



It is possible to create a world in which fewer innocent children suffer. Camus

one child

30 years of loving children.

3rd Quarter 2004/Annual Report 2003

## Storehouse216!

Building a New Food Distribution Center in Laguna Niguel, CA

Let the sorting and stocking begin... Setting up our new food distribution facility in Laguna Niguel has begun. Dubbed Storehouse216, the 1,000 square foot warehouse space will function both as a storage facility for food earmarked for Mexico as well as a "free store" and distribution site for local children whose families are in need in the poorest areas of Orange and San Diego counties.

In case you're wondering, the 216 (two-sixteen) in the name refers to James 2:16 which asks, "What good is it to say, 'Be warm and filled,' if you don't provide the things needed by the body?" In other words, we need to put our actions where our mouth is, and thankfully, in addition to the food that is regularly being shipped to Mexico, we've already had several local families come to us and be able to go home with groceries to take them through the week--and the food hasn't even been sorted yet.



The process of organizing, sorting, and stocking food begins at the new Storehouse.

Working with several local groups, foodbanks, and grocery stores/outlets, we've been able to take delivery of large amounts of canned goods, dry goods, bread, baked goods/pastries, and special shipments of thousands of pounds of powdered milk and packaged liquid soup, toothpaste, and other personal hygiene products. For instance we're on a weekly schedule to pick up all overstock bread and baked goods at a local Pavilion's market, which our volunteers pick up and bring to the Storehouse. We're getting so much bread, we donate some to a weekly non-profit bake sale, trade some for canned goods and other products at local discount food outlets, send the sliced bread to Mexico for use in our dining rooms, and distribute the rest to needy families locally. We'll be working to create more of these synergistic relationships as we go forward to get the most mileage out of the food and other products that come our way.

We have a roster of about 16 volunteers committed to the Storehouse, and it's been great to see them take to this project. They've thrown right in clearing and cleaning shelves, sorting through food, and having really lively discussions/debates over expiration dates and how old "old" is.



Russ Crispin, as part of his weekly routine, unloads bread at the Storehouse.

It's a good start to what we see as a very important step toward reaching out to more children right here in our backyard, while improving our assistance to those we're committed to in Mexico.

## Mission Accomplished

Hundreds of Rainbow Backpacks Distributed in Time for School

We want to thank everyone for their dedication and drive in providing supplies for the 2004-2005 school year. With your help, we were able to send almost 400 backpacks, each filled with a year's supplies for a child. Norm Kremiller, one of our staffers who took the backpacks down to our dining rooms, said, "You just should have been there. We think of Christmas as being the time when we bring gifts and see the smiles and excitement in the children, but this was just like Christmas! The children were so excited, and ran to sit with a friend somewhere with their backpacks and look through the items, laughing and talking."

We sometimes forget, from our perspectives here in the States, how such small things are just huge in the lives of these children. We want to especially thank Terre Sanitate and her group in Santa Barbara for supplying over 180 filled backpacks; Kathleen Buckner from Oceanside, CA who had a rummage sale to help pay for several hundred dollars of supplies; Trinity Lutheran Church of Manhattan Beach, CA that provided over 300 new backpacks; John & Roseann Mumbach and Jennifer & Patrick Reagan and their group from Hamburg, NY and Audrey Jiricko of Indianapolis, IN for sending several dozen filled backpacks, and the big group from Christian Mission Church in Laguna Niguel, CA that did the final sorting and packing. And to everyone else who worked so hard--the kids are smiling--thank you.

# Brennan!

As many of you already knew, Dave and Marian Brisbin had been expecting a new child of America all year. Well, the waiting ended on September 24th at 3:22 in the morning when Brennan was born. He was just 6 lbs. 2 oz. and 19 inches long. Having a child later in life has really been an experience, with all the risk factors and aches and pains--all of which were immediately forgotten as soon as we saw that perfect little face.



Brennan David about 10 minutes old.

Brennan and Marian are doing just fine and Brennan is 3 weeks old now at this writing. We thank God that everything went so smoothly, though it would be nice if he'd sleep more than just two hours at a time. Marian is keeping up, but only barely at times. Thanks to all of you for your support and prayers and well wishes for us and Brennan.



Brennan signing off.

# In Other News...

**O** We want to thank all of you who responded to our mailing last month and have taken the 12-month pledge of monthly support to help us reach more kids in both Mexico and the U.S. It has been a shot in the arm and an inspiration to us here to know that reaching out to more children both in Mexico and here in States is important to you as well. Please know how much we value your gifts and the sacrifice they may represent.

**O** This issue of **One Child** is doubling as our annual financial statement. As you review the numbers to the right, please note at the bottom that only 3.9% of our expenses went to administration and fundraising. Part of our pledge to use your gifts wisely.

### Car Donation Program

You can click on this icon on our website or call the toll-free number, and a tow-truck will be there before you can say Food for Kids!



No credit card fees are deducted for Visa and MasterCard gifts.

### Credit Card Gift Authorization

Card Type  Visa  MasterCard  American Express  
 Card Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Gift Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name (Please Print) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

## 2003 Financial Statement

### Income and Expenses

<b>Income</b>	
Cash	\$146,325
In-Kind Gifts	\$572,979
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$719,304</b>

<b>Expenses</b>	
Direct Aid	\$629,629
Payroll	\$58,685
Payroll Taxes	\$4,489
Professional Fees	\$5,620
Depreciation	\$1,694
Supplies	\$3,073
Postage & Photocopy	\$1,351
Telephone	\$1,110
Travel & Auto	\$8,552
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$714,203</b>

Change in Net Assets	\$5,101
Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$30,579
Net Assets End of Year	\$35,680

### Balance Sheet

<b>Assets</b>	
Cash	\$34,693
Equipment	\$61,043
Vehicles	\$15,369
Less Accum. Depreciation	(\$63,425)
Net Property & Equipment	\$12,987
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$47,680</b>

<b>Liabilities</b>	
Loans Payable to Officer	\$12,000
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>\$12,000</b>

<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>\$35,680</b>
<b>Total Liabilities &amp; Net Assets</b>	<b>\$47,680</b>

2003 fundraising/administrative expense = 3.9%.  
 Figures are from our 2003 audit by Sterling Ellsworth, CPA, Santa Barbara, CA. Copies of our IRS audit are at [www.guidestar.com](http://www.guidestar.com) or upon request. Complete audit will soon be at our website.



One Child is the quarterly newsletter of Children of The Americas.

Our work began in Santa Teresita Orphanage in Tijuana, Mexico on March 31, 1974. Paul Weiss and his friends founded an interfaith organization, Los Ninos, to help the girls of Santa Teresita. The work and the dream grew and by January, 1984, a new structure was needed. Children of The Americas was created to match the work with the expanding dream to reach children throughout our hemisphere, but especially kids in the US and Mexico. Help us continue to create hope, one child at a time.

#### Board of Trustees

Paul Weiss, Rev. Dave Brisbin (Pres), Terre Martin-Sanitate, Dona Shono, Marian Brisbin (Secy), Terry Neville (Treas), Rev. William Frey

#### Administration

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## Children of The Americas

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### Address Service Requested

*Give a man a fish,  
 and you feed him  
 for a day. Teach  
 him to fish, and you  
 feed him for a life-  
 time. With your  
 help, we've been  
 teaching children to  
 fish for 30 years.  
 That's a lot of fish!*

Please Join us at TAM every morning for two minutes of prayer for all children.

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