

HEART BEAT

"whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did for me."
 MATTHEW 25:40 (NIV)

Lovelink
 Child Sponsorship Program

Fall 2009

Gifts & News!

-Gretchen DeVoe, Lovelink Children's Ministry Director

Dear Sponsor,

Thank you for your faithfulness as a child sponsor! This has been Lifeline's most productive year in our 29 year history, in regards to the number of souls coming to Christ. While in Haiti from May through July, we witnessed young people and adults coming forward in church every week to make a commitment to Christ and to be baptized. This is occurring throughout Lifeline's churches and schools in Haiti, Honduras, El Salvador and among the 40 plus youth ministries in Cuba. Please join us in praising God together!

- ♥ Another highlight of the summer (in addition to all the youth and adults becoming Christ followers) was the retreats and Christian camps that our youth attended.
- ♥ The first 6 weeks of our time in Haiti was full of administrative activities including school registration for this fall, evaluating the scholarship applications, and receiving/distributing the "Kids Food" to our schools and other missions! We also provided graduation gifts for about 200 students and gave special gifts to the honor students.
- ♥ Isaac Fils, a computer school graduate, grew up in our Lovelink Children's Home and received a formal education in Computer Science. He has joined the Lovelink staff and his computer/Excel skills have proven to be a huge blessing as it relates to school registration, spreadsheets, etc. Don & Fran Smith were his sponsors all through school and college. Welcome Isaac! (pronounced "Eez-i-ak").
- ♥ Four marriages occurred that were the direct results of sponsors who go to Haiti, witnessing to parents who were living together, and ultimately leading them to Christ. They typically get married on a Saturday, come forward to confess Christ on Sunday morning, and present their entire family for dedication to the Lord and then get baptized the next evening.
- ♥ It was so much fun presenting the witness soccer balls to those who purchased them for their sponsor child! Everyone would gather round as I would explain the colors of the steps to salvation. It was a time of curiosity and "witnessing to the periphery" !We plan to expand on how these balls are used and \$15.00 is a great investment for this gift. We took some to Cuba in March and they were a big hit. In October, we launch them in Honduras and El Salvador!



Did you send this gift?
 We received this gift package in the mail and there was nothing to identify the sponsor - no return address, names or anything; only the postage stamp said "Warrenton, OR". Please remember to include you and your child's information so that gifts are distributed correctly.

Host a Sponsorship Drive!

-Erma Hartman, Lovelink Stateside Coordinator

Things are 'cooking' around the office and warehouse as we receive the Christmas gifts! We feel blessed to receive these for the children in the sponsorship program. Now that I've mentioned the sponsorship program, I have a follow-up request: would you coordinate a sponsorship drive in your church, workplace or circle of friends? We have hundreds of new little ones in need of a caring sponsor. If you can coordinate a drive, please contact me for details at Erma@Lifeline.org or 614-794-0108.

- ♥ Lifeline constructed about 12 homes during the 3 months we were in Haiti. This continues to remain a wonderful ministry and a work team project. Recent weather has slowed us down a bit, but not much!
- ♥ Currently, the Laregal Christian School (LR) is getting 4 new classrooms! You may recall that their lean-to, stick and grass school shelters blew down in the hurricanes last fall. They are elated about getting these constructed.
- ♥ Lifeline is seeking more ministry partners to adopt one of our 14 schools; Laregal school has not been adopted yet! The total cost for the new classrooms (\$4,900), the bathrooms and kitchen will total about \$8,000 - \$10,000.

Again, thank you for your faithfulness and commitment to the children in Haiti! ♥

Christmas Gifts are Comin' In!

- Renee' Mead/Lovelink Gift Secretary

Christmas gift time is like a downpour at the office! I know a lot of little children who are going to be so happy this Christmas! I feel so blessed to be a part of this and see how much love and kindness that our sponsors show to their children in Haiti and Honduras.



Renee' Mead, Lovelink Secretary, receives and initiates the processing of sponsor gifts



Chuck & Margaret Hegenberger are faithful 'regulars' who pack the gifts for shipment.



Dana Krahel oversees the volunteers who do the final packing, boxing and preparations for the Christmas gift shipments; she spends much time putting her loving touch to the process.



Brad & Julie Myers and their daughters Olivia and Laine came by and brought the money from Olivia's 4th Annual Lifeline Yard Sale that will provide beds, mattresses, and bedding to 9 needy, not-sponsored Haitian children. Olivia is in 2nd grade and hopes to make her first mission trip with Lifeline in the near future.



Nick Cochran, our postman for years, delivers the gifts to the office. He's a Christian and he, his wife and children sponsor a child through Lifeline.

About Your Enclosed Photo(s)...

- ♥ The enclosed photo(s) are of your children receiving the gifts you sent in accordance with the October 2008 deadline. (The container with these gifts did not arrive until June.) The gifts were distributed to the students at the 7 different Lovelink schools over a 3 week period.
- ♥ If you sent money or purchased a gift through Lifeline, then the photo will also display a Pantry Gift, given to your child from our donated gift pantry.
- ♥ You may receive a photo of a child that you formerly sponsored. We always try to give the final gifts to the originally intended child. If that child is not located then we give it to the replacement child.
- ♥ If you received the wrong photo or have questions about your photo, please email Lovelink@Lifeline.org or phone 614-794-0108 and ask for Erma.
- ♥ Please note: we had major camera issues and we are purchasing a new camera. Hopefully the next group of photos you receive will be better quality.
- ♥ The black plastic bags in the photos are the bags of rice you purchased for your child. The plastic see-through zip locks kept popping open and the food spilling out so we went to inexpensive, black bags that we purchase in Haiti (but now you can't tell what's in them from the photos).