imagine.



*Dan Matozzi experiences the true meaning of love at Casa Guatemala.*

## Your Help Makes a Difference

**The MOL \$10-a-Month Club is Making Progress**

It may not seem like much. Ten dollars a month is what the average American spends on treats for their pet. To the Mission of Love, however, that \$10 a month makes a major difference in helping the children in Mexico, Guatemala and Peru.

Thank you to the 25 people who have pledged their support so far:

Robert L. Eich, Brenda Chalas, Robert & Kathleen Hogue, Fr. Richard

Madden, Dr. & Mrs. Robert Gillette, Helen Morgan Hewitt, Janus Winger, Christine Russell, Noreen Price, Barbara Sanson, William Price, Margaret Jacobs, Jo Ann Creed, Lisa Theodore, Louis Forstvedt, Sally Walker, Dante A. & Pat DeAngelo, Sean & Kristi Ward, Evelyn Dearing, Evelyn M. Copas, Marta Ockuly, Dr. Charles Murell, Luana Rubin and Kate Pichotta.

## "Wishlist"

We need the following items for our ongoing airlifts. If you can donate anything on this list, please call Kathy Price at (330) 793-2388:

**Clothing:** all kinds and sizes. Summer clothes, sweatshirts and sweaters because it gets cold at night! Sandals and tennis shoes, cloth diapers.

**Bedding:** crib sheets -- fitted & flat, blankets (all sizes), sheets.

**Medical Equipment & Supplies:** Baby food & formulas, antibiotics, first aid supplies, soap, prenatal & children's vitamins, ear/eye medicine, canned veggies, powered milk, toothbrush/paste.

Cooking utensils, pots and pans, treadle sewing machines, sewing items, embroidery threads & needles

Tape recorders & tapes, school supplies, Spanish reading books, paper, pencils.

Wheel Chairs, water treatment systems.

**Volunteers** to sort supplies at the Ravenna Arsenal, construction supplies

Balls, bats, toys (no stuffed animals), Little tykes toys for the orphans

## Thank You!

To support the Fund, you can send \$10/month, \$60 twice a year, or \$120 annually. Please send check to: Mission of Love, 2054 Hemlock Court, Yo., OH 44515. Make your check payable to Mission of Love. *Once again, thank you.*



# My Dear Friends,

About twice a week I have the opportunity to speak to groups of folks who are interested in our Mission of Love. I begin by stating that this is not my mission, but everyone's mission in life, to be of service and love. We are born with this nature, and somehow we just need to learn how to uncover this special gift that we already have.

With the Mission of Love we are able to make people realize that they too can make a difference in a life. Sometimes it can be their life that changes when one learns how to tap into the gift of giving. It does not matter how big or small, what matters is the intent of the purpose. If the intent is pure, all can be accomplished. We see this over and over with our building missions and our airlifts.

The Mission of Love has had more airlifts than any other organization in the country. Our Mission of Love has built many clinics with very little money. We have been able to accomplish this because of our universal commitment of giving.

Once you actually see what takes

place in such a few short days, you realize this work is of a higher power. It is truly a contagious scenario.

Through very simple ways we are making a difference. We, as a team are networking, and through this networking the Mission of Love is growing and growing. We are able to accomplish these success stories because of all of you wonderful people who can generate this call of compassion.

In our newsletter you will read the stories of our missions and the love that is being created in our world. The beautiful smiles of the orphans who continue to teach us the true meaning of love. The children who depend on us for their food, clothing and toys. The Mayans who need our help in building democracy and hope.

Our Mission of Love has been recieved in five continents of our world. Our seeds are being sown and we are creating a better place for the children because we are able to love, unconditionally.

The Mission of Love has no barriers, no conditions, no attachments, and no expectations.

## About the Mission of Love Foundation

The Mission of Love Foundation is a non-profit organization that provides humanitarian aid to those in need worldwide, especially children. Backed by individuals, local businesses and the U.S. Military's Denton Program, the Mission of Love airlifts clothing, medicine, food and building supplies to third world countries. Once the supplies arrive, groups of people, both young and old, from all walks of life, are there to utilize the supplies by building medical clinics, repairing orphanages, administering medical treatment to the ill and serving those who need help.

*"You are not here to save the world, but to touch the hands that are in your reach."*

Together we have chosen a path to be of service. We are on a mission of love.

With gratitude,



## Did You Know?

The Mission of Love has had more Humanitarian Airlifts than any other organization in the U.S.A.

MOL has landed in 5 continents of the world. "We are all on a Mission of Love."

*60 thousand lbs. of construction materials are being unloaded from a C-5 Hercules plane on June 1, for Isla Mujeres.*





# Mira!! Mira!!

By Lisa Theodore

Behold the eyes of the child and you allow the love of the universe into your life. What a blessing. The eyes are the reflection of the soul -- they are the gateway. Look eyes. Always, look eyes. When you go to another country and you look eyes, you see the oneness; you see the similarities. You see the hunger -- not only for sustenance, and food, but also for love. For Love is all anyone desires and Love opens the door to miracles!

In May, miracles happened. Twenty-three people, with love in their hearts, opened that doorway for countless children, youngsters, other adults and themselves. Miracles happened one smile at a time, one glance, one hug at a time. Yes, the group was at the orphanage to provide much needed physical repair to the buildings. Yes, accomplishing those tasks, in the heat and the humidity, appeared to be miraculous in and of themselves. Ropes just happened to still be there, in just the right length, for the men to climb the roof and install the vents. The electricians were available to help with the kitchen fire - alerting the crew to potential future

problems. Oh, and the plumbers, what a job! Supplies available, people power available. Miracles every step of the way...and... if you look eyes, you know the real miracles. The Children.

The children, each of them unique, each of them alone -- yet, all a part of a larger family. The Children of Casa Guatamala showed us more Love and understanding -- with no conditions -- than many of us have ever experienced. Remember the joy in their faces as the boat arrived in the morning, or as they witnessed their kindergarden and dormitory being transformed by the slight of a brush. Remember the shouts of "Mira! Mira!" look! look! as each child reached out for you. Look, look beyond the cracking paint, the rotting floor boards, the non-existent plumbing and look into the heart's of the children.

Then, when the days seem long, the tasks never ending, close your eyes; see the children, feel their Love and hear their words, Mira! Mira!

*To the children of Casa Guatamala: We thank you. We thank you for the Love and the hugs. We thank you for the reminder that we are all part of one family. We will remember. God Bless the children.*



*Make your work to be in keeping with your purpose.  
~ Leonardo da Vinci*

## Calendar

**July 25 -26:** Sam's Club Boardman Selling French Fries, Lemon Shakes to raise funds for trip to Isla Mujeres, to build the clinic for the Mayans and Cerebral Palsy Clinic. Thanks to Keich Concessions for allowing the use of their new trailers for our fundraiser and supplying all the help and talent. With the money raised, Sam's Club will match it. So come out and see us!

**Aug. 1-8:** Isla Mujeres, Mexico

**Aug 12, 25, 31 :** Indians Game - Fundraisers

**Aug 18:** Dinner honoring Senator Denton in Ohio sponsored by the MOL

**Aug 19:** Fundraising golf outing  
**Sept 1, 14, 16:** Indians Game - Fundraisers

**Sept 12:** Kathy asked to speak at the I X Center at Whole Life Expo

**Oct. TBD:** Mexico Trip

For Additional Info on Fundraisers call John Wright at (216) 939-8601.



*Dick Sunde, from South Dakota, spends a special moment with a little lady at Casa Guatamala*

Summer 1998



# A simple request, an extraordinary response

By Diane Nesselhuf

I just returned from three weeks in Guatemala where I worked with women's co-ops and the orphanage Casa Guatemala. The first week I stayed at Upavim, a women's co-op in Guatemala City. My friend Lana, a physical therapist, and I spent the week making home visits to see children who needed physical therapy.

One of the families touched our hearts tremendously. There were three sisters ages 21, 20 and 14, all with a genetic degenerative disease. Can you imagine having three healthy, lovely daughters for the first several years of their lives, only to learn that they would quickly decline and not be able to walk, talk or feed themselves?

The family took care of the three girls lovingly, doing the best they could. They lived in a three room house in the poorest section of the city. The father had a job earning enough money for the barest necessities.

My friend Lana worked with the girls, showing the parents different techniques. We bought them some hand manipulative toys from money a friend gave me. This enabled them to work on dexterity with their hands.

The girls had not been able to go outside because they weren't able to walk. The family had no vehicle and a wheelchair was out of the question because that was way beyond the family's means.

So, I e-mailed my friend Kathy of Mission of Love asking if it would be possible to send a wheelchair in the July airlift. I immediately got a response. Yes, of course, and she asked if the family could use *three wheelchairs*. What a miracle! Now they would be able to go outdoors as a whole family. There was one healthy child (age 10). Between her and her parents, they could take all three girls

to church and other outings. What a blessing for that family!

We also met a ten year old girl named Ruth with a disease that affected her legs. Her legs were so small that she couldn't use them. Although the school was only two blocks away, she never had a way to get there. Ruth had owned a wheelchair, but it was too big, heavy and

dangerous. We thought, let's try Kathy one more time. Her response, "Yes, of course, Ruth will have her own wheelchair."

Thank you Kathy, and thank you to everyone who opened a new world for these precious girls.

*Diane is a dear friend of MOL and Casa Guatemala. She handles adoptions from South Dakota.*



*I am only one, but still I am one; I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do the something I can do. ~Helen Keller*



# Killer Dog Attacks Mailman !!

By Bob Price

By now, most of the people reading this article know what the Mission of Love is all about. Did you ever wonder how all of the things that the Mission of Love does come together? How do those huge Air Force planes get filled up? Where does all that material come from? Then, did you ever wonder how all of the arrangements for people from all over the world to meet at some remote spot in the jungle happen?

Well, it all starts in a little corner bedroom in our house in Austintown, Ohio. This is where Kathy keeps the telephone and computer that keep her linked up to all the wonderful volunteers and donors that make the Mission of Love fly. The bedroom/office is in the front of the house. This gives Kathy a good view of the street out front. This way she can keep a lookout for the dreaded mailman.

The living room of our house is on the floor below. That is where Kathy's sidekick, our little dog Emmy, also maintains guard duty. Emmy's real name is Emerald Louise Price. She is a bichon frise. If you do not know what kind of dog that is, she looks like

a large clump of dryer lint with four legs. We can tell the front of Emmy from the back of the two dark eyes and the little black nose. This is important to know because we have to know which end of the dog to feed.

Six days a week (Emmy gets Sunday's off to chase squirrels in the back yard) this little dog sits vigilantly staring out the front window, waiting for the mailman. Her early warning system involves a persistent whining and a violent shaking of the tail. When this happens, Emmy alerts not only Kathy, but also our neighbors three streets over that the mailman is coming.

This is a very important event in the Price household, for the mailman can bring any number of surprises. Some days he brings greetings from the people at the telephone company who want to remind Kathy just how expensive phone calls to Guatemala can be. The folks at MasterCard drop a note from time to time asking about the last trip to Mexico to build a clinic, and by the way, don't forget about your pesky airline tickets. Of course you have to be on the ground to meet the Air Force plane when it arrives, but remember to keep in touch. Kathy also gets to hear from all sorts of people who want to say "Hi" and "please let us hear from you soon." I wonder though, do you suppose that those people really like my wife for herself, or are they really only interested in her for money?

This article is prompted by a comment that I overheard. Somebody was wondering why it is necessary for the Mission of Love to have fund raisers if all the donations are free? Yes, the medical supplies and used clothing are donated, but most of the building materials have to be purchased. We also purchase bulk corn that is destined to become tortillas. These things don't just march



onto the airplane, and then walk to the building site.

I'm not being very subtle, am I?

There are still considerable expenses involved in helping children. They can be as minor as filling the gas tank of a borrowed truck to paying for the postage on the newsletter that you are reading right now to paying for truckloads of lumber and corrugated steel roofing material.

Every once in a while the mailman brings Kathy something with a kind note and a check in it. The loving note is more appreciated than the check, but the money is helpful too. We don't get as many of those as we do bills, but somehow, the business of helping children goes on.

Oh, are you wondering about the headline, dog bites mailman? Actually, I learned that trick from a supermarket tabloid. If you put a screaming headline on a story, people will read it, even if it is not entirely true. The real story is that Emmy licked him once. She doesn't know that he brings bills addressed to the Mission of Love. You see Emmy can't read.





# Challenging Conditions Make for Rewarding Trip

By Louie Fostvedt

Written by Kristi Ward

It's been said, the harder the course, the more rewarding the triumph. Those words rang true in April as 23 men and women ventured to the jungles of Guatemala to complete the ninth successful Mission of Love work trip.

Sweltering heat, non-functional toilets, rotted wood, bats and many other challenges did not stand in the way of helping the orphaned children who needed help.

Plumbing was just one of the major projects our group fixed. When we arrived, 18 toilets weren't working. We were able to replace eight of those and repair the rest. A recent flood washed out pipes which created major plumbing problems. Because of the poor plumbing conditions, kitchen waste was collecting under the sink. Jeff Housel and Kevin Kellie went underneath to fix the problem. The septic tanks were also not being cleaned, so Jeff and Kevin were greeted with an awful smell. They taught the people how to clean the septic tanks so the smell wouldn't return.

Carl Liccardi and Louie Fostvedt replaced the wire and broken fixtures, which were in really bad shape, especially in the girls dorm.

Tom Cowie was in charge of the carpenter crew which consisted of Matt Melonio, Dan Mattozzi, Clark Twininc, Gary Hudson and Bill Trigg. Although we didn't plan on replacing the metal roof on the kindergarten building, once we saw its condition we knew it needed to be replaced. We had to ride up the river and pick up 50 sheets of galvanized steel 14' long, then go further up the river to get another 50 sheets. We also repaired holes in the floors that had been gouged by termites.

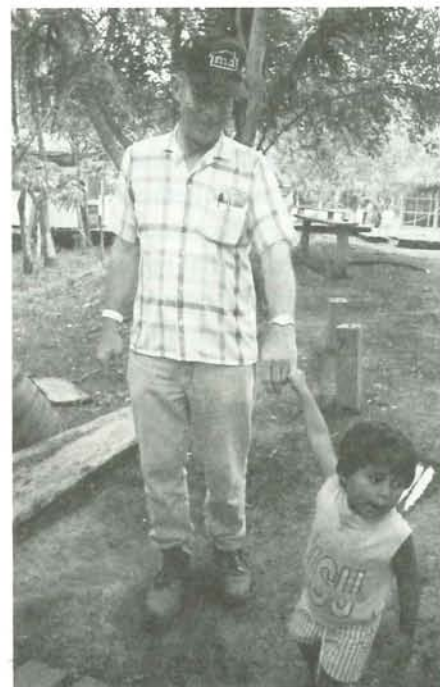
The water tower at the volunteer house was getting weak, so we ended up bringing in lumber for Tom and his crew to build a new base. The lumber was so hard we had to drill holes for the nails using a hammer drill!

One of the biggest challenges, though, was installing 20 ventilators on the dangerously high roof of the girls dorm. Tom and Matt threw a heavy rope over the roof, tied it in the back side, then walked up over the roof hanging over it. It was a nerve-wrenching day watching them up there, but the end result was a cooler place for the girls to sleep. As if that wasn't enough excitement, Tom and Matt painted the back half of the kindergarten building, which faced the river. They situated their ladders on boats in the river and accomplished the task in one full day.

Another major challenge was painting in the tiring humidity and arid temperatures, but Dick Sunde and his painting crew got the job done. The paint crew consisted of Katie Ward, Lisa Theodore, John Wright, Sandy Kelly, Tabitha Bennett, Kris Cassese, Kristi and Sally Walker, Greta Dudash and Judy Higgins.

They painted the inside of the girls dorm, as well as the inside, outside, ceilings and floors of the Kindergarten building. Kris Cassese, an artist, painted lettering and characters on the walls for the children. The children worked right along side of Kris, filling in the lines with their own special touches. Kristi Walker and Katie Ward also repaired screens to prevent bats from entering the girls dorm.

The medical teams consisted of Linda Budd, who worked in the first aid station in the clinic, and Becky Smilovits, a dental hygienist. Becky cleaned 32 sets of teeth per day. Her daily average here in the States is only eight patients a day.



*Back to work, Louie!!! This little guy guides Louie back to the work site at Casa Guatemala.*

John Wright brought along his harmonica and played music from memory. Very aware of how the heat might affect the volunteers, John kept a close watch on everyone, making sure they had enough water and rest.

The 23 dedicated volunteers, the donations from all of the people and businesses back home and the organizational skills of Kathy Price made this one of the most successful and meaningful Mission of Love trips.

Down here you have to make do with limited tools and supplies, but working with the excellent people who volunteered and seeing the smiles of the grateful children made all the challenges and heart aches worth while.

And as we left Casa Guatemala, our boat captain shined his light on the building's freshly painted sign, reminding us that we made a difference in the life of a child.



## MOL Heads North of the Border

By Debbie McGee

On Saturday, July 11th, 25 Canadian women joined together for a barbecue hosted by Linda Aisthorpe of Toronto, Ontario to meet Kathy Price in celebration of the opening of a Mission of Love in Canada. Although most of us were strangers to each other, we all mingled and conversed easily, connected by our awe of the incredible work being done by the Mission for forgotten children around the world.

Although primarily a social event, we each had an opportunity at various points throughout the evening to watch videos of recent Mission projects. Kathy held us spellbound with her sharing of the process involved in the restoration and building of much needed medical facilities and schools in villiages that have virtually no electricity or plumbing. The look of enthusiasim and hope on the faces of the villiagers and the joy that radiated from children who have never before had a toy brought tears to my eyes. I could see that the volunteers as well as those they went to help, were fed by the bonding of human spirit even more than by the much needed supplies.

The passion in my own soul was ignited by the evidence that we each can make a difference, no matter where we are on the economic spectrum. Each time I look at the small clay angel made by the hands of forgotton children and wrapped in brightly patterned hand woven cloth, I will be reminded that it is the giving of ourselves that keep us in tune with our life purpose.

What came to mind and would not leave me through out the evening was an experience I had with my ten year old son last Christmas Eve day. As we walked away from a homeless youth he had given a Twoonie (a \$2 canadian coin) to, he grabbed my hand, looked sideways at me and whispered "Mommy, I feel like my heart is glowing!" And that is what the Mission of Love does -- it makes the hearts of all involved glow.

## The Rio Dulce Project

Casa Guatemala's Rio Dulce project is in the country's eastern rain forest. It serves abandoned and orphaned children from throughout the country. Situated on the banks of the Rio Dulce River, at the end of the jungle, the project's rural setting provides a socially healthy atmosphere for more than a hundred homeless children. Most of these children are wards of the state and ineligible for adoption. The goal of the program is to create a true community and to provide the children with the education, training, love and guidance they need to become responsible and productive citizens. Integration of the institution into the daily life of the neighboring villages is actively promoted, opening a larger world for the children and helping them overcome the sense of isolation often experienced by children raised in orphanages.

The Rio Dulce project is a valuable asset to the local population of Kekchi speaking Indians who live in relative isolation and poverty. This population, now for the first time, has access to free medical care and schooling. The project also provides employment opportunities, health training, clothing donations, nutritious meals for the school children and use of the orphanage's mill for grinding corn. This project includes a farm used to teach sustainable agricultural techniques and will hopefully allow for self sufficiency.



*Volunteers fix the roof of the girls dorm at Casa Guatamala.*

## Reflections

*Janet Landis will be working at Casa Guatemala as a volunteer. She spent two years doing Peace Corps work, and upon her term end, she decided to continue serving the poor. This is a letter from her:*

My first impression as I arrived by boat was how nice the name and logo on the prekinder building looked. The identification and first-impression of the orphanage improved 100%

The impact of the Mission of Love was felt everywhere I walked – the fresh, clean, painted look of the kinder/prekinder building; the ventilation in the girls dorm; toilets that flush; dry showers and sinks that aren't causing mold, fungus and rot problems; lights that work; secure wires; patched holes in floors and walls. All of these things bring smiles to the children, by the way who had clean shiny teeth. The children are living healthier and happier because of all of your help, love and assistance.

Sometimes it is easy to just see the external results, but I know from having shared the week with you and the team, all the effort that goes on behind the scenes – all the faith, prayers, planning, organizing, and fund raising, sweating, crying and literally blood from injuries, that go into each mission (of love) that you undertake. The week of work at the orphanage went so quickly, yet the results stay so long. Please accept my gratitude on behalf of everyone here at Casa Guatemala for all of your assistance, and most of all, all your LOVE! We hope to see you all again, real soon!

For myself, thank you so much for all of your commitment, love and dedication. Some days are difficult, but in the end, they are all worthwhile.

Love & Prayers,  
Janet Landis



## Mission of Love News

The *Mission of Love News* is distributed free to friends of Mission of Love. Through articles, letters, photos and good news, the newsletter will continue to remind us that one person can truly make a difference.

We hope you enjoy reading about the events taking place around the globe because of the work that you do and the donations you have made. If you know someone who would like to receive this newsletter, please contact us at the phone/address below.

You are welcome to contribute an article or photo to this newsletter. To do so, please contact the editors, Sean and Kristi Ward at (440) 516-1661. Or you can mail it to them at 674 Bryn Mawr Ave., Wickliffe, OH 44092.

*Deadline for Fall Edition: 9/15/98*

### MISSION STATEMENT

*To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived.*

*This is to have succeeded.*

*--Ralph Waldo Emerson*

### MISSION OF LOVE



*Upper: A view from the Rio Dulce of the girls dorm at Casa Guatamala*

*Lower: Does anyone remember this Maditor from Xhualtez?!?*

## Upcoming Trips

On July 28, the Mission of Love Foundation will be going to back to Mexico to build two cerebal palsy clinics, a day care center for the children and a small clinic for the Villiage of Francisco Maya.

### Future Trips:

**Mexico -- October 1998**

To Be Determined

**Iquitos, Peru -- January 1999**

The Peru mission will not be like the rest. We will be staying in the Amazon at a Monastery. The details are being worked out. The mission will once again be to build a clinic for the poor. Those who have gone on a work mission with the Mission of Love prior will have first preference. If interested in going, we require a deposit of \$100 to start the process. The \$100 will be deducted from the cost of the trip.

**Honduras -- April 1999**

Clinic and school for Mayans

**Guatamala -- July 1999**

Casa Guatamala, General Maintenance of the Orphanage

*All of the above trips are medical and educational projects that will directly benefit children.*

### Mission of Love

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(330) 793-2388