



Worldwide Heart to Heart Ministries



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

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

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 2009

A Mother's Sacrifice

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

The children at the Village never cease to amaze me. They are so strong and have overcome so much. I write about them because I want you to know them and I want them to inspire you. This month, I want to introduce a brother and sister that know the horror of domestic violence and whose mother made the ultimate sacrifice for her children. They came to live at the Children's Village almost two years ago. This is their story.

We will call them Samantha 11 and Allan 9 (names have been changed to protect their privacy). They lived with their mother and father in Progreso, a small town about 30 minutes outside of San Pedro Sula.

Their father was a security guard and drank a lot. Their mother did odd jobs, such as washing and ironing clothes. Since neither of these professions pay well, the family lived in poverty. Even more than the lack of money, the father's drinking was a real problem.

Provisions for battered women and children in this country are few. When a woman finds herself in an abusive relationship, she must find her own way out. For many women in Honduras, there is no way out. If they complain to the police, their husbands, boyfriends, fathers, will be out of jail that same night (due to overcrowding), and the women in more danger. So, most women just stay silent.

This was the case with Sam and Allan's mother and father. He threatened to kill her if she ran away, and she believed it. Her only option was to get her children out. She brought them to INHFA, the CPS of Honduras.

The paperwork we received on the kids encourages their mother's visitation, and she comes often. When I spoke with Samantha about problems in the family, she said that their mother wouldn't let them get out of bed after their dad came home at night. They would listen in horror to the fighting and cry themselves to sleep. Samantha remembers when her father pulled a gun and put it her mother's head. She cried for her dad to stop. Samantha is still afraid to get out of bed at night

continued on page 2



Kids from the Children's Village pose on New Year's Day with the youth team from Immanuel Lutheran Church, Centralia, WA. Because of your faithful prayers, generous giving, and volunteering, blessings continue to rain down on our children. In 2008, God blessed us with 41 new sons and daughters for a total of 92!



A Mother's Sacrifice

continued from page 1

and suffers from bed wetting as a result.

Considering the horrible circumstances that these two brave young kids experienced, they are doing relatively well. Younger brother Allan has really come around, does well in school, and gets along well

with the other kids. Samantha has issues with anger and struggles with stealing and starting fights. She is beginning to understand that violence and anger won't give her the feelings of control she so desperately wants. She is slowly being healed by God.

For this, I first thank God. He responded to this situation and rescued these children from that situation. I am

grateful that the children's mother was strong enough to find a safer place for her children. I also want to thank all of you who have supported this ministry, giving Samantha and Allan a place to go to get away from the violence. Please continue to pray for these two young people and their parents.

—Amy

Writing Sponsor Letters and Giving Gifts

by Lisa Closner
Correspondence Coordinator

Correspondence between sponsors and their children has become an important piece in caring for our children. Last year many sponsors, most of whom have never been to the Children's Village, began developing personal relationships with their children through letters. The children have come to know that when I arrive at the Village I am usually carrying letters from sponsors. Immediately after *holas* and hugs, the names of sponsors start ringing in my ears.

"¡Lisa! ¿Tiene una carta de Colleen?"

"¡Lisa! ¿Carta de Gloria y Carlos?"

"¿Carta de John y Lorna?"

"¿Tiene una carta de Kathy?"

"¿...de Carrie?" And so it goes.

Through letters and photos, these precious bonds are developing.

When writing letters to the children, tell them about your day-to-day life such as your family, friends, faith, activities, pets, etc. Do not include your address or phone number and do not focus on "things." Remember, these children have very little material wealth. Each time you send something to your child, don't forget to include photos of you and your family. This piece plays a big part in the children getting to know you.

There are four opportunities to send letters or birthday/Christmas gifts to your children this year. The dates are March 1, June 1, August 1 and October 15. Please send them to Lisa Closner, PO Box 2113, Estacada, OR 97023. If you would like to know the month of your child's birthday, or if you have any other questions about sending letters to the child you



Olvin holds a treasured photo he received of him and his sponsor, Andrea Courtnier.

sponsor, please email me at LisaC@wwh2h.org. May God bless you abundantly for the care you give His children.

—Lisa

Note: Find more information on writing sponsor letters and giving gifts to the children on our web site at:

<http://wwh2h.org>



+ **amazon.com** =



We have a new fund raising avenue! For all you Amazon.com shoppers, please enter through the link in red below.

Everything you love about Amazon will be the same

(including the prices!) but WWH2H will get a 4% cut of the sale! That percentage will increase over time, depending on the sales volume! I will also be creating a new web page:

<http://amazon.wwh2h.org>. It will contain all the information, status and links for this fund raiser. Thank you!

**by Brian Ross
WWH2H Board Treasurer**

<http://www.amazon.com/?tag=wwh2h-20>



Village Update—January

by Amy Serrano, Honduras National Co-Director

God is still on the move! Hello again from Honduras. As always, we are going forward for the glory of the Lord! January has actually been a more relaxed month in some ways. Here's what's happening:

Teen Boys' House & Education

Praise the Lord, the Teen Boys' House (next to our church in Puerto Cortes), is now completed and the boys are living in their new home. It turned out to be a really nice house. The boys are getting their first taste, however, of "life without a mommy." They now have to cook all their own food and do all their own laundry.

Marvin, soon to turn 21 and a "college man," is in charge of our two teen sons, Marlon, 16, and Norman, 17. We built the boys' dorm in Puerto Cortes so that all three boys could go to their respective high schools and colleges in Puerto Cortes and San Pedro Sula.

- Marvin will be studying pre-med at the Catholic University of San Pedro Sula.
- Marlon will be going to a high school in San Pedro Sula that offers an AA degree in electrical engineering. He hopes to then move on to the University to finish his studies.
- Norman will be attending High School in Puerto Cortes and training with the National Soccer team.

We ask for your prayers for these young teens as their lives begin to take a new turn.

Baby House / Nursery

The construction on the new nursery building is just flying! The foundation and the initial plumbing are done, and the walls are up. Plastering was done the first week in January, and we're ready to start the roof. So far, the funds to do the roof have not been provided. I have faith in God, however, that by the time this newsletter goes out, construction of the roof will be underway. If you would like to donate to this project please contact our main office (509.427.8585).



Amy Serrano inventories items for sale at the new art gallery / souvenir shop. Immanuel Lutheran's youth team were the first to shop at the store in December.

School Vacation Activities

All the children are doing well. They are enjoying their last days of vacation and have actually been working quite a bit. Oscar has been paying the older boys to help in the construction of the Nursery house. The rest of the kids have been helping to do some spring cleaning and clearing out the storage house.

The girls at the Village have become little businesswomen. Since Analisa, the head house mother for the Girls' House took over, she has been teaching the girls knitting and many other crafts. The girls are excited to sell the products they make at our new souvenir shop (will explain later on). Whenever you walk in the Girls' House, you see several little girls going to town with the crochet needles. The things that they are making are quite beautiful!

Café, Art Gallery, and Salon

Recently, we have come up with some new ideas for supporting the ministry and for providing the children training in a skill and an opportunity to earn some cash, open a small account, and learn how to manage funds. This comes in three forms: coffee, souvenirs, and beauty!

Everyone loves coffee, and Honduras has long been overlooked as a great coffee growing nation. We have begun to produce our own coffee and open a small coffee shop in Puerto Cortes. Our older boys, living in Puerto Cortes, will manage the shop, (under our guidance, of course).

The coffee shop will also be a souvenir and art gallery with art from all over Honduras displayed and sold. This is also where the girls can sell their products. Each girl will be paid for the things they make that are sold.

But that is not all. Cesia, the wife of Josué, is opening a salon in Puerto Cortes where she will train some of our older girls to be beauticians. *(Josué was one of the first young men*

continued on page 4



Village Report—January

continued from page 3

that we took off the streets. He grew up at the Children's Village and is now married and works full time for WWH2H).

All three businesses, the café, the art gallery, and the salon, will provide jobs and training for our kids, and a large portion of the proceeds will go directly to the ministry.

Music Lessons

For the last three months, many of our older kids have been taking

music lessons at the church. Heriberto Ochoa, a professional musician in Honduras and a member of our church, has been holding music classes each Saturday. Students performed a "Music Group in Training" recital at the Youth Group Service. They led worship for the first time. Many of the church members knew that they were going to take the reigns for this Friday youth service, and the church was packed! Heriberto wants to teach them to play an instrument and to lead worship.

Future Plans

In the month of February, we will be focusing on the roof for the Nursery house, starting the school year again, and starting the business in Puerto Cortes.

March seems like it is going to be a really busy month with many groups coming from the U.S. to work on the Nursery and in medical brigades. We ask for your prayers regarding these groups, that the Lord will prepare them and the hearts of those to whom they will minister.

—Amy

Special Prayers and Support Needed

by Mary Frenter, President

So many new children and more buildings bring with them increased responsibilities and funding needs. Please pray with us about the two immediate needs for funds:

Support for Children

We jumped from 73 to 92 children to care for in one month. We hired more staff to help us with the children God has brought to our door. The Honduran government has increased the required wages we pay our employees. So, we need increased monthly support and sponsors for our children.

Support for Baby House

Tons of prayer and generous donations from Samaritan's Purse and a private individual made it possible for us to finish the foundation, floor, and walls of the Baby House. There are two construction teams scheduled for March to do the electrical, plumbing, and interior work. However, the roof must be done first. Oscar told me in February we will need \$7,000 to \$8,000 to do the roof.

All that has been accomplished in this ministry is TOTALLY God. Last

August, He miraculously provided the funds to begin the Baby House (my "chance" meeting last August with Dr. Paul Chiles, Samaritan's Purse Senior Program Advisor), and I know He finishes what He begins. So, I am enlisting your help to get the word out to see where His funds will come from to increase monthly support for our kids and to do the roof.

Special Prayers for Santos

Please keep 11-year-old Santos in your prayers. She is one of our new daughters that arrived at the Village in December from the Nueva Esperanza Public Orphanage in San Pedro Sula. Years ago, her back was injured from the mistreatment she received from her father. She uses crutches, and recently fell and broke her arm.

Kim Sharpe, our Pediatric Nurse Practitioner will be in Honduras the first week in February. She will evaluate Santos's needs and bring the medical records back to Washington for evaluation by orthopedic surgeon Dr. Keith Birchard, a friend of this ministry. We are hoping there is some procedure available for Santos to help her. We need a youth wheelchair for

Santos. In fact, wheelchairs, canes, and walkers are constantly needed in Honduras. Our teams are allowed to take them with them when they fly. So, if you have access to these items, call me.

—Mary



Santos suffered abuse years ago that resulted in a back injury. Please pray for her healing and the funds necessary for medical treatment.



From the President's Desk

by Mary Frenter, President

Happy New Year! Because of your faithful prayers, generous giving and volunteering, blessings continue to rain down on our children! Here's what's happening:

Blessings in 2008:

- God blessed us with 41 new sons and daughters for a total of 92.
- Josué and Cesia blessed us with our first granddaughter, Baby Cesia.
- Over 600 children attended two VBS programs in January and November.
- Our Sunday School outreach now ministers to over 200 children each week.
- A total of 216 volunteers came on 22 different teams to help our kids.
- Oscar, Marvin, and Fredy spent two weeks of fund raising in Washington and Oregon.
- Our WWH2H Library benefactor sent over \$5,600 in new children-through-adult books in Spanish, and we were able to open our library at the Village.
- Our Girls' House at the Village was completed.



The WWH2H Church participates in many outreach projects in the area. Some helped with VBS in December.

- The WWH2H church building in Puerto Cortes was built.
- Our Teen Boys' House next to the church was built.
- Construction began on the Baby House at the Village.
- Many new believers were added to God's growing family.
- And there are many more blessings I have not listed.

Looking Ahead to 2009

There are 26 volunteer teams already planned for 2009. This month, Marlon has begun an Electrical Engineering program at the Tech. School in San Pedro Sula. In May, Marvin will begin a pre-med program at the University in San Pedro Sula. The rest of our children will begin school in February with funds provided by friends of our Honduras Board of Directors.

Volunteer Needs:

- We are looking for a teacher to teach English at our Village for one to two years. Knowing

Spanish would be helpful, but is NOT required as you would be doing the English immersion classes. All in-country expenses would be covered (i.e., room and board). If you are interested, please contact Mary Frenter at maryf@wwh2h.org.

- We can use more construction teams, VBS teams, medical dental teams and crusade teams. Let me know if you are interested in organizing one from your church, or if you would like to join one of these teams.

Blessings for Sponsors and Prayer Warriors

As always, I covet your prayers for our children and this ministry. I hope 2009 allows you to make the journey to Honduras to renew your friendships with your children, or to meet them for the first time. God bless you and thank you so much for all you do for our kids.

—Mary ><

Container News

by Mary Frenter, President



We are planning to fill and ship a container to Honduras in the next few months, funded by the U.S. government Humanitarian Aid Funded Transportation Program. Here's what we need:

General Needs:

- We need a warehouse to store donated items and to house the container while it's being loaded
- 3 each 60-cup rice cookers
- Good heavy-duty sandals in all sizes for our children
- 4 new or gently used computers (no more than 2 years old)
- New and gently used clothing for

boys and girls, ages birth to 20, suitable for our hot climate.

- Gently used furniture: desks, couches, chairs, folding chairs, tables, lamps
- Kitchen items: 3 commercial dishwashers, sinks, refrigerators, stoves, ceiling fans, dishes, pots/pans, towels, cooking utensils, drinking fountains
- Wheelchairs, canes, walkers

continued on back page



Container News

continued from page 5

Baby House Needs:

- Cribs with mattresses
- Bedding
- Changing tables
- Playpens
- Dressers
- Diapers and wipes
- Diaper ointment and cornstarch-based powder
- Baby clothing
- Bibs, sip cups, baby spoons
- Baby gyms or play arches
- Strollers, buggies, high chairs, and yard toys
- Toys and creative play things
- Rocking chairs with ottomans
- Baby bottles, formula, baby dishes, baby food, baby lotions, baby tubs
- Diaper bags
- Baby gates

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!



David Update

David was brought to the U.S. from Honduras two years ago to fix his club foot. His host mom, Denise, reports that his leg is doing fine. He sees the doctor again in September to check the length of his leg.

Meanwhile, David is in second grade and doing well in school. He loves basketball and wrestling. David scored two baskets for his Kelso, Washington, team, and he won both of his first wrestling matches. Please continue to pray for David and his host family. 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.

wwhzh.org
Heart to Heart
WORLDWIDE
MINISTRIES



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

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