

Hearts 'n Hugs For Kids

Newsletter

dressesfororphans.org

September 2009



Handsome boys from Mexico!

Somehow the July newsletter got lost in the shuffle of everything else going on. On the list of orphanages I've been working from, the next letter was C—which brings up lots of orphanages in Mexico—Casa . . . Casas. . . etc. Even though production wasn't at its peak during the summer, 155 dresses and shirts were sent to orphanages in Mexico. We even had special sleeve tags made up in Spanish for these Mexico requests!



Three cuties from Haiti!

Stephano from Tanzania showing off his new shirt!



PERSONAL STUFF

As most of you know, I was diagnosed with gall bladder cancer the first part of June. Since then I've had two surgeries and hospital stays, numerous doctor's appointments and now am about half way through my radiation regimen. After that is completed I'll have two or three weeks of respite before I start chemo. During this time, *Dresses For Orphans* has been continuing but on a scaled down level. However, I'm doing well with my treatment and my volunteers are back in town so we're ready to go full steam ahead.

Even though the last three months weren't in my plans, the Lord is faithful. This was not a surprise to Him and we're moving ahead, asking him to bring strength and healing through the whole process.

HEARTS 'N HUGS SEWING CLUB

The women who volunteer to help make the dresses and shirts for *Dresses For Orphans* are very smart!! Most of them spent extended periods of time over the summer months going North, to Hawaii or San Diego! However, I think we're all ready to settle down to a fall routine so we're anxious to get back into our regular schedule.

Dotty, perhaps my most 'mature' volunteer sewing tags on the sleeves.



Emma, our 10-year-old granddaughter is sewing the decorative heart stitching all along the bottom of the dress—and doing a great job I might add!

The other day I got an email from a woman in Ohio. She had heard about the ministry of *Dresses For Orphans* and was inquiring about the possibility of her (and possibly some of her friends) being able to help sew the dresses and shirts. We would have to work out the logistics, but maybe this is the Lord's way of increasing our ability to even begin to meet the needs out there!

One of our long-term goals (mostly Dan's) is to have *Dresses For Orphans Chapters* across the country which would increase this ministry substantially.

LAS SENDAS UP CLOSE

Our community is called Las Sendas and every month we get a newspaper called *Las Sendas Up Close*. *Dresses For Orphans* was featured in the July issue. The article in it's entirety is in the second attachment.

WHO HAS REQUESTED DRESSES

The response to the last group of emails I sent out offering the dresses and shirts has truly been overwhelming. Right now I have specific sizes for three orphanages -

- . . . 170 for Kenya
- . . . 375 for Guatemala
- . . . 100 for Sierre Leone

That's 650 outfits for just three orphanages!

In addition, I'm waiting to receive sizes and numbers from eight other orphanages.

When Cathy, a woman from our church heard about *Dresses For Orphans*, she sent this email . . .

"I have a wonderful God-filled orphanage with many needs (850 children under age 15) in Kampala, Uganda.....The children are full of joy and the place is neat and tidy and filled with Jesus and His love. The children are the most desperate of the desperate who get to live there . . . chosen by the evangelists from the church as they go out reaching out to the people of the area."

I told her I'd be honored to make outfits for these kids—but it'd be down the road a little!

***** DONATIONS *****

In order to fulfill the requests from Kenya, Guatemala and Sierre Leone, nearly \$2500 is needed (dresses are \$5.00 and shirts are \$2.50 for an average of \$3.75 per outfit). As you continue to give during these tough economic times, we're able to continue to bless the lives of these 'little ones'. (Right now there is less than \$200 in the *Ripe For Harvest* account.)

Dresses For Orphans is a ministry of *Ripe For Harvest* (www.ripeforharvest.org). Checks should be made payable to *Ripe For Harvest* and 'Account 267' written on the 'memo' line.

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Thanks so much for your support!

Darlene (to some) Darl (to others)
Mom/Grandma (to family)