



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

one child

30 years of loving children.

3rd Quarter 2005/Annual Report 2004

Rainbow Backpacks!

Over 750 Backpacks Full of School Supplies Assembled

There is so much to pack into this newsletter that I've extended it to a longer sheet, and I still don't think I can get it all in. So much has happened in the last three months to tell you about, I'm going to try to keep words to a minimum and let the pictures tell the story.



The assembly line in front of our warehouse with over 30 volunteers sorting, stuffing, bagging, and having a great time.

The big news is that we assembled over 750 backpacks full of a year's school supplies in our annual Rainbow Backpack drive. That's up from 400 last year! It was an amazing outpouring from all over the U.S. that did it, and we've got some great stories of people using their imagination and effort to get the supplies out. (See back page.)

Of the supplies we assembled, 150 backpacks went to U.S. kids via Olive Crest, a CA-based org that works with abused and homeless children through their network of shelters, rehab facilities, and foster families. They were thrilled to get the supplies and be able to give their kids a leg up for school, and we were thrilled to be able to help.

Lindsay Thompson on the assembly line sorting and stuffing backpacks.

Another 150 packs went to our newest area of support in Mexico, an "ejido" where no utilities or support systems exist. We're currently feeding almost 100 kids every week there, and were able to help with school supplies this year as well. The balance of our supplies went to children near our two dining rooms in the colonias, with 50 or 60 also going to other needy children in outlying schools. Thanks to all of you who supported this effort both financially and physically with materials and time.



Snapshots of happy kids receiving school supplies at the ejido and colonia dining rooms.



The COTA van backed up to the line full of packs.



Abuelita passes out 150 backpacks at Marcela's house in the ejido.



Eileen Angier and Amanda Hughes of Olive Crest accepting 150 backpacks for their abused, at-risk, and foster children.

School Supplies

Gathering Supplies from around the U.S.

One of the most exciting parts of working for these children is watching folks from all over the States get excited about working for these children.

People from across the country sent money to help buy supplies; others shipped supplies and backpacks directly to us. We had a lot of angels this year, but very little space here. A few stories...



The Kimballs, Phoenix, AZ. Here's little Emma Kimball, Lily's big sister, with the Rainbox Box she decorated for our kids. For Lily's 2nd birthday party, her mom Megan asked, instead of gifts, that people donate money for school supplies. The kids decorated and shipped 12 beautiful boxes of supplies. Emma loved making hers and Megan said, "...my daughter got a lesson in helping others. And I know everyone at the party had fun doing it." Thanks so much, Megan, Emma, Lily, and all the kids!



The Claycombs, Yucca Valley, CA. Pat Claycomb gathered a group of youngsters (ages 7 through 14) who volunteered to help set up a stand in the local Wal-Mart parking lot and sell peacock feathers and cold sodas to collect donations for school supplies. They also set up a "petting zoo" of sorts with rabbits and their blue & gold Macaw, Buddy, to attract attention. Pat said, "What a blessing to receive beautiful new backpacks and school supplies given with love and smiles from members of the community who stopped to donate. Sharing God's love is always rewarding!" 26 backpacks and supplies were collected. Thanks, Pat.



St. Michael and All Angels Church, Corona del Mar, CA. And let's not forget all the angels. Led by Frances Haynes, the angels at St. Michael's gathered over 300 sets of school supplies. That is, enough school supplies to fill 300 backpacks! Then, as if that wasn't enough, this group delivered over a metric ton of food to our dining rooms in the colonias on Sept 1, as they have every year for the past several years. Frances and her people are always looking for new ways to help the kids--thank you!



Santa Barbara, CA. Our annually stalwart group led by board member Terre Sanitate (top), her husband Frank, and friend Rose Pizzorno, collected 260 backpacks full of supplies. It all started 11 years ago when Rose asked her friends for school supplies instead of birthday presents. That first party generated 50 "Rainbow Bags." Eleven years later, Rose and her friends are still creating "Rainbow Bags" with the number of filled packs increasing every year. This year the work was completed with the help of Trinity Episcopal Church, the Unitarian Society, and other Santa Barbara friends. Trinity Episcopal and the Unitarian Society announced the event over a 3-week period and members brought in school supplies and cash. Volunteers above all worked together on a Sunday afternoon to pack the backpacks and then celebrated with a potluck. The kids are smiling...

A Note from St. John's

St. John the Baptist Church in Capitola, CA delivered a ton of food on Aug 18-20 and Julie Fudge sent a great letter to us. Some excerpts: "We really enjoyed seeing the new breakfast site at Marcela's and how COTA has helped with her house...Seeing the school that serves this area was an eye-opener after only having seen the fancier one that Olivia had taken us to. Previously, we had thought that Mexican schools compared quite favorably with CA schools. Now we see the situation more clearly. It was also good to see the dining room that COTA built at Genaro Vasquez school... Saturday was also wonderful serving breakfast and providing activities and toys for the children. The kids were quite enthusiastic and showed a lot of fine motor skills and quickness in learning origami, which was one of the activities. It got one of our adult members thinking that maybe we could set up a cottage industry with some of the mothers to improve their income level...We'll give it more thought... Tomorrow is the Forum between services when we will present photos and the youth will share their experiences. Wish you could be there. Thanks for all you do." No, thank you all!

In Other News...

We've just completed a brand-new video for Children of The Americas that describes our programs, mission, and work with our kids. Live-action video, photos, music, and narration tell our story in a way that words alone just can't touch. It's a 9-minute presentation and is available on DVD. If you'd like a copy to share with your church or other group, just call or email, and we'll get it right to you.



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), Eugene Spann

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2004 Financial Statement

Income and Expenses

Income	
Cash	\$129,927
In-Kind Gifts	\$587,451
Total Income	\$717,378

Expenses	
Direct Aid	\$647,367
Payroll	\$43,005
Payroll Taxes/Benefits	\$20,244
Professional Fees	\$10,801
Depreciation	\$1,694
Supplies	\$465
Postage & Photocopy	\$1,843
Telephone	\$731
Travel & Auto	\$2,887
Total Expenses	\$729,037

Change in Net Assets	(\$11,659)
Net Assets Beginning of Year	\$35,680
Net Assets End of Year	\$24,021

Balance Sheet

Assets	
Cash	\$24,728
Equipment	\$61,043
Vehicles	\$15,369
Less Accum. Depreciation	(\$65,119)
Net Property & Equipment	\$11,293
Total Assets	\$36,021

Liabilities	
Loans Payable to Officer	\$12,000
Total Liabilities	\$12,000

Net Assets	\$24,021
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$36,021

2004 fundraising/administrative expense = 3.7%.
Figures are from our 2004 audit by Sterling Ellsworth, CPA, Santa Barbara, CA. Copies of our IRS audit are at www.guidestar.com or upon request. Complete audit will soon be at our website.

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!



Credit Card Gift Authorization

Card Type Visa MasterCard Amex

Card Number _____

Gift Amount \$ _____

Expiration _____

ID Code _____

Name (Please Print) _____

Signed: _____

For greater security, we now need the 3-digit ID code from the back of your card. Thanks!



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