



HGI Newsletter

Helmer Global Initiatives exists to promote a culture of generosity by using our resources to engage our people to their highest level of capability in order to provide aid and justice to the poor and vulnerable.

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 7

NOVEMBER 16, 2010

CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN NOVEMBER:

November 18

Shoe Box Wrapping Party

November 17, 18

Boy Scout Popcorn Distribution

November 24, 25

Thanksgiving Day Dinner 'Good Samaritan'

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Cheese Lover's Collection

www.scouting.org



BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA.

Written by Wendy Gibson,

Materials Team Member at Helmer, Inc.

The Boy Scouts of America have been selling popcorn locally for 30 plus years. The popcorn enables their Cub Scout Packs, Boy Scout Troops, and Venturing Crews to do the things they want without having to do many fundraisers. The idea is to have this one fund-raiser in the fall support the entire year of Scouting.

To help ensure the highest rate of return to Scouting, they depend upon the goodwill of local business to assist them with the distribution of the product to units. In the past they have used facilities on the North, East, and West sides of Indianapolis, but none of them have been as help-

Todd Hamman sorting Boy Scout popcorn



ful as Helmer. Not only is Helmer convenient to many of their unit volunteers, but we also have many volunteers to help assist with the actual distribution of the popcorn. At their previous locations, it was common to be sorting product late in the evening with long lines of traffic and upset unit volunteers.

For the past 3 years Helmer has welcomed them and they have got their popcorn in and out quickly with our volunteers. They can not express how lucky they are to have the use of our facility for their annual popcorn sale.

We express appreciation to HGI volunteers who made this a project a reality this year: Garry Busby, Patty Huerta, Paul Copeland, Tammy Hamman, Todd



Above: Wendy Gibson and Mollie Menchaca assisting Boy Scout troop leaders load popcorn

Below: Popcorn separated, skidded and wrapped at Helmer warehouse



Hamman, Wendy Gibson, Rebecca Rhoades, Rick Witzke, Lori Zook, Jessie Smith, Brian Hoaglan, Brian Pickering, Molly Menchaca. Thank you, guys!

Compassion Changes Lives



Leonce Jean-Baptiste
with his 9 year old
son Thierry



Written by Leonce Jean-Baptiste,
Regional Sales Representative at
Helmer, Inc.

Our family has had the privilege of corresponding with a delightful young man by the name of Paul Amos Francois through the Compassion organization and HGI. Paul is an 18 year old student from Haiti. Although our entire family enjoyed receiving letters from Paul, it was my 9 year old son, Thierry, who wrote most of the letters from our family.

In their letters Paul and Thierry discussed their families, their school work and their mutual love of sports.



Paul Amos Francois,
18 years old

Paul Amos Francois has been sponsored by HGI within Compassion Child program for 8 years. When reached 18 years old he made the decision to opt from the program. This has been a valuable experience for both the boy from Haiti Paul and his pen pals.

The story of Paul Amos Francois

Paul, born in January 1992, lives with his father and his mother. Since childhood, his duties at home have included carrying water, gathering firewood and buying or selling in the market. There are 8 children in the family. His father is sometimes employed as a farmer and his mother is sometimes employed as a seller in the market.

During the time of corre-

sponding with HGI pen pal Paul has lived on the plains of Fronfrede, home to approximately 7,000 residents. Typical houses are constructed of wood floors, mud walls, and corrugated tin roofs. The primary ethnic group and language is Creole. The regional diet consists of maize, beans, bananas, bread, and rice. Common health problems in this area include hypertension and diabetes. Most adults in Fonfrede are unemployed but some work as animal herders and earn the equivalent of \$20 per month. This community needs schools, qualified teachers, and employment opportunities.

Many times Thierry was reluctant to share things with Paul that he felt would make Paul sad, such as mentioning his love of video games, since he knew it was likely Paul couldn't enjoy the same luxuries that he had. This was especially difficult after the earthquake. Thierry didn't want to ask Paul anything about his family or home because he thought it would make Paul sad.

As a family, we hope that the one takeaway for Thierry is that he realizes through Paul's stories, how fortunate he is to have loving parents, great school and a nice community to live in. And by contrast, that

HGI sponsorship has allowed the staff of Fonfred Child Development Center to provide

the lives of thousands of children in Haiti are extremely difficult if not impossible. We truly believe that the program opens our son's eyes wider to the plight of the world around him.

Paul Amos Francois,
13 years old



Paul with Bible teaching, medical care, recreational activities, hygiene classes, life skills training, and scholastic materials. The center staff has also provided literacy training and health workshops for the parents of Paul.

A letter of appreciation has been received by HGI from Rich Van Eaton, Sponsor & Donor Relations Director at Compassion International, "What a privilege it has been to partner with you in ministry to impoverished children! Thank you for your concern for children in need. We truly appreciate your continued partnership with Compassion through your other child sponsorships and your commitment to HIV/AIDS Response."

'Pink Sandals' For Bibi



www.compassion.com

Letter from Compassion Child Bibi Hajira, India, currently sponsored by HGI.

"Dear Helmer (family),

Greetings to you. How are you all? I'm fine. I received your loving letter. Thank you, Aunty Stacey, please, convey my love to all the friends.

Aunty Stacey, please convey my love to your kids and family members. About my family: I live with my mother. My father passed away when I was small. I have 2 older sisters and one younger sister. I'm studying in 7th grade. I'm studying well. Our new class and new teacher and new friends are all good. I attend all the project activities regularly. I got new black and

white shoes and pink color sandals and hygiene supplies from the 'Compassion' project. I am so happy. All my school fees and

books costs were paid by the project. I thank you so much for all your love and help.

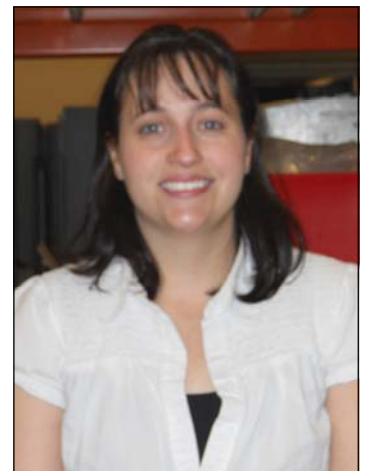
Yours lovingly,
B. B. Hajira."

Stacey Zickefoose, Bibi's pen pal



Bibi Hajira from India, currently sponsored by HGI

Stacey Zickefoose, an Engineering Technician at Helmer, Inc., current pen pal of the girl from Haiti Bibi Hajira says, "What struck me most about writing to Bibi Hajira is her desire to do well in life and not let the circumstanced of her surroundings keep her from succeeding. Also her gratitude for all that Compassion has done for her and her family."



Two Children Need A Pen Pal Today!

Chayarom Serkidee from Thailand, 13 years old



This year HGI sponsors 27 children from different countries of the world within the program *Compassion Child*.

We are looking for **2 volunteers** to become pen pals with Chayarom Serkidee, a 13-yearold girl from Thailand, and Valdemar Cabrera, a 9-yearold boy from Mexico.

You can learn how to become a pen pal by contacting Penny Witzke at pwitzke@helmerinc.com.

Valdemar Cabrera from Mexico, 9 years old



When It Rains, It Pours



www.missionsfrontier.org

*Written by Leslie Capehart,
Missions Frontier Founder.*

In September 2009 a team of 9 people from Helmer made a service trip to Chichicastenango in Guatemala. They worked with the *Missions Frontier* program to construct two concrete block homes which were to be purchased by two local families with low interest loans. Today Missions Frontier is a successful ministry which provides assistance to the local people through business development, education, home construction, medical clinics, prison ministries and other community development projects.

It all began when my husband Matt and I moved to Guatemala 7 years ago and began working for another ministry (Global Development Services) which was focused on economic development in the area. We came down to oversee the projects and run the hotel. In 2007 GDS decided to sell the hotel. Matt and I felt led to continue the ministry and were committed to the employees of the hotel and

schools. We formed Missions Frontier and purchased the hotel. Currently, between the hotel, the Guatemalan Non-profit, and the schools we are able to give jobs to approximately 100 people. Both schools run successfully, although we continue to work toward making them self-sustainable. A big part of our ministry is working with short-term teams from the United States, like the one from Hel-

mer. These trips provide the team the opportunity to step outside their normal lives and experience life through the eyes of a Guatemalan and work alongside of Guatemalans in projects. Sometimes the fruits of our labors are seen in small ways through the relationships we form. The process of change is slow and sometimes frustrating. As Americans, life in Guatemala is far from easy, but it's a blessing to serve the people.

challenging for us. When it rains it pours and pours ... and pours some more. When I wrote our newsletter in spring, I could have never anticipated the pain and challenges that would soon be coming.

July 21 – Moving day – A new chapter. On July 21st we moved to Guatemala City. We loaded up the family, put the dog in the car and hit the road. I had just finished unpacking the last box when I received a



Matt and Leslie Capehart, Founders of Missions Frontier, with children Ashton, Bentley and Aynsley

call from my sister that my dad had just died – very tragically, unexpectedly. I'm realizing that finding the time to process and grieve is difficult. Life doesn't stop and our responsibilities don't diminish just because we need a moment to take a breath. I need a breath. Tragedy & loss, car problems, health problems, natural disasters...

(Continued on Page 5)

Last months have been very

*“We are able
to give jobs to
approximately
100 people”*

Change Is On The Way



www.missiontoulkraine.org

*Written by Randall Croom,
Assistant Product Manager at Helmer,
Inc.*

It was both an honor and a pleasure to work on the video that would chronicle the experiences of the Helmer group that went to the Romaniv Orphanage in Zhitomir, Ukraine. It took a couple of weekends and evenings, but the end result was made possible by the willingness of the team to share their videos, photos, and most importantly, their candid experiences. I appreciated the opportunity to work with them in this capacity, not only because it was a joy to assist, but because it was a learn-

ing experience for me in many ways.

This year, I thought it would be important to focus not only on the boys of the orphanage, but on the stories of the people from Helmer who were making the trip for the first time. There's something great about seeing and hearing Garry Busby, Tammy Hamman, Kenny Wilson, Michelle Wilson, and Penny Witzke share their experiences through their eyes. It was important, too, that the Romaniv Orphanage wasn't viewed in a vacuum, but that it was understood in the larger context of Ukraine, so there are some additional historical details at the beginning of the video. There was so much content that I just couldn't fit into this video due to time constraints.

There is no doubt that the boys of the Romaniv Orphanage and the families served by Mission To Ukraine face some difficult circumstances. But there is also no doubt that things are improving, thanks to organizations like Mission To



Boys at the Romaniv Orphanage enjoying a morning snack during summer camp

Ukraine and supporters like the Helmer team. There is certainly change, both in the people connected to the orphanage and in the people who went to serve. Hope springs out of the hearts of each person who has contributed in any way to the efforts to serve the men, women, and children of Ukraine, and so we ended the video about the vision for a brighter future shared by the people at Mission to Ukraine and the people at the Romaniv Orphanage.

When It Rains, It Pours (continued)

(Continued from Page 4)

I won't bore you with the details of everything that has taken place this summer, but suffice it to say it has been a hard summer - the magnitude of which is overwhelming. As Matt recently described it, we are wading through about as much earthly reality as one can bare. Our life in Guatemala feels like seven years of treading water. Occasionally, you dip below the surface. Occasionally, something comes along that you can grab hold of. Most of the time, you just keep

your head above water. Recently, it feels as though someone drove by in a boat, threw us a twelve pound bowling ball to carry, then punched us in the face. It probably doesn't help that we are on our eighth, back-to-back tropical depression. We literally have not seen the sun in months. It continues to pour causing flooding and mass mudslides. Along with that our children Ashton, Bentley and Aynsley have begun their new school in the city. What could have easily been a disaster, turned out to be awe inspiring.

In the midst of all the difficulties we thank God, as Ministry in Chichi continues to grow and move forward. With every growth comes increased responsibility.

We thank you for your gracious giving and support as it is very much needed, especially these days.



Helmer team in Guatemala, September 2009

Hard Times Test Good Samaritan Network



goodSamaritan
Meeting People At Their Need

www.gsnlive.org

*Written by Betsy Reason,
Journalist for IndyStar*

“Nearly 11,000 families in Hamilton County have already requested holiday assistance. That's twice the number requesting help last year at this time.”

Nancy Chance is already concerned. In fact, she's begging for help. Nearly 11,000 families in Hamilton County have already requested holiday assistance. That's twice the number requesting help last year at this time. It could be an indicator that times are tougher this year, or that people have put in their requests earlier. She isn't sure, but she also knows that cash donations aren't flowing in quickly. Chance, 64, Noblesville, is the coordinator and founder of Good Samaritan Network, a 30-year-old assistance program that helps people in Hamilton County. She's sent out letters trying to get sponsorships for families, with few responses. "I have a gut feeling for this. It's pretty right-on," said Chance. "I'm getting concerned. "It's looking like it's going to double. We're seeing so many new people we haven't seen before, a lot of middle class." She said people who qualify for assistance through their township trustee's office also qualify for Good Samaritan's annual Thanksgiving and Christmas distributions. She's also re-

ceived requests from people who've lost jobs but who don't qualify at the trustee's office. Last year, 16,092 families in

food, toys and clothing this holiday season. "I think it's going to be scary. I think I don't know how to project it,"



Cara Fry, HGI volunteer, with the director of Good Samaritan, Nancy Chance

total received food in both holiday seasons. She said families are counted once for each of the two distributions. Some are counted twice if they receive food twice. Some who don't request help at Thanksgiving may request help at Christmas. If the early numbers were any indicators, Chance would expect more than 25,000 families to receive

she said. The Thanksgiving Give-Away, with food only, is Nov. 20; and the Christmas Give-Away, with food, clothing and toys, is Dec. 11. Both will be at the Hamilton County 4-H Fairgrounds in Noblesville. For the Thanksgiving Give-Away, Chance is asking for canned goods and dry products. Meat is also a concern. By this time last year, she had secured meat donations from local farmers and other individuals.

© www.indystar.com

Article of Oct 28, 2010

One Step At A Time



www.missionhaitimidwest.org

Written by Garry Busby,

Fabrication Group Leader at Helmer, Inc.



Haitians waiting in line for medical treatment

On October 8th a group of 14 people from the Anderson area met up with a group of 10 people from the Miami, Florida area for an 8 day mission trip to the impoverished country of Haiti. This has become a pilgrimage for some of us for the past 10 years. The local group with Helmer connection's included: Donnie Stohler, his brother Nick Stohler, Michele and Dustin Etchison (Dan Etchison's wife and son), and Garry Busby and

wife Desi. The group from Florida included a surgical team and 2 prosthetic specialists. Each trip is unique in it's challenges but has the same focus and purpose, to bring hope and relief to the Haitian people.

Haiti is a land with a history of poverty and disaster. The earthquake last January claimed tens of thousands of lives and left many more homeless. We had hoped to see a massive clean up and rebuilding effort taking place, but that was not evident at all. We witnessed many tent cities around the capital

city of Port au Prince amidst the rubble of collapsed buildings as we journeyed to the north to Saint Ard, our home for the next 8 days. We stayed at a compound that started as an orphanage but now includes a hospital and minister training center. The hospital has 2 operating rooms that were used heavily after the earthquake as severely injured people were lifelined here for treatment.

Our trips in the past years have focused around venturing out to surrounding communities and holding medical clinics in church buildings. We normally hold four to five clinics during our week long stay and serve around 500 people at each one. This year turned out to be a little different as we held three clinics and served 300 to 400 people at each one. The clinics this year were unique in that we spent extra travel time to reach people that have never been visited by a medical team before. One clinic entailed hiking up a mountain for 3 hours. Another clinic involved a 6 hour bus ride that took us



through a jungle-like setting where we drove through 22 streams on a path only barely wide enough to accommodate our bus. Both of these clinics were extra rewarding as the people were very appreciative.

While we were doing clinics and arranging supplies a surgical team worked in the operating rooms performing 36 surgeries during the week. Also a new prosthetic lab was being built and equipped to serve the many new amputees as a result of the recent earthquake.

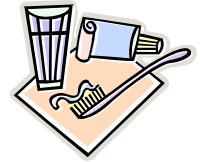
On a personal level I am always humbled and able to put life in perspective. When you experience such a radical change in culture you find what little control you have over life. These trips always take you on an emotional roller coaster. Joy followed by sadness, hope by despair, promise by disappointment, and the list goes on and repeats itself many days, weeks and months after returning. What I have learned over the years is that you cannot change the world in one week. It is only through small steps, being an advocate for the oppressed, and getting others involved that real change will take place.

“Haiti is a land with a history of poverty and disaster. “

It's Shoe Box Time!



Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan's Purse www.samaritanspurse.org/ and provides the opportunity for individuals and families to share the blessings of Christmas with children around the world.



All you need to do:

take an ordinary shoe box, fill it with hygiene items, school supplies, toys and/or candy* and you have an extraordinary gift for an underprivileged child (between the ages of 2 and 14) in need of joy and hope!

During the week of **November 15th – 19th**, Helmer team members can lend their support to this worthwhile project by donating either completed gift boxes (shoe box) or individual items from one of the categories below that will help to fill additional gift boxes. Don't forget to save and bring in your adult size shoe boxes! If you can, wrap shoe boxes prior to bringing them in (wrap top & bottom separately) or attend

the Wrapping Party on Thursday, November 18th from 3:30pm - 5:30 pm.

On Friday, November 19th, the assembled gift boxes will be taken to the local drop-off for distribution and shipping to those in need. Your contributions and support will be greatly appreciated!

In 2009 Helmer volunteers filled 59 shoe boxes!

*Hygiene Items: Bar Soap, Washcloth, Toothpaste, Comb/Brush. School Supplies: Pencils & Sharpeners, Crayons or Markers, Rulers, Paper / Coloring Books. Toys: Jump Ropes, Yo-Yo's, Small Stuffed Animals, Matchbox Cars. Candy: Hard Candy, Lollipops, Gum, Mints.

Calendar Of Events - November

Shoe Box Wrapping Party

Thursday, **November 18**

Boy Scout Popcorn Distribution

Wednesday and Thursday,

November 17, 18

Thanksgiving Day Dinner 'Good Samaritan'

Wednesday and Thursday,

November 24, 25



To get more information on HGI activity please contact Penny Witzke:

pwitzke@helmerinc.com

www.helmerinc.com/newhgi.aspx