

“If anyone has material possessions and sees his brother in need but has no pity on him, how can the love of God be in him? Dear children, let us not love with words or tongue but with actions and in truth.”

—1 John 3:17-18

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November 2005 Newsletter—The Premier Issue!

Welcome to the premier issue of our monthly newsletter! Exciting things are happening everyday



at the Shalom Foundation, and now you’ll be able to read about all that is going on and the amazing way God continues to lead us as we work together to serve the children of Guatemala.

Over the last year, the scope of the Foundation has expanded as a result of the incredible

needs of children living in extreme poverty, and I’m excited to share about these opportunities in the articles below.

This is an incredibly exciting time to be a part of the work God is doing. We want to thank you for your support and for joining us in these efforts.

In His Service,
Jacqueline Swartz,
Executive Director

The Shalom Foundation and Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital: Working Together To Improve the Lives of Children

We are very excited and pleased to announce that Vanderbilt Children’s Hospital and The Shalom Foundation are now working together to improve the lives of children in Guatemala. The initiative focuses on providing better healthcare and

improved access to treatment and education. Together, we will achieve this by:

- Creating sustainable programs to provide healthcare services
- Educating the com-

munity on how to better care for themselves

- Providing periodic specialty surgical teams to operate in Guatemala
- Providing possible international elective rotations for pediatric resi-

The Shalom Foundation and Vanderbilt Children's Hospital...(cont.)

dents and nurses from the United States

Our first surgical trip is scheduled for February 4-12, 2006. A team of 12 Vanderbilt surgeons, physicians and nurses will conduct a week-long surgical campaign focusing on pediatric urology cases. This dedicated team will operate on up to 60 children during the week. This month, a team of Shalom Foundation staff and volunteers will travel to Guatemala to begin preparations for the

initial surgical trip.

Children in Guatemala have among the worst growth rates in the world (second only to Bangladesh and Yemen) due to rampant malnutrition and lack of quality medical care. Today, 50% of Guatemala's population is under the age of 18.

We ask that you pray for the teams, for the children in Guatemala in need of surgery, and for the impact we can make for Christ in the lives of those we have the privilege to serve.



MONROE CARELL JR.
children's Hospital
at Vanderbilt

2005—A Year In Review

In his book, *Man's Search For Meaning*, Viktor Frankl writes: "He who has a *why* to live for can bear with almost any *how*." In the Shalom Foundation's continued efforts to answer HOW to help those in Guatemala living in extreme poverty, another WHY appeared this year in the form of a precious little girl named Louisa....

Louisa suffers from Guillan-Barre syndrome - a condition in which the body's immune system attacks part of the peripheral nervous system. She was sweet and joyful in spite of her weakened muscles and the battery of tests she had endured. We met her on a medical discovery trip in March. She is one of the many children we pray will be impacted by The Shalom Foundation's work in improving conditions in Guatemala.

In May 2005, the Foundation's Kingdom building efforts in Central America led 39 volunteers on a

construction trip to build new homes for seven deserving families. And, in June, with a goal of reconnecting with the families and children from past construction trips, a nine member team returned to paint some of the homes that were constructed in preceding years.

In July, the Shalom Foundation staff traveled to Saltillo, Mexico to observe international student missions in action with the hope of launching our own student missions program in 2006.

And this fall our prayers were answered as our much anticipated partnership with Vanderbilt was re-

alized, further equipping us as we continually endeavor to answer HOW for Louisa and the thousands of treasured children like her who suffer from not only their debilitating situation, but inadequate means to care for them properly.

Right now we are hard at work preparing for the Foundation's first surgical trip in February, the possibilities of a new medical clinic in Zone 18, and a construction trip in early 2006 to improve the operating rooms at our partner hospital in Guatemala City.

These are exciting opportunities! Please join with us in praying for God's continued guidance as we work to share the love and hope of Jesus Christ through all that we do, now and in the upcoming year.



Healthcare Improvements—What The Future May Hold

Our commitment to improving healthcare for children in Guatemala goes beyond just medical missions. This initiative formulates a holistic approach that includes health education for families, training for medical professionals, and healthcare research in addition to basic and critical care medical treatment. Here are some of the opportunities before us:

- The development of an elective international rotations program offered to U.S. medical residents to train in Guatemala.
- Health education programs for

parents and children.

- Real-time surgical trainings via satellite from the United States.
- Training opportunities in healthcare advancements for nurses, physicians and surgeons in Guatemala.
- Telemedicine programs – the delivery of actual patient healthcare via advanced technology and communications systems. Telemedicine provides a means of patient care and treatment regardless of the

geographical distance between patient and doctor.

Look for updates on these exciting opportunities in future issues!



2006—Projects and Programs

As we continue to daily seek God's guidance, the opportunities for service and impact are limitless. Here are just a few of the efforts you will hear more about in the upcoming year:

- The implementation of **mission partnerships** with high school and college level educational institutions. This will enable us to join with schools and universities to expose

students to the world of service ministry while having a significant impact on their lives and the lives of the people they serve.

- The growth of our **healthcare** initiative with Vanderbilt Children's Hospital will include significant work in research, medical and surgical missions, education for families, training for medical professionals, telehealth, telemedicine, and more.

- Additional opportunities for **construction mission trips** throughout the year. This will allow us to expand our reach and impact in Guatemala City and surrounding areas.

The continual focus on the growth of the **Child Sponsorship** program and new innovative ways to support the efforts of Shalom School.

Volunteer With The Shalom Foundation

In a world where there is so much need, have you been wondering how you can really make a difference? Consider becoming a Shalom Foundation volunteer and put your time and talents into action. **You can make a difference!**

Consider volunteering your skills

and experience in one or more of the following areas: Mission Teams, Event Planning, Website Development, Graphic Design, Fundraising, Marketing and Public Relations. Currently our most critical needs are in **website development** and **graphic design**.

Email us today at info@theshalomfoundation.org. We'd love to hear from you!

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About Us

The Shalom Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to providing financial support for underprivileged children and their families in the United States, Central and South America.

We are dedicated to providing basic educational opportunities, home construction and repair for families at risk, essential food and clothing needs and medical support and assistance for critical as well as basic healthcare.

The Shalom Foundation seeks funding through personal donations, corporate contributions and special event fundraisers. Contributions to The Shalom Foundation are 100% tax deductible.



www.theshalomfoundation.org



Mission and Vision

The Shalom Foundation is completely dedicated to providing financial and physical support for poverty-stricken children and their families. We seek to provide medical care to meet basic healthcare needs, educational assistance, and home repair for families living in unsafe dwellings or homes that do not provide them with basic protection.

We also seek to provide referrals to other government and nonprofit programs that can assist crisis afflicted children and families in developing nations with a focus on Central America, as well as the United States.