



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 11, ISSUE 2

APRIL 19, 2011

COMMUNITY CALENDAR:

May 14—15

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

June 7

Charity Golf Outing for Good Samaritan

June 11

American Lung Assoc. Fight for Air Walk

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Ms. Wheelchair Indiana



www.peopleonwheels.org

Reported by Nancy Cotterill,
President of People on Wheels

Helmer, Inc was a sponsor of this event and attending with David Helmer was Jessica Cortez and Michelle Wilson of Helmer, Inc.

Jodi Logman was crowned People on Wheels' Ms. Wheelchair Indiana 2011 in support of Disability Awareness Month on Saturday March 19. She is 30 years old and suffers from Dystonia, a neurological movement disorder which became evident when she was 17 years old. She grew up in Southeastern Indiana and attended College of Mount St. Joseph where she graduated cum laude in Psychology. She worked in child abuse prevention and medical/psychological research.

Jodi speaks easily about the transformation from being considered 'able' bodied into one who depends upon a wheelchair. She breaks down barriers through a friendly understanding of those who may not now connect with the disabled experience

and is eager to share her positive outlook with others around the State.

Based in Indianapolis, People On Wheels is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides the only on-

Reflection by Jessica Cortez

Service Technician at Helmer, Inc.

When I was in school, I would see handicap people sad, screaming or with no happiness in their eyes. Maybe, because I was

younger, I could not understand how we made them suffer by starring at them, making them feel different. I wonder to myself what would make them feel happy. At the pageant, I saw beautiful girls full of happiness and proud of themselves, and most of all, very intelligent. One participant said what

hurts them the most is when people stare. They would like for people to ask them what they have on their mind instead of guessing what's wrong with us.

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David Helmer, Nancy Cotterill and Ms. Wheelchair Indiana 2011, Jodi Logman

line consolidated news, information, research, and accessibility site for and about U.S. wheelchair users.

From 9 to 31!



www.compassion.com

Written by Penny Witzke,

Helmer Global Initiatives

Administrator

Two years ago, HGI decided to develop the relationships we have with the Compassion children we sponsor at a greater level. We decided not only to financially support these children but to incorporate employee pen-pals who mentor these children through their youth years.

In 1999 we sponsored 9 chil-

dren and currently we have 31 children in our Compassion family! Our first Compassion child, Paul Amos Francois from Haiti, stayed with us for over 12 years and has recently turned 18 and aged out of the program.

Our employee pen-pals make a commitment to write at least 4 letters a year to their Compassion child. It is less intimidating for a child to talk with one person than to a group of adults, so each pen-pal writes to one consistent child. The

pen-pal and child are able to build a relationship with each other.

Children in poverty are susceptible to believing in the dark message of "You don't matter". The written words of encouragement that pen-pals send are much stronger than this dark message. These words confirm to the child that someone many miles away has taken time to write to them, which in turn sends a message that they matter and there is hope for their future.



Helmer Pen-Pal:
Kathy Taylor
(Accounting) with daughter, Shaylee, at Helmer's Easter Card Party for Compassion Children

Welcome New Compassion Children

Written by Anita Stevens,

International Sales at Helmer, Inc.

Every time I saw the HGI newsletters with so many co-workers getting involved in "heart tasks" to help others I felt a little jealous because I thought that they were doing the right thing and I was letting myself stay behind as a human being by not paying back all the blessings that I receive day by day. Sometimes when you feel overwhelmed with work and so many

things to do in this hectic life you become a little selfish with your personal time. But a few weeks ago I saw the picture of this little kid with a shy smile and anxious eyes, as if they



Alexander Vasquez
Cercado

Age: 7

Country: Peru

Compassion and make a difference in this child's life. Yes, I do care! Yes, I do want to help you have a better future if only with a little bit of my time and a little bit of my heart!

I chose a boy from my own country, Peru, because this is the closest example that I have of how poverty and lack of a success model to follow can lead to failure. I remembered how hard it is for some parents to give their children an education and help them build the future that was denied for them. There is a lot of potential in these kids; some of them can really become the "someone" that their countries need to change their destiny. I am very happy that I made that decision and also thankful to Compassion and to Helmer for giving me the opportunity.

were asking me: Do I deserve to be loved? Would anybody out there in this world care for my future? And this was the spark that my heart needed to get started! I decided to join



Helmer Pen-Pal:
Anita Stevens
(International Sales)

Welcome New Compassion Children

www.compassion.com

Written by Sandie Anselm,
Regional Sales at Helmer, Inc.



**Helmer Pen-Pal:
Sandie Anselm (Regional
Sales) with her son Daniel**

One of my greatest responsibilities as a parent is to guide my children to use their time, talent and treasures in their own capacity to help others. Now that my fourth son is old enough to be actively involved in the writing process, we have volunteered to be pen pals for one of the children that Helmer sponsors through Compassion.

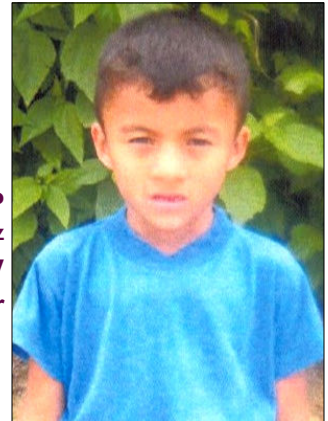
My son, Daniel, is currently studying South America in school so he

is pleased that we are writing to a boy in Ecuador. Learning about the culture in another country as well as expressing kindness toward a child who is living in less fortunate circumstances will greatly benefit Daniel. As he sees the effects of the generosity of others on a child very far from home I hope he becomes inspired to explore other avenues of reaching out to those in need.

From the profile on our sponsored child we discovered that he is below average academically and in our family, we know firsthand the impact that encouraging words have on the development and motivation of a child that struggles in school.

We hope that we can encourage Alejandro with our letters and we pray that as our relationship develops, we see him progress both spiritually and academically. We are so excited that Helmer now sponsors this precious little boy and that he gets to experience all the benefits that Compassion makes available to him.

**Alejandro Patricio
Aguilar Hernandez
Age: 7
Country: Ecuador**



Welcome New Compassion Children

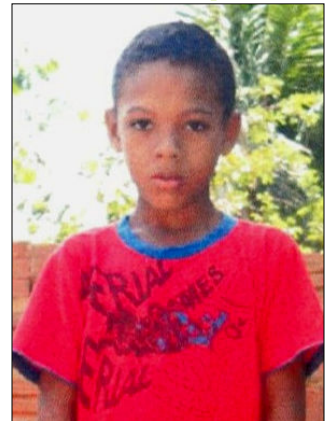


**Helmer Pen-Pal:
David Coots (Fabrication)**

Written by David Coots,
Fabrication at Helmer, Inc.

Being part of Compassion just seemed like the right thing to do. This world can be a scary place especially for children. I have two small children of my own and if there is anything I can do to help kids, I want to be part of it. After my trip to Ukraine and seeing the joy in the kids faces when someone pays attention, it make me motivated to help in any way I can.

**Leandro Filipe Soares
Rodrigues
Age: 10
Country: Brazil**



Made To Give, Not Keep



A child from a poor neighborhood David met while in Kigali, Rwanda

“Choice is a powerful liberty and when it comes to our children’s education – a person’s financial situation should not limit it.”

Michael Lindell, Director of Sagamore Institute & HGI project ‘Scholarships for Education Choice’



Word from David Helmer

What is it in each individual that yearns for attention, recognition, love, opportunity, touch? Why is it that programs which attempt to help large amounts of people on a broad scale, without taking into account the family or social unit and the individuals involved, usually fall far short of what could be accomplished. Something is at work from both directions.

There is more going on than just a basic, primal desire to manifest “the self”. There is a person inside each of us that longs to fulfill a deeply embed-

ded “mission” in life that gives us purpose, whatever that may be. Most spend a lifetime on their own personal holy grail. Many never succeed in finding it.

But, what if the search to fulfill that deep longing for meaning was not about finding ourselves? What if it was actually in giving ourselves away that we discovered what our talents and resources were really for? There is something deeply spiritual about taking who we are and offering it to someone else, who has no opportunity. Maybe in the transaction where we acknowledge someone else’s

humanity and individual value we understand what we were made to be....givers, not keepers.

What if we considered all that we have and all that we are as the gear that allows us to accomplish our real life mission. Isn’t it relationships that make us rich, not stuff? Why do we cling so tightly to things that can offer us nothing lasting in return? Why not engage to help lift someone out of poverty and give them dignity or plead for someone who has no voice. I think that in doing so you will find the treasure you have been searching for....one life at a time.

Opportunity For Indiana Kids



www.sagamoreinstitute.org

Written by Michael Lindell,

Senior Fellow & Director of Scholarships for Education Choice at Sagamore Institute

Scholarships for Education

Choice is a program initiated by Sagamore Institute with the support of Helmer Global Initiatives to provide low income families with the opportunity to choose an education path for their children. Many families in Indiana have to send their children to public school because they simply lack the financial resources to pursue other options.

Indiana recognized this in 2009 and launched the School Scholarship Tax Credit Program. \$2.5 million in tax credits was allocated for individual or corporate donors who gave to an approved scholarship granting organization (SGO).

Scholarships for Education Choice recently received approval from the Indiana Department of Education to become a SGO. As such, we can offer donors to our fund a credit on their state tax liabilities equal to 50% of the amount donated. The fund is then used to award scholarships to children from low income households who have been accepted to private schools. Thus, a family’s financial circumstances no longer prevent them from considering a private school education as an option for their children.

The \$2.5 million annual tax credit allocation equates to less than 0.04% of the \$7.6 billion Indiana budgeted in 2010-11 for K-12 public education. Yet, this allocation creates the opportunity for over one thousand Indiana families to research and choose where they want their children to receive their education. Choice is a powerful liberty and when it comes to our children’s education – a person’s financial situation should not limit it.

Innovative policy that marries private money with public funds to create choice for families is exciting. Thanks to Helmer Global Initiatives, Scholarships for Education Choice can come alongside Indiana’s families and remove the financial constraints that prevent families from seeking and selecting the best opportunities for their children’s education.

Culture Of Generosity

2011 WOMEN WORLD WIDE
 Leading through Philanthropy
 The Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University 22nd Annual Symposium

www.philanthropy.iupui.edu

Written by *Natasha Mazur,*

Director of Development at Helmer Global Initiatives

In the past philanthropy was defined as “love of humankind,” but lately it has acquired a new meaning of “voluntary action for the common good.” This broader perspective has revealed new opportunities that go beyond donating money to a good cause. It says that each one of us can become a responsible and aware global citizen with our time, influence or talents. On reflection, it becomes obvious that everyone can be a philanthropist regardless of wealth, geography, age or gender.

I had the privilege of representing

Helmer Global Initiatives (HGI) at the 22nd annual symposium “Women World Wide Leading through Philanthropy,” which was held on March 10-11, 2011 in Chicago, IL, by the Center on Philanthropy at Indiana University. It was a privilege to see hundreds of leading philanthropists, nonprofit sector professionals and researchers from around the globe gather in Chase Tower in Chicago to share ideas and experiences, and discuss the power of women’s philanthropy.

I had a chance to share with Francia E. Harrington, Senior Vice President Head of Civic Affairs at JPMorgan Chase & Co., about what Helmer people are doing to volunteer their time for the common good. She commented on how impressive our efforts are and how much can

be done by companies like ours. JPMorgan Chase was the presenting sponsor of the event

and they have a well developed system of encouraging their employees for charitable actions. Combining our experience with best practices of leading companies, HGI sets serious goals to impact the local and global community, desiring to engage Helmer individuals according to their capabilities and passions.

One of the main goals of HGI is to practice and promote a culture of generosity. Your life can make a significant difference, if you choose to give a piece of it away.

Start investing now!



“Philanthropy is a voluntary action for the common good.”

Ms. Wheelchair Indiana (continued)

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This was a great experience for me, because I learned no matter what God gave us for a body or a life, with great perseverance and will, you can accomplish your dreams!

Reflection by Michelle Wilson

Manufacturing Assemblist at Helmer, Inc.

I look at people with a severe disability and wonder, what kind of life could they have. One contestant changed that thinking for me. She was a beautiful woman with a speech impairment and had limited use of her hands. Her dream was well. She started a swimming program at Rain-

bows End, a non-profit organization in Indiana that nurtures self esteem and positive self image through adaptive sports and activities.

I never thought people with her severity could participate in activities, but if you have a dream, you can do anything!



Jessica Cortez and Michelle Wilson of Helmer, Inc.

FIND OUT HOW YOU ARE DOING COMPARED TO THE JONESES!

The quest for success often keeps our focus on that next raise, that next house, that next new thing. But if we think we have some catching up to do, we should consider how the other 90 percent of the world lives. Enter your salary and see how you stack up to the rest of the world at:

Whoarethejoneses.org



Community Calendar

American Cancer Society Relay for Life

Team Helmer will again be participating in this years relay on **May 14—15**. This is a chance to celebrate the lives of people who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and fight back against the disease.

Visit www.relayforlife.org



Charity Golf Outing for Good Samaritan

You are invited to the Carmel Financial Charity Golf Outing on **June 7**. Proceeds will be given to Good Samaritan Network of Hamilton County to be used towards services for families in need.

Visit www.carmelfinancial.com/fooddrive.html



American Lung Assoc. Fight for Air Walk

By joining the American Lung Assoc. in their fight for healthy lungs and healthy air, you help save lives today and keep America healthy tomorrow. Mark your calendar for **June 11** for the Fight for Air Walk at Butler University.

Visit www.fightforairwalk.org



To get more information on HGI activity please contact

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www.helmerinc.com/newhgi.aspx