

Hope-Filled News from HOPE *worldwide*

June 2003

Domestic U.S. News

HOPE FOR CHILDREN

“God sets the lonely in families...” Psalm 68:6 God’s compassion for orphans has never been more evident at HOPE for Children! In a year of incredible challenges including the SARS epidemic in China, changing adoption laws in several countries, economic hard times and leadership changes in so many churches, God has still enabled HOPE for Children to provide a loving adoptive family for 36 children. This year alone, over 300 inquiries from families interested in adopting have been received. Presently there are more than 165 families in the process of adopting! HOPE for Children will soon place its 600th child since the work began in 1991! Children have been placed from nine different countries with families in 38 states in the U.S. as well as Canada, the United Kingdom and Germany.

The staff at HOPE for Children would appreciate your prayers about the following situations:

- The SARS epidemic will be under control in China so the eight families waiting to travel there to receive their children can travel soon
- The 10 families waiting on children from Guatemala and Ecuador can get their children soon in spite of changing adoption laws in those countries
- More families will be found to adopt African American children who need homes

Everyone at HOPE for Children thank you for all your prayers and support through the years. If you would like more information about adopting or would like to inquire about how you can help us find homes for children, please call 800 522-2913 or go to our website at www.hopeforchildren.org

Chicago Inner City Programs

The Kids’ Club is HOPE *worldwide* – Illinois’ tutoring and mentoring program that began three years ago for Chicago’s inner city children in grades K – 8. This program uses adult and teen volunteers, from both the community and HOPE *worldwide*. The school offers academic and social support, along with activities to encourage positive behavior and values. The children also receive a nutritious meal in a safe environment.

Thanks to a HOPE *worldwide* volunteer who shared with her employer about this local program, a long-term, and beneficial, partnership with IBM resulted. Recently, The Kids’ Club, along with the HOPE *worldwide* - Illinois Community School, received a generous in-kind donation of five desktop computers, 10 laptop computers as well as a sophisticated desktop computer. EXACTLY WHAT THEY HAD ASKED FOR! The high-end desktop computer will help students learn more about producing and editing videos. The laptop computers will be used in technology and basic computer skills classes.

The work of HOPE *worldwide*—Illinois has steadily grown as they have learned about the people of Chicago’s toughest neighborhoods and how best to meet their needs. Your support of HOPE *worldwide* has enabled this program to have the

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credibility and community support making this partnership possible and in turn bringing hope to many disadvantaged youth.

International News

Delhi, India

Yamuna Pushta is Delhi's worst and biggest slum, on the banks of the Yamuna River. On the afternoon of May 14, 2003, a fire swept through the slum, engulfing and destroying more than 1,000 shanties. Fortunately, the fire occurred during the time of day when most people were away working, so only two lives were lost – an older woman whose exploding stove may have been the cause of the fire and a young man sleeping inside a locked hut. Little could be done to stop the blaze due to the narrow, congested paths in the slum preventing access by firefighting equipment.

The HOPE *foundation* school serves more than 200 children from the slum. The fire broke out just as school dismissed for the day. Teachers gathered the frightened children and kept them safe until their parents could pick them up. HOPE *worldwide* maintains a Disaster Relief Fund to provide immediate aid in the event of such tragedies. Funds were sent promptly after word reached HOPE *worldwide* and relief efforts provided blankets, housewares, food and school supplies. In addition, new and improved huts were constructed to replace many of those lost. Contributions to the Disaster Relief Fund will replenish those used for this need and ensure availability of funds for future relief efforts.

Philippines Center of HOPE

Manila, Philippines

HOPE *worldwide*—Philippines is working to bring hope to many of Manila's children through two HOPE Youth Centers. Located in two of the city's poorest communities, these centers offer a community-based and preventative approach to problems like sexual abuse, homelessness, and child neglect.

Thanks to a \$2.5 million USDA grant awarded to HOPE *worldwide*—Philippines, the Youth Center concept will be expanded to include HOPE *worldwide*'s five program areas: **education, children, seniors, health, and volunteerism**, in one location called the "Center of HOPE *worldwide*." This will provide efficiencies in scale as well as synergies in management and effective fundraising. The proposed campus will include a conference facility for education programs, housing for orphans and seniors, and family-style programs for young and old alike. With God's help, this center will be a model for future centers to be planted in developing communities around the world. The USDA grant was an incredible blessing because it enables HOPE *worldwide* to make the HOPE *worldwide* Center of HOPE a reality. Your donations are necessary to expand and sustain this program for the poor.

Through your support of HOPE *worldwide*, the HOPE Youth Centers became a reality, and doors are now opening to even greater opportunities to serve the needs of the poor.