



# Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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Orphanage: Children's Village, Tegucigalpa, Honduras  
Oscar & Amy Serrano, Honduras National Directors

NEWSLETTER

JULY 2007

## Gifts From God: Updates on Our True Heroes

by Amy Serrano

We are changing how we report on the children. Due to the nature of abuse that many of the children have suffered, WWH2H has decided to omit the children's real names in our reports. Even though we had their permission to share their stories, we decided to give them the protection of anonymity.

In some ways, children are all alike. They bleed red blood, and they hurt when those who should love and care for them, instead abuse and reject them. However, the children's reactions have been extremely different. Despite our best efforts, we have had to accept that some children will not be saved, and that some will be emotionally wounded for the rest of their lives. We have also accepted that many will make complete recoveries and live very successful lives.

This month I would like to share stories of two children who are examples of both loss and victory. Though we have reported on these children in the past, they continue to need your prayers. The first child is little Cristian. Cristian's mother brought him from another organization that works with malnourished children. Because of a possible abusive situation, they decided



Older children are home schooled until a school can be built.

Cristian should not go back home. Cristian has challenges with his behavior, and he is a very angry child.

Mandatory school attendance at the Village was often met with staunch opposition. At times, rules were impossibilities for Cristian.

One of our major objectives with Cristian was to try to make him feel as loved and secure as possible. We have been advised by veteran child care providers, psychologists and social workers that we should encourage contact with family members who do not pose a threat to the child as this contact is a vital part of the child's identity.

Cristian's mother appeared to be caring and loving, looking out for his well-

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### HOW YOU CAN HELP WWH2H:

- PRAY for our children and our leaders
- Become a Monthly Sponsor and encourage your friends and family to become Monthly Sponsors
- Provide funds to help with Serrano travel expenses in Washington
- Sign up for our monthly newsletter
- Volunteer for a mission team
- Organize and hold a fund raiser for WWH2H

Thank you for your continued financial and prayer support for this important work. You are the "heart" in Heart to Heart. Without you there would be no ministry. God bless you, and thank you!!!



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being. Cristian's mother left the abusive stepfather. She requested that we not allow the stepfather any contact with Cristian.

One Sunday afternoon, Cristian's mother came to take him to a birthday party and bring him back later that afternoon. Afternoon came and went and there was no Cristian. We became very concerned and began looking for him. We found other family members who angrily told us that we should stay away from Cristian or they would have us arrested. They told us that Cristian said he was suffering horrible abuse from us at the Children's Village. They said that he was now in the hospital due to our "beating" him. This was not true.

Cristian, for reasons that only he knows, told his family these "tall tales" in order to not have to return. We also learned that the mother is now back with the abusive stepfather. Evidently, on one of the mother's previous visits to the Village, Cristian told her we were abusing and starving him.

Because his mother brought him to us voluntarily, we have no legal rights to Cristian. Should we pursue getting him back, he could go to the courts and claim that we abused him. We have reported his entire situation to the police, and they are now investigating. What we can do for him is put him

daily in the hands of the Lord. We believe that Cristian is a disturbed young man. He did not understand what he was doing when he lied to his family. And, even though he thinks it is better to be at home in a dangerous situation, we believe he deserves better in life, as all children do.

There are also successes. One such success is Kellin. As you know from her story, Kellin is also a victim of abuse. However, she grows in her education and emotional health everyday. When Kellin came to the Village, she cried every day for her abusive mother, but she has quickly adjusted to life at the Village. Kellin has no behavioral problems at all. She makes straight A's in school and is very discouraged if she makes anything less than 95% on her tests.

Kellin is very well liked by the other kids and makes friends easily. Kellin is also wise and mature beyond her years, frequently helping the housemothers with laundry and cooking duties.

I have begun to understand that these children are on a journey. Some are further along than others, but God is taking all of these children somewhere. And just as it is in our own lives, we need to fail and sometimes have our hearts broken to learn valuable lessons in life. These children have already suffered so much. To see them continue to suffer,



**Mayra visits with house mother Zulema**

sometimes by their own choices, is very difficult for me. But I must remember I can't save anyone, only Jesus can. There isn't a situation that He cannot change, or a heart that He cannot touch and heal. We must have faith in that fact and let Him work His miracles in the lives of these precious children.

Cristian and Kellin still need your prayers. Who knows? The story of Cristian is not over—we may yet see him walking in victory in the Lord. Perhaps leaving the Village and reentering that terrible situation that we can do nothing about is part of the molding process in his life.

We ask you to continue to pray for all of the children at the Village. We can feel the power of your prayers poured over us each day. It is our strength and the most vital support that can come into this ministry. God bless each of you that lifts us up into His hands each day. - AS

*Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries* is a nonprofit interdenominational Christian organization dedicated to serving poor children and senior citizens. Board members, officers and coordinators serve as volunteers without salary or remuneration. Charitable gifts are used to support Children's Village orphanage and ministry in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. Administrative expenses are covered by donations made specifically for that purpose. Our mission is to bring the love of Jesus to hurting people of this world. We emphasize caring for orphans, volunteering for mission projects, organizing medical teams to treat the poor, and providing food, clothing and education. For more information, visit our website at [wwh2h.org](http://wwh2h.org), email [maryf@wwh2h.org](mailto:maryf@wwh2h.org), or call 509.427.8585.

### **BOARD:**

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## Life at the Village

by Amy Serrano

As it has been from the first day, life at the Village is blessed. The kids continue to grow in their relationship with the Lord. There were two major events in June: the Drama team visit and the older girls' move to a new house.

### Damascus Drama Team

The Drama team visit was amazing. It consisted of WWH2H board members, students from the Drama Team from Damascus Christian School in Damascus, Oregon, and a wonderful family that has been on mission trips to other parts of Honduras in the past. The two main goals of this group were interaction, teaching and evangelism.



The Drama team separated the children into Bigs and Littles. With the small children they played games that taught acting skills. The older children learned even more in-depth skills in drama and acting, as well as some magic tricks to use for evangelism. Colleen Atherton held volleyball lessons in the mornings. Her dad, John, taught the older boys valuable skills in using skits and magic tricks as a means of evangelizing their friends.

### Gospel on the Road

All of this wonderful training laid a foundation. On Wednesday,



Wednesday through Friday, we took the skits and magic tricks to three local schools and presented them to over 600 children, strongly proclaiming the message of the Gospel. Many children prayed the prayer of salvation at these programs. We also held a special youth service on Friday night at our

WWH2H Church in Puerto Cortes, where two people gave their lives to the Lord. This is all due to the humble service and faithful prayer and fasting that many in Honduras and the U.S. participated in prior to the trip.

### Special Service

On Sunday,

we held a baptismal service. Four members of the WWH2H Church were baptized. Thirteen-year-old Alex, one of the children living at the Village, was one of them. The widow of the deceased pastor (of the church our Board used to attend) was given donated funds to replace the beds and refrigerator she had sold to pay the school costs for her two children. She was overcome with gratitude. What can we say to all of you who came on this team? Sacrificing your time, funds and prayers to bless the children and people of Honduras. "Thank you" just doesn't seem to be enough.

### More Than a Boys' Home

As time moves on, God changes things and we just follow His lead. Originally we were going to be a boys' home. When Ilsy arrived with her two brothers, Adonis and Nelson, we believed it was the Lord's will to take her in. Since then, 22 more girls have come to live at the Village. Again we feel directed by the Lord to adjust the situation. Considering their histories of abuse, having young teenage boys and girls in close proximity is just not wise.

### Girls' House

On Tuesday, June 12th, after a full day of fun at the water park with the whole Village, our older girls had a slumber party at the Flamingo Hotel with the Damascus Drama Team girls. Meanwhile, Oscar and our Honduras-based Board moved all the girls' belongings to a house we rented in Puerto Cortes. Soon, we hope to build a Girls' Home for their own.

As each day goes by, God is moving us forward. Each day, through your wonderful support and prayers, the needs of these children are met, sometimes just in the nick of time. Thank you and God bless you all.

- AS





## Update on David

David has a straight foot!!!! We are rejoicing and praising our Father!!! On June 20th, David had the fourth and last surgery on his clubfoot at Shriners in Portland (at the OHSU campus). He came through with flying colors. His surgeon, Dr. Michael Sussman, was delighted with the outcome. The planned three-hour surgery

took only two hours. He got a red, white and blue cast in honor of Independence Day!!

He speaks fluent English now and we have to coax him to use his Spanish. WWH2H is working with lawyers in Honduras to get full



David eats dessert at the June 30 bus presentation

custody of David to facilitate the hoped-for adoption by Denise and Arnie Bardal. We will see what God has in mind!!

Please pray for his quick healing and minimum pain. What a testimony he will have to share someday!!



## Nike Donation

We received 35 volleyballs and 33 soccer balls from Nike that went to Honduras with the Damascus Drama Team in June. We shared them with three schools and two church Youth Groups.

Colleen Atherton, a volleyball coach from the U.S., taught our kids to play. She also brought donated shirts for volleyball/

soccer and a volleyball net bought with donated funds for that purpose.

Thank you to everyone who helped make this happen!



Macy's is setting aside summer sale clothing for us at \$1 a piece for our children!!! Thank you, Macy's!!

## CRCC Benefit Banquet

The Annual CRCC Benefit Banquet will be help at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, July 21 at the Castle Rock Christian Church in Castle Rock, Washington.

Amy Serrano and others will prepare a traditional Honduran meal for the event. Sarah and Rachel Serrano, ages 9 and 7, will perform a traditional Honduran dance. There will be a video presentation of WWH2H by Oscar and Amy Serrano, Honduras National Directors. All proceeds will go to WWH2H.

So we can be sure to prepare enough food, please RSVP by July 19th to Mary Frenter, maryf@wwh2h.org 509.427.8585 or Banquet Coordinator, Tina Campbell, tlducks@juno.com 360.274.8840. Thanks!



## Bus is Here

The new 72-passenger bus we prayed for is here, and chairpersons Wil and Jane Meckle have already had our name (*Asociación Mundial Corazón a Corazón / ASOCORA*) put on. Immanuel Lutheran Church in

Centralia, WA raised money to buy the bus. The church where the Meckles' son attends in Lynnwood, WA, is helping raise funds to pay for shipping the bus to Honduras. The bus was presented to WWH2H on June 30th at a potluck at Immanuel.

Thank you all so much!!!

## Adopt-a-Child for Christmas

Carol Rutledge has arranged for sponsors for all of our children at the Village for Christmas. All gifts will be shipped on the bus in August. There are drop-off

points in Castle Rock, Carson, and Centralia. Please contact Carol at cmrutledge1@yahoo.com or 360.274.3396 to make arrangements.



## Serranos' Schedule

The Serranos are in Washington throughout the month of July.

If you are able to help with their travel expenses, or if your church or organization would like to schedule a WWH2H presentation, please contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585.

We appreciate all your prayers and support!!

- **July 1**, Presentation at Calvary Lutheran Church in Aberdeen, WA
- **July 8**, Presentation with Drama Team at Damascus Christian Church in Damascus, OR
- **July 15**, Presentation at Jennings Lodge Community Church, Jennings Lodge, OR
- **July 18**, Presentation at Faith Tabernacle Open Bible Church in Stevenson, WA
- **July 21**, Benefit Banquet at Castle Rock Christian Church, Castle Rock, WA
- **July 22**, Presentation at CRCC, Castle Rock, WA
- **July 22**, Board meeting 2 pm CRCC, Castle Rock, WA
- **July 29**, Presentation at The Rock Church in Lynnwood, WA
- **August 5**, Presentation at Calvary Community Church in Kelso, WA
- **August 6**, Serranos return to Honduras

## To Do List



- Furnish school and library with furniture and books
- Find more monthly support
- Build, furnish and staff a Receiving Center and WWH2H Church in Puerto Cortes
- Furnish and staff Village Clinic full time

## Mission Team Projects

- **Construction Team (TBD)**, to build foundation, August 2007
- **Mission Relief International Medical/Dental Team** from Antioch Bible Church in Redmond, WA, September 22-29, 2007
- **Construction Teams (2-TBD)** from Faith Tabernacle Church in Stevenson, WA, and Immanuel Lutheran Church in Centralia, WA, October 2007
- **Construction Team** from Summit Valley Community Church in Addy, WA, November 24-December 1, 2007
- **Youth Team (TBD)** from Damascus Christian Church, December 14-22, 2007
- **Youth Team (TBD)** from Immanuel Lutheran Church in Centralia, WA, December 26, 2007-January 2, 2008
- **WWH2H VBS Team**, January 19-26, 2008
- **A Touch of Hope Mission Team**, kids helping kids, February 16-24, 2008
- **Spanish Class Team (TBD)** from Montana, joined by Damascus Christian Church Team, March 18-25, 2008
- **Washington Overseas Missions Medical/Dental Team**, March 25-April 3, 2008
- **WWH2H Medical Team**, August 2008

For information, please contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585 or maryf@wwh2h.org.

## Funding Needs



Our 15-passenger van in Honduras has been laid to rest. The 7-passenger van is on its last legs. Soon we will only have the 72-passenger bus. With gas at almost \$4/gallon in Honduras, this is not practical for small groups. We are desperate for a new or gently used, less than 10-year-old, 12 to 15-passenger van. To save shipping costs, it would be best to purchase a van in Honduras with donated funds. However, we would be thrilled to have a new or gently used van donated in the U.S. Please pray with us about this.

- One (1) more closet wall with 12 units at \$600
- Tortilla maker
- Construction materials for school, Girls' House, church/receiving center/office, front wall, Triangles 2 and 3, library, and tech school

## Construction Opportunities

We are seeking construction teams. Please contact Mary Frenter at 509.427.8585 or maryf@wwh2h.org if you are interested in sponsoring or joining a team this year.

- Build Receiving Center/WWH2H Church/WWH2H offices in Puerto Cortes
- Build the Village School and Girls' House in Tegucigalpa
- Enclose the second and third triangles

There is a construction team going the end of November from the Summit Valley Church in Addy, WA. Joel Olsen from Faith Tabernacle in Stevenson, WA and Alyn Swedberg from Immanuel Lutheran in Centralia, WA are organizing teams for October.

We don't yet have funds or land. Please pray that God will provide the land, construction funds, and travel funds for all the teams going.



## Two Judges

by Mary Frenter

Two judges who have the last word regarding children in Puerto Cortes, came to the Village a couple of weeks ago to see what we were up to. They were moved by how well our children are doing and how well the Village is managed.

### Orphanage in Need

The judges told the Serranos about one of the government-run orphanages in San Pedro Sula with 120 children. The children had only enough food for each child to have one tortilla a day. The judges asked if WWH2H could take it over. Oscar told them the government would have to give us the title to the land and the building for our U.S. board to consider the possibility. He explained that we are a small ministry with limited funds and the chance of our being able to do that was slim.

### Food for the Hungry

Oscar decided he would not eat again until those kids had food. So, he and our Honduras Board of

Directors filled a truck with some of the five-gallon buckets of food that came down in our container, food and money donated by our church in Honduras, and \$400 from our main account to buy extra food for these children.

### Delivery of Food and Love

Freddie, Josué, Amy and Oscar took the food to the children in San Pedro Sula. They spent the day there, mostly in the nursery. Amy cradled a two month old that had been dropped at the orphanage with no name or information about her parents.



Josué cradled another baby named Perla. When it was time to leave, he begged Amy to let him take this baby home. He said he would care for her. It was so hard to leave them there.

### How Many Babies?

So, I asked Amy, "How many babies did you bring back?"



She said none, but that she had promised the two month old she would get her out of there.

### Custody of All Our Kids

The two judges heard what the Serranos had done and were impressed with this

charity. They called and said they are the people who make the final decisions about custody in Puerto Cortes. They asked the Serranos to get them all the paperwork they have on all our children and they would see to it that WWH2H gets full custody of all our kids!!!! Including David!!!! Which, according to our Honduran attorneys, may just be the best possible situation for David to be adopted by the Bardals.

### Land for Girls' Home

The judges introduced us to the mayor and her council of a small town outside San Pedro Sula who want to donate land to WWH2H to build a Girls' Home.

I stand in awe watching God orchestrate all these connections!!!!

- MF

*II Corinthians 1:3-5 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.*

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