



# Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



Organization: P.O. Box 372, Carson, WA 98610, 509.427.8585  
website: <http://wwh2h.org>; email: [maryf@wwh2h.org](mailto:maryf@wwh2h.org)

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

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2008

## Village Report for November

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

This month has just flown by. So much happens each month, the time seems to be on hyper-speed.

### **Mercy Ships Send Two Teams**

We were blessed once again by Mercy Ships. Gary and Sylvia Thacker brought WWH2H wonderful people from all over the U.S. and the world. We had the pleasure of hosting two groups. The first was from the Tampa, Florida area. Their main project was to install a purified-water line from our purified-water system near the Boys' Home to the Girls' Home at the far end of our property. The mission was accomplished amid torrential rains, and now the girls no longer have to haul water from the water system to their home.

The second Mercy Ships group worked on a playground area for the

Girls' House. It is painted hot pink and is making some little girls very happy right now! We want to thank each person that sacrificed to be with us on these two mission teams. You have been such a blessing to us, and we hope to see you back in Honduras again soon.

### **"Summer Vacation"**

It's "summer" vacation time at the Village. Friday, November 14th, was the last official day of classes. All of the children worked very hard this past school year and are looking forward to some time to rest and play until mid February. Many activities are planned to keep them from getting too bored. The first one was the arrival of our VBS team from Stevenson, Washington. This was the team's first trip to Honduras. They had two

days of vacation Bible school in a local church in Tegucigalpa, and then another two days of VBS in our WWH2H Church in Puerto Cortes. They helped with many other projects such as organizing and wrapping all of the kids' Christmas presents, putting up the Christmas trees, and celebrating Thanksgiving.

### **Christmas in Honduras**

Preparations for Christmas are underway. Many of the children will be performing in the church drama and concert. Last year, the youth prepared several dramas that really impressed us all. Norman, one of our teen boys, was the star actor in last year's Christmas production. All of the kids are starting to get Christmas fever.

### **New Blessing**

Our first "grandchild," Baby Cesia, was born November 16th at 1:00 a.m. She is the daughter of our

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Left to right:  
Oscar Valasquez  
Brian Ross  
Elena Valasquez  
Judy Wiebe  
Arianna Johnson  
Karen Douglass  
Jessica Douglass  
Bethany Gatewood  
Nicolle Cassidy,  
Mary Frenter  
Sondi Ross  
Jenna Mobley  
Andra Mobley  
Heather Wold  
Caleb Wold  
Patti Jo Midland  
Bill Midland



WWH2H VBS Team, November 2008



## From the Village Report

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our “son” Josué Lopez and his wife, Cesia. Josué was one of the first residents at our Village.

### Thanks to “B”

We recently said goodbye to volunteer Bernadette Campbell who has returned to the U.S. after helping at the Village since March. She came for a week last January with the VBS team and then returned in March to stay until now. We thank you so much “B” for your love and sacrifice all these months. You are deeply missed by all of the children. We hope you

will come back for a visit in the future. Know that our prayers will be with you and we wish you God’s best.

### Many Blessings

We want to thank everyone who has been with us in prayer and giving throughout this month and every month. We depend on your contributions to continue this profound work in Honduras.

We understand that times are hard and giving is harder. But all praise be to God, that even in this time of financial crisis in the U.S., support for this ministry has not gone down. Each month all of our needs are being

met and the children are thriving. So, in this light, we want to thank each of you out there who has not wavered in your financial support, even though it has become harder to give.

*You have not been giving out of your wealth, but out of your need, which is a precious, fragrant sacrifice to the Lord.*

As the Christmas season draws near, we ask you to prayerfully consider any contributions you can give to bless the children this year. Again we thank you for all that you do for all of us in Honduras. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. —Amy



**A young boy helps Oscar carry donated diapers to the store room of the government orphanage.**

Dear Mrs. Spinelli:

Hello! My name is Karen and I was blessed to be a part of a team to travel to Honduras to work with the children in the WWH2H Village, to host two vacation Bible schools that ministered to over 400 children, and to have my heart broken at the government orphanage where we delivered several bags of diapers—thanks to your generous donation. I was able to be the *hands and feet* to get your diapers to the children.

The government orphanage was surrounded by a high brick wall, topped with barbed wire. The gate was opened

## Dear Mrs. Spinelli: by Karen Douglass VBS Team, November 2008

and I stepped through, carrying diapers. I was instantly surrounded by children starved for affection. I dropped the diapers and hugged them all. When the commotion was finished, Oscar and I grabbed the diapers and headed for the building.

A boy, probably 7 or 8, grinning from ear to ear, helped me with my load. He showed us the way to the storage room where we gave the diapers to one of the workers. Oscar spoke to her for awhile. I didn’t understand the conversation, but clearly she appreciated the donation! She asked us to carry some to the “baby room.” In the baby room, three ladies were delighted to receive infant-sized diapers, as they had some very young babies. They hugged us for the donation.

I then proceeded to attach myself to one special baby, “Annie.” “Annie” is a 3-month-old girl, with an easy smile, strong limbs and the ability to win a heart in 2.3 seconds. I spent 45 minutes with her, and I will spend the rest of my life praying for her. Oscar promised if I could raise the support for her, he’d attempt to get her from the government orphanage and bring her home to the Village. Please join me in prayer that Oscar is able to complete the paperwork and that the judge will allow this

baby to be moved to the Children’s Village, OR will provide a loving adoptive home. This baby was special. (Aren’t they all?)

Attached are the pictures of your donation AND a picture of “my girl.” I am sure she’ll enjoy some dry diapers. THANK YOU for your donation for these little precious babies.

Love, Karen Douglass

*Note: Mrs. Spinelli is a Mercy Ships volunteer who donated funds to WWH2H for us to buy diapers for the state orphanage babies.*



**Karen holds Baby Annie**



Evelyn Skaar was thrilled to meet Ilcy, one of the children Evelyn sponsors through WWH2H.

## Hugs Happen in Honduras

by Evelyn Skaar, "Look-and-See" Team, September 2008

Hugs happen in Honduras. So do tugs at your heart-strings. Little bronze arms, topped by beautiful eyes and large welcoming smiles, greeted me when we arrived at the WWH2H Children's Village last September. The children are endearing, precious, happy, and helpful. Even in their own needfulness, they want to share with each other and those nearby.

When I went to the Girls' House to meet Ilcy, the little girl I help sponsor, I was greeted by a cluster of black-haired beauties with wide smiles of reception. The language

barrier was non-existent. Ilcy's arms circled my waist, and the girls dubbed me "Grandmother." They guided me through their home, showing off the kitchen where lunch was being prepared for them. From there, it was to the classroom where they are schooled. Next, we looked at their rooms where bunk beds lined the walls.

Some of the girls were working with a volunteer who was helping them make piñatas for their upcoming Honduras Days celebration. The girls'

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## Eco-bag Project

From the inspiration of a family's service trip to the Children's Village, Project Give 360 was created and launched. Working in partnership with WWH2H, Project Give 360 established the Eco-bag Project at the Girls' House which is now up and running and it is taking off! The Eco-bag Project is part of a Vocational Sewing Program structured to empower girls with vocational and business skills that will enable independence and sustainability upon departure from the orphanage. The Eco-bag Project offers girls the opportunity to learn to sew while creating reusable Eco-bags from recycled indigenous flour sacks to be sold as fund raisers in the USA.

Funds generated from sales will be used for supplies, compensation for the girls and the instructor, sales overhead, and the development of future programs. Funds generated will also provide a new sewing machine



by  
Lesley  
Geraci

for each committed participant who completes the program and can be used for future income generating endeavors.

Give the gift that gives twice this season, a handmade Eco-bag! Hand-made Eco-

bags are sewn from recycled nylon-reinforced plastic flour sacks by the girls at The Children's Village. They make great reusable grocery bags, gift bags, and book bags. Buy one Eco-bag at \$12 each, or three or more at \$10 each.

Order today!



PROJECT GIVE 360®

### Eco-bag Order Form

For more information, visit  
[www.projectgive360.org](http://www.projectgive360.org)

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Cost of Bags:

\$12/bag ▲ \$10/bag for three or more bags

Note: Each bag is unique. Graphics may vary.

#### Cost of Shipping & Handling:

\$3 for 1-3 bags ▲ \$6 for 4-6 bags ▲ \$9 for 7-9 bags

#### Please send me:

\_\_\_\_\_ # bags x \$\_\_\_\_\_ each + \$\_\_\_\_\_ shipping = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total Enclosed

#### I have enclosed a check or money order made out to:

Project Give 360, 4357 S. Yosemite Court, Greenwood Village, CO 80111. Orders will be shipped within one week of receiving order.



## Hugs Happen

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rooms had no shelves, but an incoming team scheduled for the following week had shelf/closet construction on their agenda. Also, another team was going to be arriving to give dental care as our "Look and See" team was to be leaving.

After arriving at the Children's Village, I went to the Baby House to meet little toddler Daniel, another child I help sponsor. Daniel was enjoying his nap so I sat on the front porch and rocked Carlito. He put his little arms about my neck and laid his head against my shoulder. That was a language I understand very well. He was content to be held, and eventually learned patty-cake and some of the other baby games that had nearly faded into the mists of my years.

The team was fed very satisfying lunches at the Boys' House. In the afternoons, we played with the older children. They are very photogenic, and they love to have their pictures taken. Many are also proficient with a camera, and they do an excellent job of taking pictures. The boys enjoyed playing keep-away and soccer with some of the fellows on our team. In fact, the kids would have happily continued to play long after they had worn out their opponents.

Our days evaporated too quickly. They were filled with pleasant activities of spending time with children at the Village, sightseeing, and attending Church services at the new WWH2H Church. We also traveled to a village in the mountains where an additional WWH2H Children's Village will be built as

Oscar Serrano (Honduras National Co-Director for WWH2H) hugs a little girl at the government-run orphanage.



funds are supplied. On the way, we made a heartbreaking visit to the state-run orphanage.

The trip to Honduras was a wonderful experience. Even the aftermath of Hurricane Ike, that left most of us scrambling to renegotiate flights home, didn't diminish the enjoyment of this special time.

—Evelyn Skaar

## Christmas at the Village



by Lisa Closner

### Sponsor Letters

There is one last team traveling to the Village this year that can carry letters. We would love to see each child receive a Christmas card from

their sponsors. Please have your letters in by December 19th.

### Christmas Gifts

We will purchase two new outfits, a pair of shoes, a pair of sandals, and one or two small gifts for each child. The cost to cover all of these expenses is \$100 per child. The shoes and clothing may be all that the children will receive all year, and

they desperately need the clothing for school. The toys may be the only things that many may receive for some time. Your generous gift will make it possible for each child to receive these humble blessings.

Thank you for partnering with us in this, such a worthy and much needed blessing. God bless you and your families.

—Lisa

After prayer and reflection, please consider sponsoring a child's Christmas at WWH2H Children's Village. Please complete and return the following form as soon as possible to:

Lisa Closner, WWH2H Volunteer Team Coordinator, P.O. Box 372, Carson, WA 98610

### Christmas Sponsorship Opportunity:

Yes, I would like to partner with WWH2H to provide Christmas for children at the Village. Enclosed is my gift of:

\$25.00  \$50.00  \$100.00  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Opportunities:

- I would like to provide a cash gift on a monthly basis in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Yes, I would like to pray for a child  I would like to sponsor a child  I would like to write to a child
- I would like to discuss additional giving opportunities with someone—please contact me.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Credit Card Type: \_\_\_\_\_ Credit Card #: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## From the President's Desk

by Mary Frenter

*"For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulders..."*

### First Grandchild

"Grandpa" Oscar and "Grandma" Amy are proud to announce the birth of 7-pound "granddaughter" baby Cesia on November 16th at 1:00 am. She is the daughter of our "son," Josué Lopez and his wife, Cesia. She had a bit of a challenge coming into this world. Mommy Cesia went into labor Friday morning and Baby Cesia was not born until Sunday morning. Both are now home and doing fine. Please keep this new little family in your prayers.

### Facing New Challenges

This has been a history making month with the U. S. Presidential Elections and the economic challenges the whole world is facing. I am reminded that "the government shall be upon His shoulders" and "after the fire, a still small voice." (1 Kings 19:12) God is still in control, and as Amy shared, in spite of the financial challenges we are all facing, He not only continues to provide for this ministry, but is actually increasing the blessings. Thank you and may God bless you for your faithfulness.

### Many Join WWH2H

As we end this year, my heart is full of these many blessings that God continues to rain down on WWH2H. Many new sons and daughters have come to live at the Village. Many supporters and volunteers, old and new, have blessed us with their help. Many have joined in the inner workings of WWH2H to share the load of management. And the

prospects for more of all of this are wonderful for 2009.

### The "Little Guy"

As I reflect on "the little guy" who started all this, all I can declare is, "Amazing Grace, and thank you, Jesus, for letting us be a small part of Your perfect plan for Your beautiful children."



**New parents Cesia and Josué Lopez hold Baby Cesia, born November 16, 2008.**

### New Children at Village

And on that note, He has blessed us this month with another three daughters. They are sisters Jency 14, Olga 11, and Suyapa 8. They came to us from INHFA, the Honduras equivalent of CPS. Welcome to the family, girls!

### Board Member and Village Son Travel to Pacific Northwest

Early in November, WWH2H Honduras National Director Oscar Serrano, Fredy Castro (one of our WWH2H Honduras Board of Directors), and Marvin Amaya, one of our first kids at the Village, traveled to

Washington and Oregon State for two weeks of presentations and meetings for the ministry. From November 5th to 20th, they traveled from Centralia, Washington to Estacada, Oregon and all points in between.

Marvin just graduated from High School and will begin a pre-med program at San Pedro Sula University in January. We are so proud of him. They were able to visit Mount St. Helens, Mt. Hood, Multnomah Falls, the Oregon Zoo, and other points of interest.

### Thanks for Dental Work

Dr. Troy Thomas of Mercer Island, who has volunteered in Honduras with Medical Relief International of Antioch Bible Church in Redmond, graciously provided Oscar with dental work that could not be done when Troy was in Honduras. Thank you so much, Troy. They returned to Honduras with the VBS team on November 21st.

### Nursery Construction

When Oscar returned home, construction began on the new Nursery that will be home to 25 babies. The building will include housing for some of our older girls as well, who wish to be hired to help as part-time caregivers for the "littles." The older girls, of course, will still go to school. We will open savings accounts for them with some of their wages, so they can begin building a nest egg for their futures.

### Mercy Ships Teams

Mercy Ships teams, lead by Gary and Sylvia Thacker bless us many times each year. Sylvia shared with me two wonderful "Praise the Lords!!" that happened on the recent teams. Two of their number asked Jesus into their hearts!! Thank you, Jesus! This is what it is all about!!

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## From the President's Desk

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### WWH2H VBS

November 20-29, the VBS team, comprised of Washington State volunteers from the Carson Nazarene Church, the Stevenson Star of the Sea Catholic Church, and the Stevenson Faith Tabernacle Church, traveled to Honduras to minister Jesus Christ to the children of Tegucigalpa and Puerto Cortes. They worked hard raising funds to pay for their expenses and to buy the VBS supplies for this mission trip. Thank you to everyone who helped them in this effort. We will have a follow-up story for you of their adventures in the January Newsletter.

### Immanuel Team

On Christmas Night, the wonderful team from the Immanuel

Lutheran Church in Centralia, Washington, will fly off to Honduras to spend the week and bring in the New Year with our kids. While there, they will do some much-needed maintenance, painting several of our buildings.

### Prayer Requests

Please keep all these things in your thoughts and prayers. If you have one of our kids' *Prayer Pictures* on your fridge, please hold them up in prayer daily. Thank you! God bless each of you and may He hold you, and those you love, close as we once again begin the celebration of His birth. Merry Christmas!!!

"...And he shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace."  
Isaiah 9:6

—Mary

## Our Financial Promise

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 home 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 year-end tax statements to donors for all monetary gifts given to WWH2H.

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 our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

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P.O. Box 372  
Carson, WA 98610  
USA 509.427.8585  
Mary Fenter  
President

NON-PROFIT  
US POSTAGE  
**PAID**  
PERMIT #99  
LONGVIEW  
WA  
98632