



Dresses For Orphans

Hearts 'n Hugs For Kids

Newsletter

www.dressesfororphans.org

Volume II 8th Newsletter

CHILDREN OF GRACE

UGANDA, AFRICA



In early 1988, Pastor Steve and Linda Scibelli became the first missionaries of *Greater Grace World Outreach* in Africa. They moved to Ghana with their two children and it was there that they began the first Greater Grace churches and Bible colleges. They lived among the people and have ministered with all their hearts now for more than 20 years. It was during their early years in Ghana that Linda Scibelli felt led by God to begin helping children, especially orphans, by giving what she could of her own means. Sometimes this was a simple meal or a piece of clothing. Other times it may have been paying their school fees or helping their families with resources.

As Greater Grace began to establish more churches in Africa and Pastor Scibelli became the Missions Director in Africa, there were additional



opportunities to help children through the continent. Because of the network of 205 churches in

23 African countries (as of January 2008) people often gave gifts specifically to be used for children. These gifts were administered to specific pastors. As these various programs grew, it became apparent that it would be best to formalize and establish *Children of Grace* as a separate organization.

We are grateful for this vision to establish Children of Grace to meet the physical and spiritual needs of the African children.

Although our emphasis in helping children has begun in Africa, we are in the process of establishing programs in other countries where we can work together with established churches.

(Taken from the website www.childrenofgrace.org)

MEXICO BOUND



Michelle Park of *Giving Hope Worldwide* planned to go to Mexico herself and give the kids their new outfits. That has

not been possible because of the turmoil in crossing the border. However, she's been working with a partner on the U.S. side of the border who has been taking just a few at a time to the children.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS MESA, ARIZONA



Joan England was one of the first volunteers to join the *Dresses For Orphans* sewing group. She was invited by another volunteer who asked if she was interested in a chance to use a sewing machine that embroidered! Of course, the answer was 'yes'.

Joan hails from the Dakotas—born in North Dakota, raised in South Dakota and later moving back to North Dakota. She worked at the State Library for 21 years. Her expertise came in handy when we were all trying to learn how to pronounce 'Namibia' where one of our orphanages is located. She comes from a United Methodist background and moved to Arizona in 2007. As a full-time Arizona resident, she says, 'No, I don't get bothered by the heat.'

Joan is very good with her hands and enjoys a wide variety of needlework projects. She loves to sew, quilt, hook rugs, tat, crochet, knit, do needle-point and embroider. She can pretty much do it all and when one of the sewing machines is causing a problem, many times she can figure it out.

She has two adult stepsons and sometimes get roped into dog sitting for one of them! She is also a cancer survivor—bravo for you!!!

Joan is a very committed worker and when she arrives at our sewing sessions, she's ready to get started! She says, "This is right up my alley as I love to sew. And it is a way of giving a helping hand to children who have so little. I enjoy knowing that my sewing puts a smile on the face of a girl or boy."



Carolyn Erickson is one of our newest and most faithful volunteers. She wandered into our sewing group one day and was encouraged to come and join us. She let us know that she didn't sew and was a 'self proclaimed klutz' when it came to doing this type of thing. How wrong she was!!

She is really the final person to work on an outfit before it's ready to be shipped. She is our 'quality control manager', making sure each outfit has a tag on the sleeve and the bow is positioned right on the dresses. Not long ago she told me that many times, as she's pressing an outfit, she prays for the child who will be receiving that dress or shirt. What a blessing to have her on our team!

Early on Carolyn worked with her husband in their insurance agency in Kansas. She has lived in Arizona since 1999 but visited her parents here since the early '80s.

She enjoys entertaining friends, reading, playing dominoes, traveling throughout Arizona and visiting her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. Between them, she and her husband have 19 grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren who live in Arizona, California, Florida, Nebraska, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado and Oregon. Wow! They are quite a national family!

Carolyn is also active in her church, Apache Wells Community Church. She has especially had a leadership role in working on the Heifer Project (www.heifer.org) which the church sponsors each spring.

She says she loves making a difference for someone who is less fortunate. She enjoys seeing the pictures of the faces of the children who receive the outfits from *Dresses for Orphans*. She also enjoys spending time with the other women who come to sew and share their talents in this way.



... on a personal note

On July 9th, Dan and I celebrated our 44th anniversary. It was an unusual day as we were on an Alaskan cruise and that day was spent in Juneau—absolutely beautiful!

On July 25th I had another anniversary. It was six months since I completed my chemo treatment and I had another CT scan. The scan came out completely clear once again. PTL!!



FOOD FOR THOUGHT

I just finished reading *The Hole In Our Gospel* by Richard Stearns, president of *World Vision, U.S.* I would like mention some of the things in the book that I felt were particularly thought provoking. Some of them are quotes he used and others are things he wrote himself.

“Mother Teresa once said, “I am a little pencil in the hand of a writing God who is sending a love letter to the world.” She had it right. We’re not authors. We are just the “pencils.” Once we understand that, we might actually become something useful to God.”

“AIDS has now left 15 million children behind as orphans. In Africa they say that when it comes to HIV, everyone is either *infected* or *affected* - no one escapes completely.”

“There are people all over the world who literally own only the clothes on their backs. They have no closets!”

“Don’t fail to do something just because you can’t do everything.”
Bob Pierce

“If you think you are too small to make a difference, try spending the night in a closed room with a mosquito”
African Saying

“God never asks us to give what we do not have . . . But he cannot use what we will not give.”

“Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.”
Henry Van Dyke

“We can do no great things, only small things with great love.”
Mother Teresa

“Although the world is full of suffering, it is also full of the overcoming of it.”
Helen Keller

“Then the righteous will answer him, “Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?” The King will reply, I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me.”

FROM THE MAILBOX & THE INBOX

“I wanted to let you know the box arrived right on schedule as you said it would, praise God! They are beautiful. I can see this is a true work of love for the orphans led by God. I have several people here praying for your ministry.”

Linda—Uganda

“The clothing has arrived at Children of Zion Village and I was told there were loads of smiles and giggles all around. Thank you, thank you, for being the hands of Jesus.”

Lisa—Namibia

“When I got the outfits I was truly overwhelmed with how darling they all are. Thank you so much and thank all the ladies who work so hard to help those in need! We are all in this together with our goal for others to know they are loved and most of all they are loved by the KING!!!”

Michelle—Mexico

HOW YOU CAN BE INVOLVED

♥ **Pray . . .**

. . . for the kids who receive the outfits that they’ll be reminded of how much God loves and cares for them.

♥ **Donate . . .**

. . . kid-friendly fabric scraps that can be used to make the hearts and stars
. . . a sewing machine. Especially needed are sewing machines that have a decorative heart stitch. Even if you have one without that stitch, we can sell it and use the proceeds to purchase one that does have the needed stitch.

♥ **Volunteer . . .**

. . . If you live in the East Valley there is always a welcome for you to come and help us sew the outfits.

♥ **Give . . .**

. . . *Dresses For Orphans* is a ministry of *Ripe For Harvest*. All gifts are tax deductible and should be sent to:

Ripe For Harvest
PO Box 487

Monument, CO 80132-0487

Account 267 on the memo line of the check