



Mission of Love NEWS



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

Guatemala Trip Planned

23 People are Ready to Learn from Orphans of Casa Guatemala

And they're off again!

On April 28 to May 6, another Mission of Love Foundation group is heading south to Guatemala to provide humanitarian aid to those in need.

The goal of this trip is to improve the plumbing and electrical service, give a new coat of paint and give and receive love and support at the Orphanage at Casa Guatemala. The group consists of 23 people from Northeast Ohio and South Dakota. Many of the group members, have been to the orphanage to repair the sixty foot roof of the girls dormitory in February 1996.

Casa Guatemala is

located on the Rio Dulce, near Belize. The orphans are tucked away in the jungle where the first Tarzan movie was filmed. The only mode of transportation is by boat. However we can support the orphanage of Casa Guatemala we will.



The Orphanage at Casa Guatemala

Giving a Little Means a Lot

Join the \$10-a-Month Club

By Kristi Ward

With the help of so many people and businesses, the Mission of Love is able to touch the lives of people in Mexico, Guatemala, Peru, Honduras, Croatia and India. Although the donations have been wonderful, unexpected expenses pop up that can get in the way of completing the work.

If you have ever been on a mission trip, you know the scene sometimes materials don't make it through customs or additional building supplies or tools are necessary to finish a job.

These basics are necessary to complete the work, yet where do we find the money to pay for these supplies, which are often at premium prices?

Until recently Kathy Price, the founder and director of Mission of Love, was paying for these things out of her own pocket. To help defray these expenses, please consider supporting the "\$10-a-Month-Club."

Created to form a slush fund for emergencies, the fund will pay for "the unexpected." This will give the Mission of Love added support on

"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.

Baby food & formulas, antibiotics, first aid supplies, soap, prenatal & childrens 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

future trips.

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.

150 is Our Goal

If 150 people join the \$10-a-month club, this would bring in \$1,500 a month. This would be very valuable in helping the Mission of Love serve those in need.

Dear Friends,

Another year has passed and we have so much to bring you up to date on. So many wonderful people have joined our Mission of Love circle. It truly is contagious! What a blessing it is to have so many volunteers to make a difference in the life of a child.

In February, another hospital has been built to service 30 Mayan communities surrounding Xhualtez, Mexico. The grand opening will be December 12, 1998, the feast of Guadeloupe. The Mission of Love will have an airlift to completely furnish the hospital. The airlift will include an ambulance that our friend, Dick Sunde, managed to arrange to have donated from Nebraska. John Wright flew to South Dakota, and drove our gift back to Cleveland, so it could be delivered to Xhualtez. It has been completely overhauled so our friends will have access to complete medical care.

Thanks to all the 44 volunteers that gave so much to complete the mission at Xualtez. It became very apparent when we were leaving just exactly what developed, in a weeks time. We all saw that it was not just building the hospital, but it was realizing how we truly can love our neighbors. With this

mission we became human. We witnessed poverty firsthand, and grew from that experience. Love was generated from a community that shared every essence of life with us. They will always be in our hearts.

Our lives have changed because of the Mayan village of Xualtez. We know now, first hand how one suffers from being cold, an experience we only had to endure for a week, not a lifetime. Seeing the children wrapped in saran wrap to keep warm, made all of us grateful for a simple blanket. It also made us realize that it is time that we can make a difference, as one. Yes, maybe even by a simple blanket.

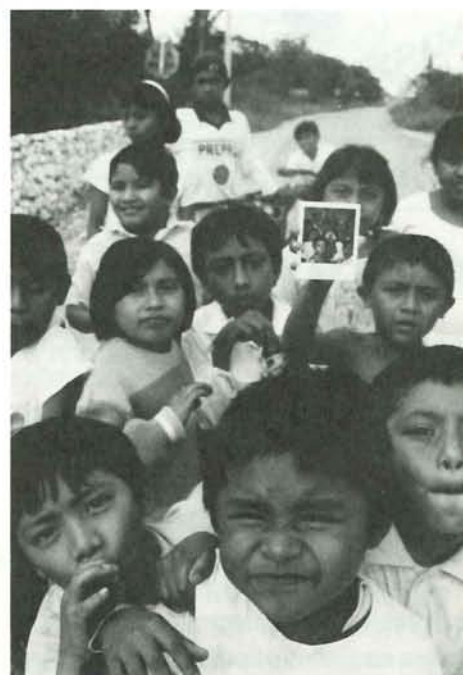
There are countless stories, and some that none of you, could ever imagine. The volunteers literally cashed in on an opportunity of a lifetime. We all passed the test and will never forget our encounter with our new family of Xhualtez.

With gratitude,

Kathy



A view of the Medical Clinic at the Village of Xhualtez, Mexico.



Children play with their Polaroid photos outside of the Medical Clinic in Xhualtez (these are probably the first photos the children have ever seen of themselves).

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."

The Simple Life

By Sally Walker

Twenty-three men and nineteen women who ranged in the age from 21 to 82 and who came from seven different states arrived at the village of Xhualtez (pronounced "schwatace" or "waltace") early in the morning on Tuesday, February 3rd. The villagers were there to greet us and shake our hands while the children were treated to "blowing bubbles" that one young woman had brought. This was the beginning of a week that is very difficult to put into words.

Doors were made, louvered windows were constructed, extensive electrical work was accomplished and plumbing was begun at the clinic (hospital) by the time thirty-one of us returned home on Tuesday, February 20th. "Dr. Bob" and "Dr. Kathie" saw many patients in two different villages. Mayan men played baseball with our workers on the Roberto Clemente sport's field. A fiesta, which included clowns, "Sweet Pea" and "Spaghetti", balloons, piñatas with candy, local dancers and gifts for children was held for the village. A bullfight was held in our honor the last night that we were there.

At the clinic the Mayan men and young people were eager to help with any aspect of the work that we were

undertaking. The women made delicious meals of tortillas, fruits, soups, eggs, etc., for us three times a day. The children will always be remembered

because they were always around to keep you smiling or laughing.

Kathy Price, the director of the Mission of Love Foundation, had told us not to have any expectations or fears when we departed for Mexico. We learned soon that there was nothing to fear. This was a third world country and yet the Mayan Indians who mainly lived simply off the land appeared to be much happier than we were. We were blessed to have been interconnected with these people and our lives will be much richer for having known them.

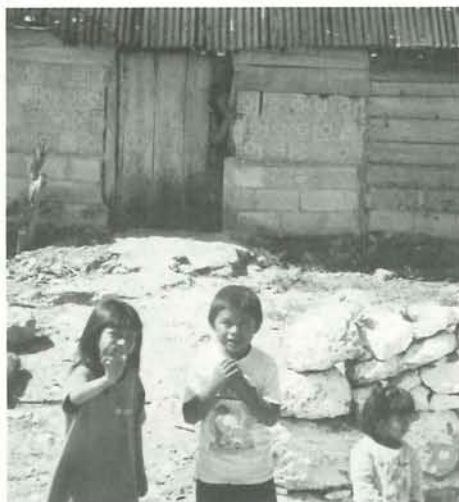
We also lived the simple life while we were there but we did it willingly because this was how the Mayan people lived. We wanted to help them so that they could have medical



Sally Walker takes a break from applying varnish to one of the 33 doors on the medical clinic at Xhualtez.

facilities nearby, but they gave us so much more with their love and friendship.

The Mayan Indians touched all of us in different ways. Even though most of us could not speak Spanish, and definitely not Mayan, love has no barriers. The eyes and laughter of children, the hugs from men, women and children, the feeling that we were definitely welcomed and apart of that village for only a few days... these all transcended language barriers. We will never forget the village of Xhualtez nor the wonderful work that Kathy Price is accomplishing through her Mission of Love Foundation.



Did You Know?

\$4.79 buys 50 lbs. of cracked corn
\$4.22 buys 50 lbs. of oats
\$5.89 buys 50 lbs. of wheat

Calendar

April 28 - May 6: Casa Guatemala
May 1: Ch.5 Story 11 p.m. News
May 4: Ch.5 Story on *Live on 5*
July 28 - Aug 4: Isla Mujeres
Aug 19: Fund Raising Golf Tourney

For Your Information

The Linda Rose Clinic of Francisco Madera has been opened and staffed with a doctor, nurse and a clinician. What a success! Thanks everyone who made this happen.

Last year we had airlifts to Peru, Guatemala, Croatia and Mexico. The orphans of Casa Guatemala had the best Christmas ever, because all of the donations were airlifted just before Christmas.

Channel 5 (ABC) from Cleveland will air our Mission of Xhualtez on April 29 at 11 p.m. **Ted and Rich** made a wonderful documentary of what our mission is all about.

With the help of **John Cicero**, we have been given a new building at the Ravenna Arsenal to store our donations in. It will really make our job of sorting, collecting and distributing so much easier.

Luis, our seventeen year old friend from Mexico, who has cerebral palsy and leukemia, has gained four pounds since we delivered his donation of Ensure. With his new wheel chair donated from **Wheels of Hope**, **Patrick Renke**, he was able to go outside for the first time in 14 months.

Would anyone like to adopt an ambulance and completely equip it with the necessary supplies for our clinic in Xhualtez?

Look into the Eyes of the Child audio cassette tapes, written by **Mary Jo Stetson**, as a gift for the M.O.L., as a gift to raise funds for the children, are available. Call Kathy at (330) 793-2388.



Another Shipment Ready! A load of clothing, medical supplies and food are loaded onto an Airforce Cargo Plane headed south.

May 11, 1991, Calcutta

The following is a letter from Mother Teresa to Thomas Farrell, Chairman of the Humanities Dept., at Johnson & Wales University in Providence, Rhode Island

Dear Thomas Farrell,

I have just returned to Calcutta and found your letter. Sorry for this delay. Thank you for your interest in our work of love and for your offer to write an article. Your intention to get donations is good, but it is not in keeping with our charism. We are poor and fully dependent on divine providence which comes to us through the spontaneous sharing of the rich and the poor. If you want to help, share something of yourself - not from your abundance - but until it hurts. Give what costs you - make a sacrifice - do without something you like, so you may share what you have saved thus with those that do not even have what they need. Then your giving will be truly giving - loving until it hurts. I pray for you that you concentrate more and more on raising funds of love and compassion and to see no one around feels unwanted and unloved. Be God's hands to serve the poor in your spare time and be his heart to love the poorest of the poor all the time.

God bless you,
Mother Teresa



From a Medical Perspective

By Kathie Nelson, M.D.

I have been asked to share the experiences of the medical teams on the trip. We had two teams serving our village, Xhualtez, and a nearby village, Tusic. Each team had a doctor, two nurses, and an interpreter. We were "blessed" with the "coincidental" presence of interpreters who just happened to be in the village and told them they were sent by God.

We saw 25-35 patients a day in each village. Many had common complaints such as arthritis, coughs, headaches, etc. These complaints are not easily treated when one has no access to medical care or Phar-Mor. The patients were very grateful for a few Tylenol tablets or some cough syrup.

"Dr. Bob" carved a shoe insert from a block of wood for a man who had great difficulty walking with one leg shorter than the other. This looked like a very time-consuming task.

One young man came into our

clinic with a machete wound across the back of his hand requiring several sutures. We had no syringes at our site for the injection of lidocaine so the sutures were placed without the benefit of that.

Most of our patients were women and children. The mothers always presented the children first for treatment, and then themselves. The love that they felt for their children was very evident.

Each day we received treats in appreciation for what we were doing. Candy, peeled oranges, and rice milk were all presented with gratitude. These people who have very little shared what they had with us.

Muchas gracias to the people of Xhualtez and Tusic for showing what is really important, for welcoming us as one of their own, and for allowing us the opportunity to give. We have received much more than we gave. The body is made whole when we work in harmony.

Left: Nancy Slocum, a nurse at Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, checks a young Mayan woman's pulse.



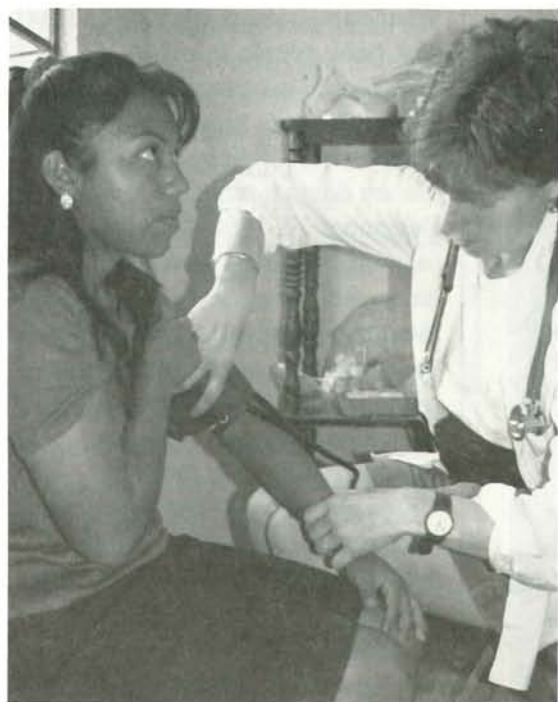
Above: Doctor Bob Gillette and Doctor Kathie Nelson, both from Youngstown, OH, were part of the medical team at Xhualtez.

We would also like to recognize nurses Linda Budd, Charmayne Sue

Daws and Judy Higgins, who were a part of the medical staff that treated the Mayan people. Thank you.



Little Lady with a new pair of shoes on.



South Dakota Inspiration

Louis Fostvedt has found a new purpose in his retirement years. A retired maintenance supervisor for the University of South Dakota, Louis spends the majority of his time organizing fundraisers, collecting donated items and working on mission trips with the Mission of Love.

"It gives me a new purpose in life," Louis said when asked why he commits his time to the organization. "It's something we really look forward to doing with our time."

Louis was first introduced to Mission of Love prior to the January 1996 trip to Guatemala, his first mission trip. His friends Ed and Diane Nestlehoff knew Kathy Price and the work she was doing out of her Youngstown, Ohio home.

"Once I met Kathy, there was no question about it. I knew I wanted to be working with the Mission of Love," he said.

From there, Louis and citizens of Vermillion, South Dakota have made a major contribution to the Mission of Love.

"We get a lot of support from our church, Trinity Lutheran," he said. "Our minister is behind us 100 percent. The Women's Group collects clothing and helps prepare the fundraising

meals and we are able to use the church kitchen to serve food. Everyone gets involved, everyone contributes to the Mission of Love in their own way."

Louis added that it's not just the church that stands behind the Mission of Love, but the whole community as well.

"Local merchants donate items and we have silent auctions to raise funds," he added. "The town of Vermillion is behind us all the way."

Louis says people joke to him and tell others "Here comes Louis, you'd better watch out, or you'll be volunteering for something!"

Louis said he met a lot of people through the carpet cleaning business he used to have. Now he is able to call on those people to support the Mission of Love.

"People have helped us throughout the years," he said. "We live in a small community where people help one another. When we built our home, all the neighbors helped us. Now we get to return the favor in our community and in communities around the world."

And this is Louis' favorite aspect of the Mission of Love -- helping people who are willing to work, meeting new people and forming new friendships all over the world.

Thank you to Louis and to all of the people in Vermillion, SD, for your hard work and dedication!

Louis Fostvedt, Maria Jose Medina and Kathy Price at the clinic in Xhualtez, Mexico.



Kevin Bliss of Vermillion, SD, stands with his new friends in Xhualtez, Mexico.

A Letter From Maria Jose Medina

Maria Jose Medina helps coordinate Mission of Love on the receiving end in Mexico. She served as liaison and interpreter while we built the clinic.

Dear Kathy,

What do you know my friend? This past week people from the mexicano Bank came to see the clinic. They are very pleased for what we have built in Xhualtez. We are doing a schedule to open December 12, 1998. This week the secretary of public health and I have made an agreement regarding the doctors. I need to know about the equipment, so please send me by fax the list of the items you have for us because what you don't have I have to look after, OK? I also need to know the approximate date of the arrival of the airlift. I look forward to hearing from you.

*Love you as always,
Maria Jose*



You Can Hit the Road and Write it Off

Countless nonprofit organizations seek volunteers for projects around the world -- anything from helping African villagers to build a school to aiding scientists excavating ancient ruins. But you can get a charitable endeavors' deduction only if you work with a group that has tax-exempt status in the United States.

Also, the IRS allows deductions only for expenses that are directly related

to the charitable work. Nightly dinners out with your colleagues may be allowed but not unrelated side excursions from your base -- which might raise the question of whether you volunteered primarily so you could take a personal trip.

As seen in *The Youngstown Vindicator*, Sunday, March 29, 1998
Written by Barbara Shea

Something to Think About . . .

By Kathy Price

I would like to share with you a statement made to me by a friend who was close to death. She said, "You know, I've done an awful lot of spiritual practice, I've prayed, I've meditated, I've taken vows, I've taken initiations and I think I'm ready to die. But to be perfectly honest, I wish I just had ten years of cancer-free life, just ten years."

So I said, if you could receive that wish, if you could have those ten years, just what would you do with them? And without skipping a beat she said, "I would be kind. I would teach children everything I've ever learned about how life is, and to be strong, and how to be courageous, and how most of all to be loving."

Ambulance Will Boost Mexican Village Health Care

As seen in *Plain Talk*, Vermillion, SD's daily newspaper, January 1998, By David Lias

Vermillion insurance agent Dick Sunde thought it was odd recently when an out-of-state customer wanted to purchase coverage for an ambulance.

The customer, it turns out, intended to donate the ambulance to a charity, but the deal fell through. So Dick, a member of Mission of Love, a humanitarian organization that has been improving health care facilities in remote Mexican villages, seized the opportunity.

"We cut the deal on the ambulance on Dec. 31, and picked it up (from Omaha) on Jan. 1," Dick said.

Dick drove the ambulance to Sioux City, IA last week (January 1998). From there, it was driven to Ohio, where it was loaded on a C-130 Air Force cargo plane bound for a village in Yucatan, Mexico.

Scenes from Xhualtez

Top right: Jim Guido & Don Cerra are excited to pass out the hundreds of pairs of donated shoes. *Bottom right:* Kevin Kelley gets a hug and a smile from Sweet Pea, aka Sharon Kestler.



Top left: Terry Smith, Bob Ryan & Sharon Kestler work on louvered windows.

Bottom left: Brian Burns receives help from Mayan villagers to construct doors for the clinic.

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 Summer Edition: 6/12/98*

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



Tabatha Bennett could not resist giving this little guy a peck on the cheek!

Thank you Channel 5 !

Thank You Channel 5, WEWS!!!! WEWS, Channel 5, ABC, of Cleveland, sent a reporter, Ted Hart, and a cameraman, Rich Geyser, to cover the Mission of Love trip to Xhualtez. The finished piece will air May 1, on the 11 p.m. news, and again on May 4, on *Live on 5*.

Video Tapes of Xhualtez will be Available!!!! The tape will include the Channel 5 story and background footage, as well as Jim Guido's personal video. If you would like a copy, please send a \$7 check to: Sean & Kristi Ward, 674 Bryn Mawr Ave., Wickliffe, OH 44092. Be sure to include your mailing address!

Upcoming Trips

On July 28, the Mission of Love Foundation will be going to Isla Mujeres to build two cerebral palsy clinics and a day care center for the children.

Future Trips:

Mexico - October 1998

Peru -- January 1999

Honduras -- April 1999

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

In our newsletter, you are reading about people who give up part of their lives, pay their own expenses, and travel to out of the way places, in order to make a contribution.

Very often people say to me, I wish I could do that, and then they tell me reasons why they can't. I tell them that I understand that not everyone can find the time or spend the money to travel on a mission. Those of us who travel, could not do it without the help of the hundreds of you that stay behind. Every contribution, great and small, makes our world a better place. If you give us an afternoon to load trucks or buy us a blanket or even say a prayer you are making a positive effect on the lives of somebody that you will never meet.

On their behalf, let me say to you, thank you. Thank you for being a special person who cares, the world is a better place because of you. --

Kathy Price

Mission of Love

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