



Hearts 'n Hugs For Kids Newsletter

HAPPY THANKSGIVING And MERRY CHRISTMAS!!



'It's the Most Wonderful Time of the Year' is the song that Andy Williams made famous many years ago. For some people, this is a wonderful time of the year. However, for many, this could be a very difficult time —

especially with the state of the economy and the number of people who are without jobs and are struggling financially. Certainly there are many people in our own country who need help this holiday season.

However, I'm also reminded of those who have so very little, particularly children who have been orphaned around the world through a variety of causes. Not long ago I read a story from *World Vision*. One of their workers was talking with a young orphaned girl of 13 who was the head of a household, trying to care for her two younger siblings. All of them were wearing filthy clothing. She said, "I'd love to be able to wash our clothes so they'd be nice and clean, but we don't have anything to put on while I wash them!"

The vulnerable children around the world are the ones that *Dresses for Orphans* works to serve by making and giving them a new outfit to wear. Our prayer is that there are some who will have a better Christmas this year because they have received a new dress or shirt!



VIZAG, INDIA

At the *Ripe for Harvest* Conference a few months ago, we had the privilege of meeting and talking with Steve and Brenda Hines who work at an orphanage in India. When they heard about the ministry of *Dresses for Orphans*, their first question was if they could have some outfits to take back to the kids in their orphanage. Of course, we were happy to give them the outfits.



The boys are lined up, ready to choose what color shirt they'd like to have.



Looks like they're all 'in uniform' when they go out to learn how to play baseball with Steve.

SPOTLIGHT ON VOLUNTEERS



Diane Carlson is a full-time Arizona resident—yes, she endures the summer heat with the rest of us! She actually has lived several places, starting in the Bay Area in California. From there she went to Minnesota where, according to her words, she nearly froze to death! Her hus-

band was from Minneapolis and thought she'd be there the rest of her life. But 32 years ago they moved to the Apache Wells community and have loved it ever since. She is active in the Apache Wells Community Church which is located right in her community.

Diane is a hard worker who isn't afraid to do a little extra at home during the week. When we began making the jewelry for our current fund raiser, she was one of the first ones to get on board and has crocheted many, many necklaces. When the project was introduced, her comment was, "I'm pumped!"

She has experience in the financial arena as she worked as an accounts receivable clerk in St. Paul, Minnesota. Now she'd rather spend her time sewing, reading and traveling.

She enjoys the friendship with the other women and feels that she's right where God planted her!



Jerri Ramey faithfully sews tags on the sleeves of the outfits and has made hundreds of bows for the dresses. Her sister, Sharon, has been a volunteer with *Dresses for Orphans* for some time and she would let us know that she was inviting her



sister to come and join us but the timing just never seemed to be right. In fact, this went on for some time before Jerri made her first visit. After that initial time, she was hooked. In discussing this with her, she simply said, "When I make a commitment I stick with it!"

Jerri worked as the manager for a holistic dental health practice. However, her real love is music. She has been singing in four-part barbershop groups for 30 years. She is also a pianist and has an organ in her home.

She also enjoys decorating and traveling. In fact, she and her husband traveled to the eastern United States for several weeks a few months ago to attend graduations, weddings and other family events.

As you can see from her picture, Jerri has a beautiful smile—and she uses it frequently. One of the reasons she enjoys working with *Dresses for Orphans* is to see the smiles on the children's faces when they get a new outfit!

She and her husband, Joe, attend New Hope Community Church in Gilbert. Joe also serves on the Board of Directors in Apache Wells and they both are involved in keeping it an inviting community.



CHECK OUT THE NEW STORE AT www.dressesfororphans.org

Previous newsletters have been saying we would soon have products for sale in the website store. It's now a reality!!! Go to the website and click on the 'store' tab in the upper right hand corner.

You'll see three items for sale. First, there are blank note cards with beautiful watercolor paintings on the front of some of the children who have received a new outfit.



Second, there are adult size T-shirts that say 'Dresses for Orphans' on the front and the website on the back.

Third, is the collection of *Fiber Art Jewelry* necklaces. The volunteers who work in Mesa have crocheted these beautiful necklaces out of ladder yarn in 20 different vibrant colors. They are extremely light weight and each one is made with a bead in the back so it can be adjusted to be any length desirable. With Christmas just around the corner, a necklace would make a wonderful gift for any woman.



Just print off the order form at the top of the store page and fill it out to place your order. **FROM NOW UNTIL THE END OF THE YEAR, ALL POSTAGE IS FREE!!!**



END OF YEAR GIVING

As we contemplate the real meaning of Christmas, most of us also think about our giving over the past and what we might be able to do before the year ends. As you evaluate your end of year donations, please consider sending a gift to help give a girl or boy a new dress or shirt!

All gifts are used exclusively toward the expenses of making and sending the outfits around the world as this is an all volunteer organization. No salaries are paid and we have no building overhead. *Apache Wells Community Church* in Mesa has graciously given us space to meet to sew and store our supplies. At the bottom of this column you'll find out how to make out your check and where to send it.

Thank you to so many of you who have supported this ministry in the past. God has been bringing us more people who want to be involved in our mission of blessing children and we continue to grow!

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

♥ 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

IRS guidelines stipulate that contributions are made with the understanding that Ripe For Harvest World Outreach has complete control and administration over the use of the donated funds and that no goods or services are provided in exchange for said donations.

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