



Mission of Love NEWS



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

Mission of Love Nominated for Largest Humanitarian Award!

GREAT NEWS!!! Mission of Love Foundation has been nominated for the 1999 Conrad N. Humanitarian Prize, the world's largest humanitarian award. Maria Jose Medina Diaz of Mexico nominated MOL for the work we have done in her home communities and other third-world countries.

This annual one million dollar award was established by the Conrad N. Hilton Foundation to honor a volunteer, charitable or non-governmental organization that has made extraordinary contributions toward alleviating human suffering.

We are honored to have been nominated for this award. As an organization that relies solely on volunteer efforts and funding, we wholeheartedly thank everyone who gave of themselves to make this nomination possible.

The winning organization will be announced this fall.



John Wright, a regular MOL volunteer, stands with Tamika, our very kind concession stand manager at the Cleveland Indians games. Tamika is a single parent with a Cerebral Palsy child. This car is a gift to her from the MOL so she can take her child to get treated.

Spring 1999

Together Everyone Accomplishes More

Looking back on a busy year...

March 1999 Completed hospital to service 30,000 Mayan Indians of the Yucatan Peninsula. The first medical clinic of its kind in Mexico, this clinic will offer both traditional and western medicine. Furnishings will be airlifted to site, including an ambulance. ➔ Computerized Cerebral Palsy Clinic on Isla Mujeres.

Feb. 1999 Airlifted 28,000 pounds of educational and medical supplies to Peru.

Jan. 1999 Forty four MOL volunteers went to the orphanage of Casa Guatemala to build a six room two story school for 220 children. The only mode of transportation is by boat. At this time the orphans have a two story new school to be educated in. ➔ Gave an automobile to our food service manager who helped us at Cleveland Indians games last fall. She will be able to use this car to take her child to Cerebral Palsy treatments.

Dec. 1998 Over 8,000 American Indians of South Dakota benefitted from aid that was sent by MOL.

Nov. 1998 Local Hurricane Mitch relief efforts yielded 120,000 pounds of rice, beans, corn, blankets and medical supplies which were airlifted to Guatemala.

Oct. 1998 Local Hurricane Mitch relief efforts yielded 137,000 pounds of aid which was delivered to the extremely desperate Mesquite Indians in Honduras. This was the only aid they received.

Sept. 1998 MOL airlifted 27,000 pounds of medical aid to Puerto Rico because of Hurricane George.

Aug. 1998 MOL built a Cerebral Palsy Clinic on Isla Mujeres, Mexico. The name of the clinic is "For the Love of Children." ➔ Completely furnished Amish school with student and teacher desks and filing cabinets. ➔ Airlifted 120,000 pounds of aid to the orphans of Guatemala.

July 1998 Airlifted 80,000 pounds of aid to Mexico.

May 1998 MOL went to Guatemala to install new roof on kindergarten for orphans and do general maintenance work on the orphanage.

Mexican Fiesta on April 30!

See page 2 for details ➔

A Seed Planted

by Kathy Price, MOL Director

Throughout the years, many people have asked me to create a newsletter for the Mission of Love. I have been trying to get around putting on paper some of the things that the Mission has generated, but it has been no easy task.

Looking back over the years, I remember all the generous spirits who have aided our Mission. Where do I begin?

Perhaps I should begin back in 1987. That was the year I visited San Diego and read a newspaper article about Jenny Murphy. Looking back, I realized Jenny Murphy had a very substantial influence on the founding of our organization. Jenny was a 75 year old woman who had spent the last 40 of those years dedicating herself to serving the poor of Colonia Petregal, an impoverished barrio on the outskirts of the sprawling Mexican border town of Tijuana.

The newspaper article told the story of how Jenny would make deliveries of food, medicine, and mostly hope to this forlorn section of the area. Almost every day she would make her rounds from San Diego to Colonia Petregal. She wore out seven cars and two vans in her service to those less fortunate than her.

I was in awe of the sincere way that she helped those of another country and culture. It must have taken a great vision in order to do such profound work. I wanted to be a part of this crusade. I became obsessed. I called Jenny's church. They were very reluctant, but finally they arranged a meeting with the two people who had taken on Jenny's work. The next morning Richard and Delores met me at a bakery, where we filled their station wagon with day old bread and buns and hundreds of gallons of water. I didn't understand why they were

taking water. It seemed to me it was just taking up space that could have been used to transport more food. I just kept quiet and kept on packing.

They told me that we needed to cover and hide all of our supplies so that the Mexican customs people wouldn't search our vehicle. Again, it was simply easier to ask no questions.

If I had asked, they might have told me that technically, I was a smuggler, and that if we were caught, we could have spent years in a Mexican prison.

Was sneaking across an international border with contraband crazy? Sure. But you should have seen those little kids follow our car up a mountainside, hoping for just a little bit of bread and water. It was a very humbling experience.

People were accustomed to walking 10 miles and waiting in line for hours just waiting for Jenny's car. I learned then just how important a simple drink of clean water can be. Stale bread can be a banquet if you are hungry.

While we were passing out food, the people cried for "La Abuelita," Little Grandmother. You see, Little Grandmother had left this earth the

previous day. She had died of pancreatic cancer. She had spent 40 years feeding the poor and providing them with medicines donated by her friends. She made her calls of compassion. She left a legacy of hope and love for mankind.

That visit to Colonia Petregal changed my life. I was made aware that most of our world live without the simple necessities as a glass of safe drinking water. I had no idea how much we take for granted every day. You might say that the little seed that became our Mission of Love was planted at Colonia Petregal that afternoon in September 1987.

*How simple it is to
make a difference in
the lives of others.*

Join friends at MOL Fiesta!!!

Join friends and learn about upcoming mission trips at our 1999 Mission of Love Fiesta on Friday April 30 at 7 p.m. at Colonial Catering in Canfield, Ohio.

Mexican food and drinks will be served and a DJ will provide entertainment. Tickets are just \$12.50 per person for an all you-can-eat Mexican buffet, entertainment, prizes, cash bar and much more. All proceeds will benefit the children of the world via Mission of Love.

Please call Bridget at (330) 538-2323 to purchase your ticket. We'll see you there -- Ole!!!



Jenny Murphy gives her love to a child.

Hard Working Volunteers Make Progress in Guatemala and Mexico

by Louie Fostvedt

1999 has been quite a busy year for Mission of Love volunteers who traveled to Guatemala and Mexico.

Guatemala...

A group of 42 dedicated volunteers made the journey to the Orphanage at Casa Guatemala in January to make trusses and install the roof on the school, make floor joystes and install flooring, pour a cement sidewalk and beautify buildings with much needed paint all in five days.



The volunteers worked long hours to accomplish these goals. Installing the roof on the school was by far the most challenging project. When I arrived at the site, I really didn't think we'd be able to get the work done.



Prior to the trip, the school was deteriorated and dangerous. The people of that community tore the building down and built the 60' x 20' school on existing pilings and footers. When we arrived, our job was to put the roof on this cement structure. We worked with heavy materials, we didn't have scaffolding and we were racing against the clock.

We had a super group of volunteers who knew what to do and how to get it done. Thanks to their dedication to the job, the children now have a two story school building that's in full operation.

Our group of volunteers also painted buildings and put in a sidewalk over muddy areas so the children wouldn't have to walk through the thick mud that is so common to that particular area.

Our medical staff of Dr. Victoria Codispoti and nurses Bernadette Bogdas, Marti Wright, and dental hygienist Lori Thomas

saw villagers and orphans, which added greatly to our mission. They did a wonderful job.

Thanks to everyone who donated their time and effort. Your help truly made a difference.

Mexico...

In late March, 16 volunteers flew into sunny Cancun to travel into the heart of the Yucatan Peninsula to complete the medical clinic started last year in the village of Xhualtez.

We were warmly welcomed by the villagers, who knew us well from last year's trip. The clinic looked great -- the villagers had installed tile floors, improved the windows and doors and added laundry and storage rooms off to the back of the clinic, which will service 20 Mayan communities.

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."

Our mission was to paint the entire exterior and interior of the clinic. We also installed 18 ceiling fans throughout the clinic and worked on the plumbing.

I have to say that the clinic looked just as clean and functional as any medical center here in the United States, which made all of us feel really good.

While we weren't working, we played baseball with the Mayans. Although baseball is their favorite sport, they weren't very good at it a year ago compared to other village teams in the area. Last year when we came to Xhualtez, we brought donated baseball equipment and uniforms to the struggling team (they were in last place out of all the villages). When we greeted them this year, they walked onto the field in their uniforms and beat us 27-7. Over the year, the Xhualtez baseball team improved and came in first place out of 49 villages!

After Xhualtez, we visited the now functioning Cerebral Palsy clinic in Isla Mujeres.

Thanks to all 16 volunteers for making this trip to Mexico. We worked hard, and we played hard. Let's do it again soon!

How Mission of Love and the American People Helped Hurricane Mitch Survivors

The following article is from Norma Love, a woman who works diligently to serve the people of Honduras. Last Fall, Hurricane Mitch ravaged the area leaving her people hungry and helpless. Norma shares how our Mission of Love donations nourished these broken people. This heart-wrenching excerpt from her newsletter will remind you how valuable your donations of food, medicine, supplies and time really are.

For the first time in history I do not need to describe our plight in Honduras. We have lived and are still living a tragedy of unforeseen magnitude. When Hurricane Mitch ripped through the country it disabled the entire nation.

Stories of sadness and rescue, bravery and grief circulate all over Honduras. I have not even heard a fraction of them all. But I do know my people -- the ones whom I have come to love more and more deeply as I serve them with all my strength. My little flock of indigenous villagers has grown to 8500. These are the ones I come into contact with and who turn to me for the support they need.

I heard about Mitch as it gathered strength in the Caribbean, but as we had no television in our village, we could not imagine the size and power it contained. On October 29, I was in Puerto Lempira, a port city that is about three hours from Mocolon. As the largest and only modern city in the entire territory, I saw the satellite pictures of Hurricane Mitch on television. All predictions said that Mitch was heading straight for La Mosquitia. Everyone in Puerto Lempira was frantic with

preparations. Villagers from the exposed coastline were already pouring into refuge centers and everyone was trying to protect themselves and their property. Some were hiding goods in the ground, others lashing things together, and many were gathering in the strongest buildings for safety.

Running like the wind

As we realized how very near we were to disaster, my husband Horacio and I knew we had to get back home to Mocolon. We drove our truck faster than we had ever attempted down the winding dirt strip to Mocolon. We had only been fleeing one hour when the trees began whipping around from the strong wind. We looked behind us and were shocked to see that Puerto Lempira was covered in blackness. With the roar of the wind in our ears and terror in our hearts we raced toward Mocolon. Several times we had to make our own new road through areas that were impassable. When we came to a stream in a little crevice we could find no way around it. We floored the accelerator and jumped the creek, intent upon out-racing the storm. At last we arrived at a silent village. Most everyone had hidden themselves in the protective hills east of Mocolon. A few gathered in ramshackle churches where they felt their faith would protect them. Refugees also filled the only cement buildings in the village -- the school house and the clinic. Horacio and I huddled with two others in our guest house, which was farther from the river

than our home. The wind blew relentlessly for a time, but the rains were the truly damaging element. We watched helplessly as the slow-moving river became a torrent of mud, swelling past its borders and flowing into our homes.

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For four days we knew nothing of the outside world and received no help of any kind. Finally on November 2, two Honduran helicopters brought us some relief. We then learned that Hurricane Mitch had not unleashed all his fury upon the Mesquito Coast -- the entire country was devastated.



Soto Cano Air Base, Honduras
Here's some of your corn being loaded for deliveries to Mocolon.

With this news the helicopters left us to wonder what would become of us.

Fed as with Manna in the Wilderness

In a way I could not imagine the Lord opened a way for us to live. The first plane packed full with 35,000 pounds of food and medicine landed nearby. Kathy Price, a friend from Youngstown, Ohio, had sent us a



Indigenous families remote in the jungle assist MAF offloading the recently arrived aid.

wonderful blessing. When the pilot landed at the military base located about 20 minutes from my home he said, "I have brought supplies for Norma Love and can release them to no one else." Immediately a military officer came to get me. I rushed to the airstrip and was so overjoyed to see the cargo full with sacks of rice and boxes of food.

I was so thankful that the supplies came to me. I do not get involved in war, politics, racism or religion. If someone comes to me, I don't care who they are; I help them. When I saw the bulging bags in the belly of the plane, there was no question in my mind what I would do. I would separate it in even portions for every person in my reach.

Swarming like ants to honey, the villagers arrived at the airstrip. The word had spread quickly, and with many willing hands the work of unloading was soon finished. Using a recent census, we figured the amounts for each village. Driven by hope, we worked day and night to sort and organize the food into bags for each family.

River of Tears

Shortly after the storm, the leaders of a village called Pranza came to me and described their desperate state. Situated on the Coco River, Pranza had suffered untold sadness. Many watched family and friends drowning in the river but could not save them. Whole houses floated downstream, as well as cows, dogs and other animals. Grief-stricken, the survivors were without food for 7 days. Walking every step of the way, the leaders sought my assistance as they told of 400 children starving there. They were willing to carry the food on their backs or drag it behind them if necessary. "We must save our children," they said.

Pranza was our first stop. Transporting the food in an old, overloaded truck, we reached the village only by the grace of God. Our supplies literally filled the mouths of those who were crying, weak and terrified. Each family received a bag with cans of beans, meat, rice and other emergency food. They also received medical supplies according to their needs. After Pranza, we made our way to other villages, with the insurmountable task of reaching thousands, which were spread across territory with damaged roads and flooded rivers. Even I

was losing hope. I prayed for more help to come from somewhere.

Norma's letter goes on to tell how an American Rescue Team consisting of doctors, nurses, pilots and volunteers arrived with generators, vehicles and supplies. Norma said, "Their enthusiasm warmed us, their efforts buoyed our strength, their comforts sustained us and their service literally saved our lives... How thankful I was for the endurance and abilities of the Americans!"

*Children long for somebody
to accept them,
to love them,
to praise them,
to be proud of them.
Let us bring the child back to the
center of our care and concern.
This is the only way the world can
survive because our children are
the only hope for the future.
As older people are called to God,
only their children can take
their place.*

~ Mother Theresa



Mocoron (where Norma Love is) U.S. Military/Civilian Coordinator. Mission Aviation Fellowship (MAF) assists Norma Love with her villages. U.S. Army Civil Affairs assists MAF unloading plane with aid sent from the Mission of Love.

PSEA Food Drive for the Lakhota Indians

by Robert Whitehead

It was a crisp sunny 50 degrees when our truck arrived at the Oglala Community Center on Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota. Our truck was packed with 45,000 pounds of food, clothing and medical supplies from the Pennsylvania State Education Association (PSEA) House of Delegates, Pittsburgh and Mission of Love.

This was PSEA's first food drive effort and would not have been accomplished without the gracious assistance of MOL.

Throughout the day members of the community stopped by and gathered what they needed for their families. Community members also packed trucks and vans to deliver food and clothing to families in outlying areas unable to make the trip.

PSEA and MOL teamed up with Can'ku Luta' (Red Road, Inc.) to accomplish this effort. Can'ku Luta' is a grass roots organization dedicated to alleviating the impoverished conditions Indian people face on Pine Ridge, Standing Rock, Cheyenne River and Rosebud Reservations. Our goal was to deliver food and clothing to those who do not ordinarily receive these supplies. Local community members donated their time and vehicles to deliver supplies to remote areas on the four reservations. Each recipient was extremely grateful. The donations provided many families with a holiday meal and enough food to last into the winter months.

PSEA members, along with MOL contributors, can be proud of their effort and support of this project. We made a difference in the lives of about 8,000 Lakhota people.

Vast areas on these reservations resemble conditions of third world countries. White ranchers, as a result of long-term lease agreements and government programs, control the

majority of reservation land. The resemblance to absentee landlords in our poor urban settings is striking. Available housing is horribly inadequate and food is scarce. Many families are hard pressed to heat their homes. This situation will not improve quickly. Unemployment is over 85 percent.

The Lakhota community feel the effects of racism, discrimination and stereotypical attitudes from the majority culture. As a result, Indian people are unable to get loans to improve their property or start a business. Some assistance comes to the reservations through religious and government aid, but the price is always more assimilation and conversion. Much of this aid never reaches those who need it most, particularly those who wish to practice and preserve as much of their traditional culture as possible. The success of this food drive was the reliance on traditional Lakhota community leaders to distribute the food, without any strings attached.

Improvements will come to the reservations if enough resources are made available on a consistent basis without undue interference or control. This food drive is an example of how this is possible. Many thanks to Double J Trucking of Ohio and truck driver Chris Smith for their time and energy.



The Lakhota Indians of South Dakota thank all those who helped bring aid to their people.

The Difference Your Donations Make

A few dollars here, an hour or so there. A couple of sweaters you pulled out of your closet, a bag of food and medical supplies you dropped off at the Hurricane Relief truck -- these simple acts of giving may not seem like they go a long way, but they do.

We live in a society where we are blessed with the basics -- clean drinking water, food in our stomachs, clothing to keep us dry and warm and medicine to cure our most basic ills. This is not the case for the people MOL helps.

Whether you donate an item of clothing, a bag of groceries, medical supplies or money, please know that your gifts are appreciated and cherished more than you'll ever know.

Thank you for your continued support of the Mission of Love Foundation. It's through you and your simple acts of giving that we are all able to make a difference.

If you would like to make any kind of donation to the Mission of Love, please send it to: Kathy Price, Mission of Love Foundation, 2054 Hemlock Court, Youngstown, OH 44515.

Once again, thank you!!!

***For your \$1
donation we can
send 120 pounds of
aid to the needy of
Mexico,
Guatemala, Peru
or Honduras***

Support MOL by Volunteering at Cleveland Indians Games

Support the Mission of Love here in the States by volunteering your time and services at a Cleveland Indians baseball game.

The Mission of Love has been granted 12 games this season to raise money to support our work. This is an excellent opportunity to raise much needed funds, but we need your help.

We need 22 volunteers for each game, so your presence is not only welcomed, but needed!



Come join the fun!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

DATE	TIME
Sat., May 22	Day game
Sun., May 23	Day game
Mon., May 24	Evening game
Mon., June 21	Evening game
Tues., June 29	Evening game
Wed., June 30	Evening game
Thurs., Aug. 19	Evening game
Sat., Aug. 28	Day game
Mon., Aug. 30	Evening game
Wed., Sept. 1	Evening game
Thurs., Sept. 2	Evening game
Tues., Sept. 14	Evening game

Evening games start at 7:05 p.m. Day games start at 1:05 p.m. Volunteers should arrive at Jacob's Field two hours prior to game time.

What would I be doing?

Because our volunteer groups were so well organized and hard-working last year, we have been given one of the best concession stands at Jacob's Field. Our stand offers burgers, fries, beverages, nachos, hot dogs, popcorn, pretzels, ice cream and of course peanuts.

You could have one of several jobs for the evening -- you could serve beverages, prepare sandwiches, serve nachos, run the cash register or work behind the scenes preparing food.

By the seventh inning the group starts to clean the stand so people can leave as close to the end of the game as possible.

How do I sign up?

Call either Sean Ward at (440) 516-1661 or Bob Jacobs at (440) 951-6986. They'll tell you what time to be at the game, where to park (parking is free) and other details. Once you sign up for a game, please make sure you can keep the commitment. If you find yourself unable to volunteer the night you signed up, please call either Sean or Bob as soon as possible. We must have a certain number of people for each game and if we're short, we get penalized. Your cooperation is sincerely appreciated!

Before "The Mission": Transportation

by John Wright

It is because of the commitment of the U.S. Military, via the Denton Program, that humanitarian aid arrives in a timely manner throughout the world.

Yet before the military gets involved, there are many steps that take place. This process includes not only trucks and equipment, but also the commitment and dedication of individuals and whole companies. Let's trace a recent shipment from origin to destination:

In British Columbia, Canada, Bob Carkner collected and packed almost 10,000 lbs. of clothing, medical supplies and gifts for the Casa Guatemala orphanage. He found a motor carrier to transport the shipment in donated space to Toronto. Back in Youngstown, Kathy Price was coordinating arrival of the shipment at the MOL warehouse in Ravenna and securing Denton Project transportation to Guatemala.

All Freight arranged for receipt of the shipment, generated paperwork to place the shipment in bond for clearance through U.S. customs and transported the shipment to their Cleveland warehouse - free of charge! Once in Cleveland, the bond was

transferred to Double J Trucking. The Cleveland office of the Danzas Corporation, an international freight forwarder, volunteered its services to handle the complex, time-consuming paperwork. Kathy Price completed all the procedures necessary for Denton Program Military Air Transport.

Double J Trucking transported the shipment to Wright-Patterson Airforce Base in Dayton. The Ohio National Guard supplied six trucks for transportation of additional donations and building supplies from Ravenna. They all had to arrive several days prior to flight time to be secured on pallets and loaded onto the C-5 transport plane. Thanks to the U.S. Air Force all supplies would be waiting when MOL volunteers arrive at Casa Guatemala to do the work.

The Cleveland office of Panalpina, an international freight forwarder with worldwide offices, made another transport contribution. Through the Panalpina office in Guatemala City they arranged for the in-country purchase of 90 gallons of paint and transported it to the orphanage.

MOL would like to thank these special organizations for lending a hand in helping to achieve a greater good for the children of Casa Guatemala.

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: 6/1/99

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



Rotary Club of Boardman Presents Award

Rotary International's most prestigious award, The Paul Harris Fellow, was recently presented to Kathleen Price. The Paul Harris Award simply states, "In appreciation of tangible and significant assistance given for the furtherance of better understanding and friendly relations among peoples of the world." The Rotary Club of Boardman is a proud supporter of the Mission of Love's many projects.

"Kathy is a wonderful example of Rotary's theme 'Service above Self'", said rotary spokes people.

Ginny Amstutz, a long time friend and early supporter of the Mission of Love, presented the Award to Kathy.



"Wishlist"

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

Clothing: all kinds and sizes. Summer clothes, sweatshirts and sweaters. 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 & childrens vitamins, ear/eye medicine, canned veggies, powered milk, toothbrush/paste.

Wheel Chairs, water treatment systems.

Volunteers to sort supplies at the Ravenna Arsenal,



Come out of the circle of time into the circle of love.

~ Rumi

Mission of Love Foundation

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Youngstown, OH 44515
(330) 793-2388

www.geocities.com/Athens/Cypress/8562/