

The Sharing Org

Ministry to the Adult Foster Care Community

October 2011

Ministry Moment:

The other day I remained after a service and spoke with a woman who has been in my services for a few years now. I think that she is aware in her mind, but she is elderly and feeble so she lives in the care home. She told me about family members who had come to visit her and how much of a blessing it was for her to actually talk to her children – *how she felt better when all of them just talked*. She had many regrets in her life with the kids but when they visit they set her mind at ease that all is well.

I find it interesting how a simple visit and a little time makes such a big difference in the lives of the people who live in the care facility. I am blessed that I get to go each week and visit with them.

~John

Please see other side...

Prayer Letter:

Dear Prayer Partner,

This is shoebox month! Thanks to all of you who have given money to this great ministry effort. There is still time if you missed it.

I want to share a story that I shared earlier this month with many of you who are on the email list.

I went to an Operation Christmas Child picnic in September and wanted to share with you a story that was shared there. A woman spoke who had gone to Honduras to help distribute shoeboxes to the children. She does not speak Spanish, so when the minister was speaking to the children and asked a question, he raised his hand and more than half of the children who were listening raised their hands in response. She told us how after that the children with their hands raised came to the minister and the minister gave them a hug. She said that later, when all was finished and they had boarded the bus to move on, she asked one of the interpreters what the minister had said. She was told that the minister asked the children how many of them had *never* received a hug from their parents. And then he called them to him so that he could give them an honest-to-God hug. When I heard this I felt my eyes mist up a bit because I could not imagine a parent not showing affection to their children. This report bolstered my understanding of how important shoeboxes are to the children who receive them.

Also, something I did not share in the e-mail: At this picnic I was fortunate to meet a young girl (late teens) who was the recipient of the shoeboxes in her home town in Albania. She explained that she was not as destitute as others but the gift made a huge impact in her life and in the lives of so many of the children in her town. It was very encouraging to hear a first-hand account from a child who was blessed by the box and the gospel message.

I also heard a report of children who lived in the garbage dumps of Honduras and how their daily bread was whatever they could scavenge from the trash. The children who dwelt in these dumps would receive the shoebox gifts as their one and only gift and cherish the items and the God who provided them.

I was greatly encouraged to have been at this picnic, and I ask you to be in prayer with me as October is the month that the residents in the homes have the blessing of filling the shoeboxes for the children. Please be in prayer for me, the residents, the children who will receive the boxes, and all of the fine folks at Operation Christmas Child who make it all happen. To find out where we stand on our financial goal for this year's program, please visit www.thesharing.org.

Blessings,



John