

Hearts 'n Hugs For Kids

Newsletter

March, 2009

NEWS FLASH!!

Our new website is up! Check it out at www.dressesfororphans.org. We still have to do some tweaking on it and plan to update it quite often but this is a beginning. What appeared to be quite simple turned into a major learning curve!

UGANDA -

One hundred and fifty dresses and shirts will be going to the *Children's Center* which is due to open in Bukaleba, Uganda in May. Several people from the US have partnered with *Arise Africa International* to build this facility. It will house 150 kids which I'm learning is a fairly large orphanage – at least for starters. But it's only a small drop in the bucket in comparison to the need. I was told they did a study before they started this project and documented 2500 orphans 'within walking distance'. So, what's 'walking distance'? I don't know. Here in the States we might think about a mile or two. There it might be 25 miles! But even that distance would be a tremendous number of orphans – especially because this is a rural and small village area, not a huge city! In addition, *Arise Africa* works with about 200 small rural churches in the area – which average 35 orphans each! What a need!!

MEXICO

Tapestry of Life is building an orphanage in Mexico, across the border from El Paso. They will house up to 400 children ages 3-19. Before they can open they have to have their kitchen built which they're doing with all donated materials and labor. They'll open a little later this year and here's the quote from an email I received: "The Mexican government has said that they will fill us to capacity within 24 hours of opening our doors!" I'll be making about 400 dresses and shirts for them a little later and hope to be able to personally deliver them since they're so close to Arizona.

VOLUNTEERS

I've become an official family member of Arizona 'snowbirds' (OK, I know the PC term is 'winter visitors' but I still love calling them snowbirds – more personal!). My brother, Dennis and his wife, Evonne spent all of February here in the Valley of the Sun. They also became our first volunteers – Dennis and Dan cut out a 'zillion' hearts and stars while Evonne and I kept the sewing machine humming. Many thanks for all the productive hours!

If you'd like to join me in making the dresses and shirts, I'd love to have your help! The requests far outweigh the amount of time I have to do it alone.

WHO'S RECEIVED DRESSES AND SHIRTS

Since January 1st, 185 dresses and shirts have been made and sent to *Breath of Heaven Children's Village* in Zambia, *Amazing Grace Children's Home* in Kenya, *Asia's Little Ones* in Philippines and *Amazing Grace Orphanage* in Uganda. I'm currently working on a request for 75 outfits for Tanzania and have about another 800 requests that are somewhere in the pipeline for sizes, etc.

SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS

I've been invited to speak at the Women's Fellowship at *Apache Wells Community Church* in April. I'll be presenting the ministry of *Dresses For Orphans* to let them know of the needs of orphans and the opportunity to be involved in helping make the dresses and shirts.

If you live here in the Phoenix area and would be interested in having a presentation of *Dresses For Orphans* in your church, women's or senior's group, I'd be happy to do so.

GIFTS

To those who have chosen to give to the ministry of *Dresses For Orphans*, I am deeply grateful. In this economy where there is less and less money to go around and ministries and churches are hurting as well, it's humbling to see how the Lord is using this ministry and so much credit goes to

those of you have given to make it possible!
Thank you so much!

Darlene (to some)
Darl (to others)
Mom (to still others)



Aren't they just the most precious kids you've ever seen!

Dresses For Orphans is a ministry of

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