



This Month

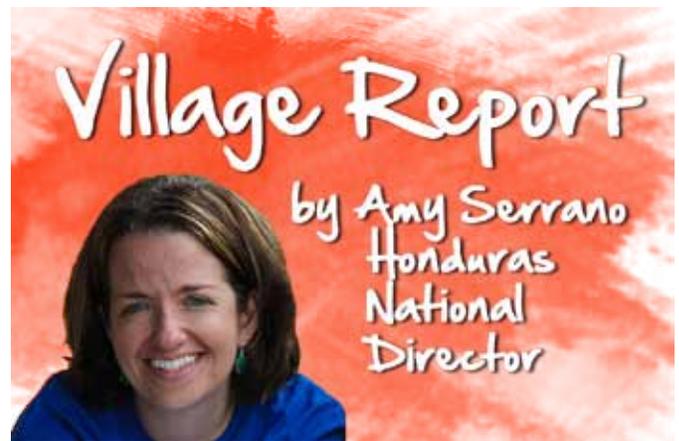
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Children on Cover: Rachel and Elias



Merry
Christmas





"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."

II Corinthians 1:3-5

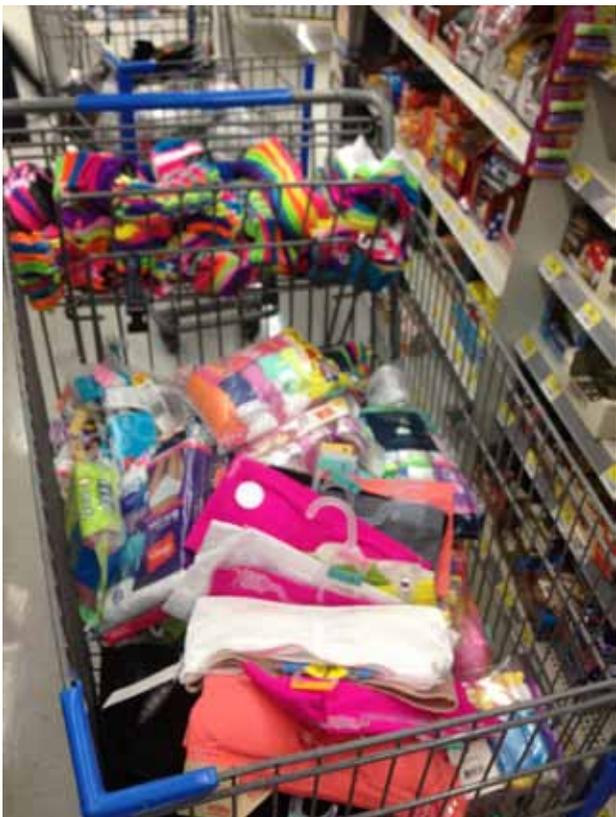
BLESSING THE CHILDREN

So let me ask, am I the only one out there that enjoys being "Queen Mommy"? You know - the feeling you get when you are able to find your child the exact item that they wanted, in just the right color, knowing that not even they were expecting you to be able to do it. That's how I feel when I, for instance, am able to pick up doughnuts on the way home. When I arrive with the treat, what am I? "Queen Mommy"!!! There is only one time a year that Christmas shopping is

actually something enjoyable for me, and that is when I am privileged enough to be in the states when Christmas shopping happens for the kids of the children's village. Each year for Christmas the kids get certain specific things, obviously a toy or gift, but they also get a new outfit to wear to that year's Christmas party.

It is an honor for me to be able to walk into a store and say "what is the one thing here in this store that will bless this child beyond measure?" One particular instance I experienced this was when we were buying socks and underwear in Walmart. We were going with all white and being very practical, when the neon, bright colored girls' socks caught my eye. They are the all the rave these days and I thought to myself, wow, I want our kids to have these fun socks too! As I pushed our cart around another corner, there it was - a huge bin of brightly colored, fun socks - on sale! I asked my shopping partners if we could put the "boring" socks that we had already put in the cart back and get these. When the socks and underwear were given out, I know that each girl came into the room expecting to receive their traditional white or possibly gray or black new undergarments. When the fun, mismatched, bright neon colors were revealed the squeals of joy filled the room. And suddenly I am the reigning Queen Mommy!

In addition Rick Stephens was able to go over to the shoe store and receive great discounts on brand new tennis shoes. Again not just some boring, plain what's cheapest type stuff, but the brightly colored "fun" tennis shoes. While he was shopping for shoes Ashley, Mary and I, went about picking out new outfits for each child at the clothing store next door. I eagerly look forward to seeing the kids strolling out in their new clothes. The shopping adventure day took us over 7 hours that day and we were back at it the next day,



this time to purchase presents. Altogether we put in over 14 hours of shopping, but for me they were 14 hours incredibly well spent!

The truth is it's really not about me. The kids don't even know that I was involved with the whole process. I simply enjoy being able to not only get the kids what they need, but also what they truly want! Even after all these years I can't express the feeling of utter satisfaction and profound joy that I feel yet again being able to give these kids what they need with joy sprinkled in. I often find myself walking through our dining room thinking to myself "oh thank God these kids have food". Why? Well perhaps that particular day I was shopping or driving through town and I encountered women with their children begging in the streets. I think we have truly learned that it is a privilege to put food on the table each day, put clothes on their backs, a roof over their heads and give each of these precious children an education.

In the end I have my two teenage daughters to thank for this shopping knowledge. They taught me everything I need to know about buying for kids. With a bit of background knowledge on key things such as: each child's personal taste, favorite color, and what they do or don't already own, I and my faithful shopping companions, Mary Frenter, Ashley Kwasney and Rick Stephens purchase items with the knowledge that each of our children will be able to come to our Christmas party looking nothing like an orphan or like children that had their clothing selected from bulk purchasing. Rather they will come out in outfits that were lovingly selected for each one individually according to their personal style and taste. And on that night, even if it's just between me and God I will be the reigning "Queen Mommy"!



THANK YOU TO SPONSORS WHO SENT GIFTS TO THE CHILDREN



We want to thank all the wonderful people out there who took the time to get presents for the children they sponsor themselves. I wish you could all be here to see the expressions on each child's face and the joy that you have brought to your special little one's life. It really is priceless. We will all be reigning Queen mommies!!!

AND LASTLY, THANK YOU TO TOMS SHOES!

I also want to thank each and every one of you that buys Toms shoes. Each time you purchase shoes through this company a child somewhere in the world gets a free, new pair. This year our kids had the privilege of being a part of this awesome event. We bussed the children in to San Pedro Sula and spent a wonderful day receiving food and enjoying the entertainment. Each child left with a brand new pair of shoes! I can't adequately express what a blessing this is for us and the Heart to



Heart Children's Village. For many reasons, including the extremely moist and humid climate of Honduras, shoes simply don't last very long here. So a gift like this is an unexpected blessing, both very timely and very appreciated. We are deeply grateful to Toms shoes for taking care of our kids need for shoes.

HOW CAN YOU HELP?

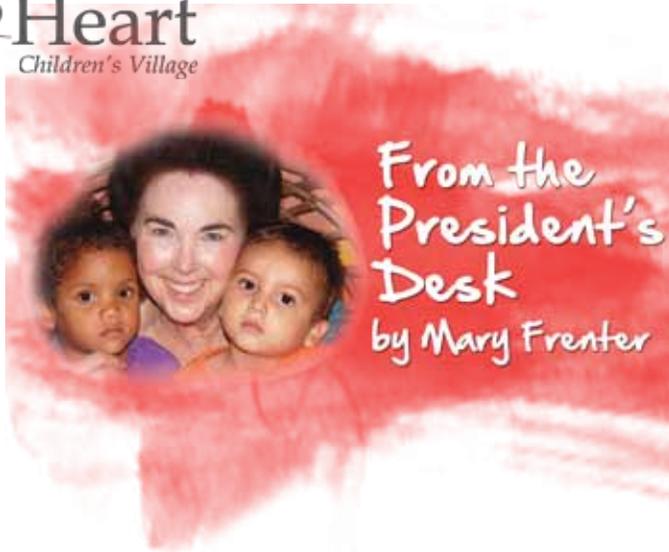
Pray for:

- God's guidance for Directors and workers
- The school directors and staff
- Our children

Become a monthly sponsor
(www.h2hcv.org)

Join a Volunteer Mission Team

Hold a fundraiser for H2H



Merry Christmas!! Our Christmas Prep/Quinceanera/Cookie Bake/Birthday/Letter writing team just returned!! So many blessings to share, so we each are choosing one. Mine is the cookie bake part. We did Cutout Christmas Cookies with 93 kids, ages 1-22!!! What a glorious time. Flour everywhere and on everyone, yummy cookie dough being consumed, frosting and sprinkles bedecking cookies and children!! Love it!!

However, what I really want to share are some of the impressions of one of our first time team members, Ellie Sue Gentry, age 12 going on 40, and her mom, Jessica. Below is an email they sent to me about their impressions while experiencing God's glory all over the kids and the team last week.

Highlights of my trip, by Jessica Gentry

- Spending time with and getting to know the kids our family has been sponsoring.
- Volunteering at the school and seeing what the kids are learning and how they are progressing
- Serving alongside Ellie and seeing her maturity and the way she loved on the kids. It was so encouraging to see the other adults on the team and the teachers speak into her life and encourage her.
- The love that the kids give, I was so blessed just being with them.
- The relationship between the teachers and kids. The kids look up to the teachers and those teachers are an

authority and voice in their life. It is so powerful.

- Our time spent with the Stephens. The love they have for the kids and this ministry is so encouraging, you could see it in the way they interacted with everyone.
- The Quinceanera was so special. Seeing those girls dressed up and treated so special was very emotional. To know some of their stories and see them have the opportunity to be honored in this way was phenomenal.
- Celebrating the birthdays with the kids, seeing their faces when their name was called to come up and receive their gift.
- Seeing the bigger picture of H2H, and getting a piece of the vision. God's confirmation that he has placed this ministry in my heart for a purpose.

What the Lord has taught me:

- He has called me to a deeper level of faith and intimacy with Him.
- I have been reminded the power of prayer and need to strengthen my prayer life.



Highlights by Ellie Sue Gentry

- I enjoyed seeing the kids that my family sponsors, and all the other kids too.
- It was cool to see how mature the kids are, and how helpful they are.
- You can tell the kids have been trained up to be leaders and want to help. For example: On the first day I walked in, and saw about 8 boys all watching Patty Elliot mix the dough in a huge bowl. Some of the younger boys were helping Kim rip the wax paper, and the older boys were watching Patty. I was helping

Guillermo pull the wax paper and he got so excited when he could do it. Anyway, after Patty was done mixing the dough, I helped her make it into little balls. We would put the dough on the paper and they would close it by spinning it. As we got far into the process, I noticed Jehovany. Two more kids walked in and Mary asked if we had been counting the balls to see if we had enough. Sure enough we hadn't and so Jehovany took charge,

without even being asked and told the new kids that walked in to count the dough. They did it successfully and we finished the job. It shows how these kids are becoming leaders and how mature they really are. Afterwards, Mary asked me to wash out the huge bowl, and I mean huge. I did, and before you know Jehovany is back helping me. He comes over and starts rinsing it with me. I hadn't really got to connect with him, because it was the first day, but man, we really got to know each other. He was even helping the house moms clean after we had left. They are all very helpful, but that's just something that stood out to me.

- I did not expect the kids to know that much English. They were amazing.
- The kids are so involved in each other and are so much like one big family. You can tell that they see each other as a family and not all separate.

For example: I was watching Mary write letters to sponsors with one of the kids, Jonathan. He had received a letter from someone who told him how many people were in their family. She asked Jonathan what he wanted to write back. One thing he said was, "I want to tell them I have 100 people in MY family!", meaning the kids in the Village. Knowing that the kids are in a safe place. They could run away, but they don't.

- I also liked being at the school. I had a great time helping the kids. I have always wanted to be a teacher so it was like a test.
- Overall the trip was fantastic, and probably the best week of my life! I'll be back!!!

Things the Lord taught me on this trip:

- He showed me to have faith in Him and quit relying on my own strength and my own ideas of what I think should happen.
- To be grateful for my life, and all that I have.
- He gave me a deep love and passion for these kids and this ministry.
- He gave me a taste of what I might want to do when I get older.
- To be grateful for my parents and the love and opportunities they give me.
- That there is a reason for everything.

I have said it before and will say it again, going on a H2H team to Honduras minister to His Kids is life changing for the team members and life giving to those we love on while there. Come join us in 2014!!



**We need you now
more than ever...**

As the year draws to a close, would you please consider giving a donation to Worldwide Heart to Heart? It will be put to great use as it is all about the kids! Thank you!

2013 Quinceanera

by Mikaela Gronseth



Yoselyn Wendy Dilcia Marisol Sarah Olivia Patricia Martha Ilcy Nora Olga

Last June, when I left and didn't know when I would be back one of the questions I was asked multiple times was, "But, Waka, you will come back for our Quinceaneras, right?" I told them I would try my best. I am glad I made it back, because there was no where else in the world I would have rather been on Saturday then with these 11 remarkable young women as they celebrated who God has created them to be.

In Latin American culture, they celebrate young women turning 15, their Quinceanera. It symbolizes them coming of age. Here, with 98 children we celebrate all the girls that have turned 15 together in one annual ceremony.

After sewing dresses, buying shoes, making sure each of the girls had a Bible, necklace, crown, buying a cake, decorating the church and making many other preparations, we were ready for the big day. We started in the morning with practice, took a break

for lunch and then it was back to the Salon for everyone to get their hair and makeup done. Finally, it was time.

I had the privilege to introduce each of the girls individually as they walked down the aisle in the church. After I announced them, the crowd, of around 250, erupted into a thunderous applause, hooting, hollering and all, clearly our girls are so loved! When the excitement had ceased, I read the dreams of each one of the girls. (Yes, please take a moment to think about me reading their names and dreams in SPANISH and trying to hold myself together as they walked in the church). These girls have the most beautiful dreams. We am so proud of each of them.

Here are their dreams, translated into English, of course:

Sarah - to complete her goals and to help the poor to have a better home, many other things

Dilcia - to become an English Teacher, to help the poor, this ministry and to serve Jesus

Patricia - to be an actress and a dentist, to help those in need, to always support the place where I grew up, to help change Honduras and help many children

Olivia - to be a nurse

Ilcy - to be a dentist and to be the best sister to her brothers Adonis and Nelson and all the children at the Village, and also to be a good daughter

to Oscar and Amy and Joel and Jessie

Wendy - to be a doctor if God allows and to help people

Nora - to be a lawyer

Martha - to first study and to then become a singer

Olga - to be a dentist or pediatrician

Yoselyn - to be a professor



Marisol - to do everything for Jesus, to study medicine, build a home for children and help people in need

After I introduced the girls, I went and sat down. The girls were full of emotion, they were all very nervous for one thing, (I am not sure if they were more nervous about walking in heels all the way down the aisle or about all the people), they were also very excited. Their excitement and nervousness manifested itself in several different ways, tears, big smiles, no smiles at all, shaky legs, etc. Soon after I took my seat I thought I should maybe go hold some hands of those who were especially nervous. I sat down on the floor in front of them, and we all looked on to the stage. While everyone else was looking at the back of the girls' hair, which was beautifully done, I was looking at their faces. We laughed at some points, I reminded them to make sure they were smiling, and I definitely got some eyes rolled at me when I made weird faces at them. I soon realized that I had the best seat in the house, there was no way that I was going back to my chair. I stole glances at them as we worshipped together, as they listened to their Papi Oscar deliver the message, and as they watched the slideshow from when they were younger. Not one eye was dry.

This day is a day they have been anticipating for years. We celebrate their pasts, and pray and rejoice over each one of their futures. We celebrate them in a way that they have never been celebrated before, and they each deserve it so much. We are so thankful to be able to celebrate our 11 princesses in such a special way. The girls will remember this day forever. They are still wearing huge, filled to the brim smiles as they walk around doing daily things. There was no expense spared to make this such a beautiful and memorable event for everyone involved. Please join us in prayer as we lift each one of these young women up, knowing their broken pasts and celebrating their bright futures. Thank you to all who made this day possible!

Teachers NEEDED!

We continue to look for people who are interested in volunteering for a minimum of 1-2 years in Honduras. We are looking for individuals who love the Lord and children, have a teachable spirit, and are team players. They do not need a US teaching certificate to teach the ACE curriculum. However, we will conduct training for them to use this curriculum, classroom management and the Love and Logic method of discipline. We will help them organize their yearly plans and set up their classrooms. While room and board will be provided, each will need to raise their own support for additional funds to cover airfare, Residency Cards, and personal items.

Please contact Mary Frenter at MaryF@h2hcv.org or 509-427-8585

LETTER WRITING TO SPONSORS

By Rick Stephens



What is more fun than going to Disneyland? For me it's going to the Children's Village to visit our kids. It is so great to see how much they've grown and to observe how much they have learned since I was with them last. As I greet each child it's like our friendship just picks up from where we left off on my last visit. One thing that never changes is that even before I finish saying hello when I first arrive the kids start with the BIG QUESTION: Are we going to write letters?

When I tell them that letter writing is in the plan their excitement goes up a notch and they want to know when we will do it. Then, after I tell them which day we plan to write letters they re-confirm with me multiple times every day right up until the time we go into the *comedor* (dining hall) to write them. Inside the dining hall each child waits patiently as I explain that Lisa Closner has carefully prepared an envelope for each of them which contains the letters from their sponsors, a list of those who have written, some paper to write on and some candy.

As I call their names to come pick up their envelopes the excitement in the room is palpable. Each kid runs up with a huge smile like he has just won an award when his name is called. Once the envelopes are passed out the noise level in the room increases by an order of magnitude as the kids start sharing the letters & pictures they've gotten with their friends. Finally, as they start writing their responses we get to help them with questions like how to spell a word or how to say something in English. Some of the questions & comments the kids make to me demonstrate that there is a bond between them and the sponsor. That is very special.

I do letters with the kids every time I go to the village because I love to see how happy it makes them. If you would like to start corresponding with a child please just send your letter to WWH2H in care of Lisa Closner at PO Box 3275, Clackamas, OR 97015. It will give me great joy to deliver it for you.



DECORATING FOR CHRISTMAS



Another activity that generates a great deal of enthusiasm among the children is decorating for Christmas. When we arrived the kids had already pulled out the ornaments and washed everything up so we were ready to go when we got there. Every child got involved as we put up a tree with lights and ornaments in the boys' house dining hall and another tree in the girls' house. The kids really get into this activity as each ornament is selected and every light bulb is checked and double checked (by multiple kids). Given the children's height one would expect a cluster of ornaments up to a certain level and then a bare tree at the top. However, the kids display good artistic eyes as they ask us to help by putting ornaments on the upper portion of the trees. We also did a craft with the kids so each child made his own ornament to hang on the tree. And, a very special time came the next day when Mary Frenter brought her ukulele into the Girls' house and we sat around the tree singing Christmas carols with the kids. A good time was had by all!

OUT OF THE MOUTH OF BABES

By Jeri Obias

On my way to a ladies retreat in September, Mary called and told me about an opportunity to choose a child and send gifts for Christmas. The lover of Christmas and children weld up inside of me immediately. I decided to choose a little one that would be about the same age as one of my grandchildren. Mary brought me a little card with Esteffany's adorable picture and a brief description of her. My plan went into place when my daughter-in-law and grandson took a day to go through his bedroom and donate the things he had grown out of. My grandson is not easily persuaded to let go of the things that he has fond memories of, especially his toys. When they were finished, I asked if there might be anything that I could send to a little girl in Honduras at the children's village.



Keep in mind that God is always leading. All the while, I was wondering how I could incorporate a giving heart into this wonderful opportunity when my grandson always wants to keep his precious childhood memories. He decided that someone could use his alphabet puzzles because they would need to learn to read.

As he was going out my door one day, I picked up the card, showed him the picture, and ask him to give it to his mom. Of course he wanted to know about the little girl in the picture. I began to tell him what I knew in general about children who came to live in the village. I could see that he was having difficulty trying to fathom it all. How can you have a baby and not be able to feed it or put clothes on it. Why would a baby's parents be mean to it? His imagination began to go with it and the little tender heart that God gave him was spilling over.

For our Friday night sleepover, we put Jason in the car and off we went to see what he would pick out for his new "far away" friend. As we pushed the cart through the little girl clothing aisles he would interject his opinions. "She will need these for her hair", or "Gram, she isn't this big" and "Girls always like Hello Kitty!" It was as if he knew her very well. He chose pajamas that she would not be too hot in because he knew it was hot in Honduras! He added that he didn't want her to have to sleep in her clothes, because she had no pajamas. How insightful!

Upon turning the corner in the toy aisle, there was a mother with two cute little boys. He announced proudly to her that he was choosing things for a little girl in an orphanage in Honduras. He filled his story with his perception of what they need because of how their life had been. She turned to me and began to ask questions regarding ways to help and items need for the children. When we least expect it, God puts people in our paths, even in the toy aisle!

When we went to deliver all our purchases, I had the wonderful surprise that not only would we get to share with Mary, but also Amy and Ashley! Jason poured through his purchases and told why he had chosen each one and then showed the cards with his picture so that she could see who he was. Amy, ever so tenderly, told him the special story of his little new friend, Esteffany.

As we went out the door, he jumped off the porch and said, "That was sooooo cool!"

"And a little child will lead them."

December Birthdays



Angel - 5



Luis - 18



Guillermo - 6



Zacarias - 8



Sammy - 8



All the children are growing fast! We celebrate birthdays on a quarterly basis and you have an opportunity to mail a card and/or a gift if you like.

Please see [www. http://h2hcv.org/get-involved/#giving-gifts](http://h2hcv.org/get-involved/#giving-gifts) to learn more. As you are reading this, would you please consider sponsoring a child this next year? \$50/month goes a long way and we need you!



**Shop at Amazon this
Christmas and help H2H
earn cash!**

Simply use the web link below when you go to Amazon and every time you make a purchase, Amazon will donate approximately 6% to H2H! You get the same low price as always - tell your friends and family!

www.amazon.com/?tag=h2hcv-20

amazon.com[®]

2013 Banquet Report

Semillas De Esperanza ~ Seeds of Hope
Banquet

Semillas De Esperanza was a huge success! We raised \$50,000 to be given over the next five years. Halleluia! Our children will remain in school, their supplies are in place and many of you wonderful people have signed on to partner with us. Thank You! With sincerity of heart I must tell you what has truly moved me; it has been the response of our children's hearts in this ministry because of what you do for them. Let me explain, without your continued help over the last ten years our children wouldn't feel the way they do about Heart to Heart, about their lives or about their view of our Heavenly Father and their country. You see on my last trip to the Village and School, just a week ago, I witnessed testimony of our teens and their vision for themselves. More than one teen spoke up and said, "I want to give back." They want to return to work for Heart to Heart and help the poor people of their country. You now see what happens when you give, you give hope to someone who has no hope in a country swimming in great poverty and sadness. Your giving has given and will continue to give our children an education, a home and knowledge of a good God. You have provided an opportunity for them to succeed. Our God does not live in our economy nor does He have a limit to visions and dreams for the youth of today no matter where they live. Semillas De Esperanza or Seeds of Hope is truly transforming our children's lives and they will indeed be the leaders of Honduras tomorrow. On behalf of our Board, please accept our deepest thanks for this is truly an impossible task without your heart for the work of God in Honduras.

Shalom my Friends, Kim Stephens



**Join H2H for our group night with
the Portland Trail Blazers!**

**Saturday, Feb 1st, 7:00pm @ the Moda Center
A portion of the proceeds go to support WWH2H!**

**Visit <http://h2hcv.org/trail-blazers-group-night/>
for more information about purchasing your
tickets today!**

WWH2H UPCOMING VOLUNTEER TEAMS 2013/2014

Below is a list of upcoming teams who will be going to our village to help in many ways. If you are interested in going, please contact the team leader listed for each team! Join us!

January 15-24: - Women's Conference Team – Kim Stephens (kims@wwh2h.org)

January 30-Feb. 6 - Antioch Bible Church MRI Dental Team - Claudia Blazer - cblazer@abchurch.org)

February 19-March 1 – WWH2H Medical Dental Team – Mary Renner – maryr@wwh2h.org

May 8-14 - St. Luke's Lutheran Church Aide Outreach team – kims@wwh2h.org

May 14-25 – St. Luke's Lutheran Church Crusade Team – kims@wwh2h.org



Newsletter Editor: Paula Fester
email: PaulaF@H2HCV.org

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 overfunded.
- > 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 H2HCV.
- > Please visit our website for more information about the children we serve, our history, and our mission.

Privacy Policy:

Any information you provide H2HCV is held in strictest confidence. At no time will we share your personal information with any person or organization outside H2HCV. Thank you!

IF YOU DO NOT WANT TO CONTINUE RECEIVING THIS NEWSLETTER, PLEASE EMAIL PHYLIS HAAS AT PHYL@OPUSNET.COM OR CALL HER AT 503.728.3507 TO LET US KNOW

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of comfort, passion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. For just as the suffering of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows.

2 Corinthians 1:3-5



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

