



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2008

Children's Village: Child of a Gang Member

by Amy
Serrano

The Hero Report this month is short, but has a huge impact. Kelly (*her name has been changed to protect her identity*), who has lived with us for over a year, will soon turn 14. The little we know of her came to us from the Family Court in Honduras. This is her story.

Kelly was born into misfortune, the daughter of a gang member and a prostitute. Kelly never really had a chance. Her mother abandoned the family when Kelly was a baby and has never been seen or heard from again. Kelly's father was a young gang member of a very dangerous and violent gang from the streets of Honduras's capital city, Tegucigalpa. He took on the impossible task of raising Kelly by himself.

It is said "once a gang member, always a gang member." Once you have taken the oaths to the gang and have "seen things," you are killed without mercy if you ever try to get out. Many young folks in Honduras join gangs as a means of survival, especially if they have no other family. They then find themselves in over their heads.

Kelly was a little girl surrounded by drugs, guns and prostitutes, not exactly an ideal environment. But amidst the hellish lifestyle, Kelly's father kept her in school. Despite his best efforts to care for his daughter, he came to realize that she was in danger and he could no longer keep her. He

had been threatened many times, but it was when a threat was made against his little girl that he knew he had to do something.

One day he put Kelly in the car and drove to a local fast food restaurant. When Kelly went to the bathroom, he got in the car and left, leaving her at the restaurant.

Kelly waited all day and into the night looking out the window, thinking that her dad just went to do something and would be back for her. He never returned. At closing time, the



Mary Frenter holds Belkis in her lap during the WWH2H Dental Mission in October 2007.

manager of the restaurant called the police and Kelly was taken to INHFA (the equivalent of Child Protective Services).

Kelly was sent to San Pedro Sula to live at *Nueva Esperanza*, a public orphanage that just serves as a holding place for children until more suitable homes are found for them. Kelly spent a year in *Nueva Esperanza* before she was brought to us.

Looking at Kelly you could never imagine this bizarre story to be true. She is in the sixth grade and doing very well. Kelly is very quiet and mild mannered. She likes to sing and draw.

The most wonderful thing happening for Kelly right now is that she is learning how much God loves her. She is learning that even though she was born in a situation that was hard to understand, God has a plan for her life.

About six months ago, Kelly asked us if we could try to find some way to contact her father. We called INHFA and did all the searching we could but came up empty. She would just like her father to know that she understands why he left her at the restaurant, and that she still loves him.

Many of these stories of the lives of these children are hard to believe. In a country like Honduras I have learned that it is a place where a kid can suffer just about anything and most likely will. Many children are still suffering. We need your help to care for the ones that we have and expand to take in more children. We thank all of you for helping us to give Kelly a place she can finally call home. -AS



Village Report for January

School Starts in February

Well, the school vacations are winding down, and the kids are now preparing to go back to school. For some of the kids out at the Village, this will mean continuing in the home school program. For others, this means signing up for the local public school. Part of the program out at the village is a Study Hall time that they have throughout the vacation time, so that they will do well when they return to school. All of the kids have worked hard, and we expect that they will all do well this coming school year.

Health Checks and Charts

A dear friend of the ministry joined us January 8-19. Kim Sharp is a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in Washington State. Kim tries to come once per year and do check-ups on all of the children. She does many jobs while staying with us, such as organizing and restocking the medicines in the clinic. Kim updates all of the children's medical charts and treats the many cuts, bruises and various "owies" that arise in the time that she is with us. We want to thank Kim for her precious gift of time and service.

VBS Team

The Annual Vacation Bible School (VBS) Team from Castle Rock Christian Church of Castle Rock, Washington joined us from January 17-26th. The group had two days of Bible school in Tegucigalpa and the local public school, and two days of Bible school at the WWH2H Church in Puerto Cortes.

Each year, the event is attended by at least 200 to 300 children each day in both locations. The WWH2H Church prepared for the event by going to all of the communities in our area and passing out invitations. Last year's VBS brought in about 250 children from Laguna, a very poor area of Puerto Cortes. We still pick up many of these children each week for Sunday school classes at the church.

Note: Please visit the MISSIONS page on the website for a detailed report of the VBS mission team.

A Touch of Hope

February 15-24th, A Touch of Hope Ministries of Longview, Washington will be at the Village. The group first came to Honduras back in the fall of 2005. This ministry works around the globe to provide

by Amy Serrano
Honduras National Co-Director

for children's basic needs. They work together with WWH2H to provide school supplies and uniforms for the poorest children in our area that otherwise would not be able to attend school. We are currently working on documenting and sizing the children who will be in the program.

Dr. Nelly and God's Blessings

One little interesting side note that I would like to add to this month's newsletter is something that has touched my heart just recently.

Early in January, one of our young boys out at the Village had an accident while playing soccer and broke his arm. We took Marco to the clinic where our pediatrician, Dr. Nelly Hernandez, works. Marco needed surgery to fix his arm. The clinic is a private clinic and we knew that we





Village Report

(continued from page 2)

could not afford the surgery. Dr. Nelly called in the orthopedic surgeon, a man who was very helpful in getting us all of the medical documents that we needed to get David's visa. (David is a young boy that came to the Village back in 2004 with his two older brothers. David went to the US in July of 2006 to have surgery for clubfoot.) Dr. Nelly and Dr. Prieto both assured us that all of their services that night would be free of charge, and that we would only be charged the clinic expense. The surgery lasted about two hours and was successful.

During the time when Marco was in surgery, Dr. Nelly had a long talk with Oscar. She said that as soon as she began to work with us volunteering her time, God has blessed her beyond anything that she could imagine. In the time that she started

coming out to the Village, she began to receive calls from area hospitals and clinics wanting her to come and work for them. Recently, an insurance company wanted to hire her. With tears in her eyes, she said, "This is a multi-million dollar deal."

The most amazing thing is not what Dr. Nelly has done for us, but what God has done for her through the children at the Village. Before she started working with us, Dr. Nelly did not go to church and donated her time for purely humanitarian reasons. She said that from the love she has seen and from listening to the children sing their songs to the Lord, God has touched her heart. She has given her heart to the Lord and started attending a Bible study that meets near her home. You just never know whom God is reaching out to when you just act in obedience!

Juan and Diomar Cordoza

We have also heard similar stories from Juan and Diomar Cordoza, owners of the Flamingo Hotel in Omoa that houses most of our groups. For a little over a year now, the Cordozas have been donating vegetables, rice, beans, sugar, flour, chicken, and many other things each week. When we thanked them for this great generosity, they in return said, "No, thank *you*." They said that ever since we started to work with them, their lives have been blessed tremendously. They said their hotel is always full and their farm has been very prosperous. The most important part, however, is that Juan has now given his heart to the Lord.

God Loves a Cheerful Giver

We have all heard it is more blessed to give than to receive, and we most certainly do not entertain the "give-to-receive" prosperity message that is being widely taught today. We know that these folks would give whether they were blessed in return or not. It is just a testimony to how God "loves a cheerful giver." I'm sure that many of you also have a story of how God has blessed you through giving to this or other ministries. It is just testimony to how it *IS* God's will that cares for the sick, widowed, orphaned, addicted, abused, and unsaved of this world. We take care of God's business out of good and honest motives, and God will take care of us.

I pray that a spiritual and financial blessing be poured out on each of you that loves, prays for and gives to this ministry in Jesus's Name.

God bless you! -AS



Birthdays at Children's Village

February 2008

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	



Cesar
13 years old

Favorite Subjects:
English

Playing with other children



Olga
14 years old

Favorite Subjects:
Computer

Favorite Activities:
Hide-and-peek and soccer



Ilcy
10 years old

Favorite Subjects:
Math, Spanish and Science

Favorite Activities:
Hide-and-peek



Cristian
10 years old

Favorite Subjects:
Computer and English

Favorite Activities:
Soccer and hide-and-peek

Children's Health Report

by Kim Sharp, RN, MSN, ARNP
Pediatric Nurse Practitioner

The following is a condensation of the annual *Children's Health Report* submitted January 2008 by Kim Sharp, Pediatric Nurse Practitioner.

We now have 56 children/teens living at the Village! The population has almost doubled in the past year. The age range has also increased, from one year to 19 years of age. Their sense of "family" continues to permeate all their actions, and I am still surprised how little they fight or bicker among themselves.

EXAMS: Physical exams were done on most of the children. All but one of the children tested normal this year for vision. All checked out fine for hearing.

MEDICAL CARE: I am happy to report that the chronic problems I dealt with a year ago have all resolved (scoliosis, diarrhea, wheezing).

GROWTH: Twenty-one of the children are small for their age (height and weight), ten are short for their age (normal weight), ten are normal height with low weights, and three are a little overweight for their heights. All of the other 19 children fall within normal ranges.

NUTRITION: The children get good protein, plenty of complex carbohydrates and occasional vegetables. A very small portion of their diet is what we would call "junk food" (cookies, chips, candy). They

eat much healthier than American children!

DEVELOPMENT: All but one of the children passed to the next grade this past year. At least three of the children are behind developmentally, one child has Down syndrome, one child shows evidence of hyperactivity, and one of the new arrivals has decreased muscle tone and strength.

DENTAL: In the last year, all the children had their teeth cleaned. Several with partially eroded teeth had those removed, so the teeth all look better to me!

Most of the health problems I encountered this year were minor issues. It proves how healthy the children are!

- KS



From the President by Mary Frenter

Hola, WWH2H Family!

There is much to share with you that's happening with Children's Village and WWH2H. We just don't have enough space in the newsletter so please visit the website for a more comprehensive report.

- We spent numerous hours **loving on our children**. Little Carlito, our new baby boy, is doing better, but still shows signs of neglect from before he came to us.

- We purchased a **7-passenger vehicle** for the ministry,

- We distributed the beautiful **handmade dresses** from Grace Collins to several of our girls.

- **We met with the owners of the land across from the Rotary building, trying to negotiate a deal.**

The wife of our lawyer put together a video presentations of our ministry for these people, explaining we wanted to use the land for a church, Sunday School and Youth programs, a free medical/dental clinic, food programs for the poor, literacy classes for adults, a shelter for abused single moms and their children, and a prison ministry.

- We visited **land on which the Serranos would like to build their home.**

- We looked at **land we hope to purchase for the Church/Community Center** (\$62,000 for part of an acre). Actually, I am praying for \$600,000 to buy the whole eight acres in that parcel for WWH2H. It is a beautiful ocean view property right on the main road to Guatemala out of Puerto Cortes.

- **We planned 2008 "Look-and-See" trips** for visitors.

- **We rearranged the Tech School classroom** for a Med/Dental/Eye clinic, moving the computers to the Girls' Home for now.
- We discussed enclosing one of the triangles for a **classroom/computer lab for the boys** (\$15,000 to be funded and built by volunteer teams), **build a garbage enclosure** to keep the animals from dragging it all over the place (\$500 to be funded and built by volunteer teams), the **need for more computers**, and for a **50/60 KVA generator** for the village.
- We met with Allison Alexander to **discuss steps for her to get eight-year-old Gaby, who is in a wheelchair, to the U.S.** for treatment.
- We interviewed Bernadette Campbell, a last-minute addition to our VBS team, for a position to **teach English at the Village** for a year.
- We heard updates by Kathy Cadden on the **progress of releasing the container** at the port in Honduras.
- Several members of the WWH2H and ASOCORA board journeyed 2½ hours to Santa Barbara, population about 6500, to meet with Mayor and the Vice Mayor (who is the brother-in-law of an ASOCORA board member),

concerning **the eight acres of land they want to donate to WWH2H to build another Children's Village for the homeless children** in their area.

Mayor Castellanos was raised in Santa Barbara, returning after getting his education to care for the poor in his area. After Hurricane Mitch, the Governor gave the mayors of each town funds to help the poor. Many used the funds for themselves. Mayor Castellanos used the funds to build homes for the poor, buy a cow for each family, and improve the small town with paved roads and a good school, and many other good things.

Santa Barbara is at the 3000-foot level in the Santa Barbara Mountains. It is breathtakingly beautiful!! The land they want to give us is located just outside the little town and overlooks the mountains. They want to help us all they can by building a good road into the land, donating all existing small buildings to us, providing laborers to help us build and mommies to care for the children. They are building a pavilion and town square right now that will be used for the first time by our WWH2H Church on February 2nd for a crusade.

A huge **WWH2H thank you to all the VBS team members and Kim**

Sharp. Hearts were touched and lives were changed as the Holy Spirit was given His way through each of you to minister to the people in Honduras.

Thank you to everyone who made it possible for all of us to go because of your support. Thank you to all of you who stayed behind and covered us in prayer. All this only happens because of all of us working together.

God bless all of you!

- MF



Girls at the Village display much-loved dresses hand made by Grace Collins of Castle Rock Christian Church of Castle Rock, Washington.



Our Missions...

by Mary Frenter

There are a lot of opportunities for mission with WWH2H in 2008. Please visit the MISSIONS page on the website for more information.

The list includes:

February 15-24, 2008

A Touch of Hope Mission Team perform with puppets and skits, and provide school supplies and uniforms.

March 18-25, 2008

Combined Youth Team from Oregon and Montana are coming together to teach ESL on a one-on-one basis.

March 25-April 3, 2008

Medical/Dental/Optomety Team from Washington Overseas Missions from Illinois will do clinics in remote areas around Tegucigalpa, Las Flores, and Puerto Cortes.

June 7-17, 2008

Mercy Ships International Construction Team (#1).

June 9-16, 2008

Kendall Bible Baptist Mission Team

June 21-July 1, 2008

Mercy Ships International Construction Team (#2)

July 8-16, 2008

The Rock Church Construction Team from Lynnwood, Washington.

August 22-31, 2008

Medical Relief International from Antioch Bible Church in Redmond, Washington will provide free dental and medical care to communities in the Tegucigalpa area.

September 2-8, 2008

WWH2H Look-and-See Team to visit God's work in Honduras.

October 7-18, 2008

WWH2H Medical/Dental Team

October 18-28, 2008

Mercy Ships International Construction Team (#3)

December 26, 2008-January 3, 2009

Immanuel Youth Team from Centralia, Washington.

- MF

Our Financial Promise to You

We view contributions as a sacred trust, accountable to God and to you for their use.

We use all contributions as designated by our donors, and return or transfer monies to a related fund if a project is over-funded.

We use contributions to support the Children's Village orphanage, WWH2H Church, and mission outreach activities in Honduras.

A very small percentage of money is used for printing and postage costs.

Staff in Honduras receive salary and benefits. All U.S. board members and staff are volunteers.

We send receipts and thank-you letters promptly for all gifts.

Please visit our website for more information about the children we serve, our history, and our mission. Thanks!

2 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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