



Mission of Love News



"You are not here to change the world, but to touch the hands that are within your reach."

A Story of Veronica

On July 1, 2003, a team of Mission of Love volunteers went to the Yucatan of Mexico to build a home for Veronica.



MOL volunteer, Shirl, with Veronica and mom.

I had met six-year-old Veronica in September 2002, when Hurricane Isidore caused such hardship to the Mayan Indians. Our friend, Maria Jose, introduced us to the Mayan community of Kunche, where Veronica's mother brought her to the clinic to be seen by the Mission of Love physician volunteers. She had been hidden from the community for all of her life as an outcast. Veronica had never been out of her thatched hut in all her life due to her cerebral palsy, as well as her blindness and deafness and the lack of a wheelchair or any rehabilitative mobility device. She has spent her young life in a worn hammock with a mom who has such a devotion and love to this special child.

I wanted to make a difference in the life of Veronica and her family. In February 2003, I returned with

another group of volunteers. We were able to obtain a donated wheelchair and other nutritional items for Veronica. I wish you could have seen her smile as I placed her in her new wheelchair. It was very humbling for me to be a part of this Mission of Love on our February trip. That is when I promised Veronica that we would be back to build her and her family a home to replace the one-room, crooked thatched hut that was about to fall down.

Thanks to you and your wonderful support, the home is well on its way to completion. Maria Jose translated as I spoke to the Mayan community of Kunche to explain my feelings to them that Veronica was the messenger and through her, the plight of the Maya was shown to us. In my eyes, Veronica is an angel in disguise. Without Maria Jose and Veronica, the Mission of Love team of volunteers would have never shown up to do the work that was needed.

In just a week's time, we were able to build a home for Veronica's family and build hope for the women in this little Mayan community of Kunche, Mexico. In addition, we were able to deliver a new refrigerator to the Center for Malnourished Children, which we opened in February with Maria Jose. Can you imagine 105 degree heat with no refrigerator to safely store the nourishment for the children in need? We saw Mayan babies that were a year old and only weighing seven pounds.

—Kathleen Price

Please Join Us...

MISSION OF LOVE Fall Fundraiser

October 18, 2003 • 6-10 p.m.

*Our Lady of Lebanon Shrine
2759 Lipkey Road • North Jackson, Ohio*

Dinner & Dessert • Chinese Raffle • Entertainment
Updates on this year's building trips and work of Mission of Love

Advance Tickets: \$22.00 Adults; \$10.00 children



A Firsthand Account...

By Miss Vickie

From July 1-8, 2003, I joined The Mission of Love Foundation on a humanitarian trip to Mexico for the purpose of building a little handicapped girl and her family a house and to paint "The Maya House of Health" in Xhualtez. As with my trip to Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in May, this experience proved to be just as heart-warming and heart-wrenching.



Mission of Love volunteers at building site of Veronica's house, Kunche, Mexico

We arrived in Cancun on a Tuesday afternoon, along with other volunteers, where Maria Jose Medina-Diaz, our go-between and interpreter was awaiting our arrival. After intercepting all the luggage, and loading it into a "well-used" pick-up truck, and renting vehicles for travel to villages throughout the Yucatan, we made our first stop to purchase and deliver a refrigerator to the "For Life Center." This center was donated to Maria Jose by the St. Vincent de Paul Society for the sake of malnourished Mayan children. The home was cleaned, painted, plumbed and received new electrical wiring by Mission of Love volunteers in February, 2003. The For Life Center is the first of its kind in the Yucatan, and will allow mothers and siblings of a child to come and help with a child's rehabilitation. It will service over 500 malnourished children from 70 Mayan communities. Normally, this project would have taken over 1 1/2 years to complete, but the undertaking was finished in just five days by Mission of Love.

Our "home away from home" was to be Mayan huts adjacent to the medical clinic, "The Maya House of Health." Uba, along with other Mayan ladies, prepared breakfast, lunch and dinner for all the volunteers.

I shared a hut with Shirl, who lives in Liberty, Ohio, and Leslie, who resides in California. Mayan women made hammocks, which take 15 days to complete, served as our beds. Facilities in the hut provided very comfortable accommodations, with a flush toilet, shower and kitchen sink. Although some volunteers found it difficult to attain proper sleeping conditions in the hammock, I slept like a baby and awakened fully

revived and suffering from none of the aches and pains I greet each morning when I arise at home!!!



Miss Vickie learning to make hammocks.

Shirl, who is a nurse and massotherapist, and myself were given the opportunity to visit the little handicapped girl, Veronica, and her family for the better part of the afternoon on the following day. Shirl held and carried Veronica outdoors, while I played with Phelomina, her 7-year-old sibling, who carried another year-old sibling on her hip the entire time. With the wheelchair Veronica received from Mission of Love, she gets to be outside as never before.

A six-inch, rubber unclothed doll was the only toy these children shared among themselves. Phelomina and



Learning a new game with Tara and friends of Xhualtez

I played "Jacks"--a game she plays with stones and a golf ball. But smiles from ear to ear, and laughter from these children, were music to my heart. You see, they aren't "spoiled" by the worldly possessions we

give our children; and selfishness is unfounded since even the young children share responsibilities within the family structure. Gratitude for your presence and help to build them a new home, is extended in the purest and most humble form--with sincere thanks. Though a verbal barrier is obvious, eye contact and body language expression prevail in a profound and emotional form of communication. And lazy they are not!!! Mayan men worked side by side with volunteers in the construction of Veronica's house and approximately 15 Mayan children took up paint brushes and helped paint the medical clinic.

Neighboring children from Xzhualtez visited us each morning, bright and early, and stayed until evening. Volunteers brought art supplies, jump ropes, balls, bubbles and other small toys for the children to share. What a treat it was! Hugs and kisses between the children and volunteers were exchanged openly without fear of parents snatching their children away as if you were a threat to their child. The parents, grandparents and residents were equally as affectionate to the volunteers. Love was everywhere--You gave love and

—Continued on page 3



A Firsthand Account... (continued from page 2)

you received love. Everyone greeted and was greeted with a welcoming smile every time eyes met. My heart overflowed with such peace and contentment.

We had the privilege to attend a Mayan baptism, a public graduation ceremony and enjoy the male volunteers play baseball with the local team. Bob, a volunteer from Cleveland, monetarily sponsors a Mayan team and has donated uniforms, as well as bats, balls and gloves. And, what would a ball game be without hot dogs? Mission of Love provided hot dog, soft drinks and "mammutts" (cookies) for the occasion.



The daughter of a Mission of Love volunteer (center) enjoys watching a baseball game with some new friends.

"Yours truly" shared a bit of American entertainment with the children by teaching them the "Chicken Dance!" They loved it!!! They caught on to the tune immediately and especially enjoyed when the music and dance gestures increased to a rapid ("rapido") paced version.

You have heard the song, "I Left My Heart In San Francisco"--well, I left my heart in Mexico, but plan to return, not to retrieve it, but to continue to give back the blessings God has showered me with in my life. I will do so selfishly though; you see, I have found my purpose in life through Mission of Love and my heart sings as it has never sung before!

This article originally appeared in July 17, 2003 issue of The Journal under the title of "Coffee Talk with V."

Upcoming Building Trips...

OCTOBER 23: PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION

NOVEMBER: KUNCHE, MEXICO

FEBRUARY, 2004: MEXICO

MAY, 2004: PINE RIDGE INDIAN RESERVATION

Pine Ridge Hospice: History has been made by our Mission of Love, May, 2003

In 1999, the Mission of Love made its first journey to the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota to deliver supplies following a devastating tornado.

However, the destruction of the tornado was nothing compared to the shock of the everyday living conditions of the Lakota Indians on the reservation.

Kathy Price said, "People were living in trailers that weren't fit for mice. I saw black mold that covered the wall. Here, if our house is filled with black mold, we burn it."

The Mission of Love also discovered that not only were the living conditions shameful, but the conditions for those who were dying were even worse. There was no place for the sick and dying, who were spending their last days in this world on a dirt floor.

"There was no place for the sick and dying, who were spending their last days in this world on a dirt floor."

In the fall of 2002, the foundation was laid for a Hospice on the Pine Ridge Reservation. In May 2003, two 53 foot trailers and 80,000 pounds of construction materials and furnishings were delivered to the site 1400 miles away.

The hospice has four beds and has been designed to include two rooms which allow friends and family members to perform their traditional Lakota ceremony to help the spirit of the deceased to travel to meet their ancestors. Until now, the ceremony was impossible to perform due to the lack of space when family members would pass on in hospitals far away from the

Kyle, South Dakota, May, 2003

My 10-year-old daughter, Katherine, and I travelled to Kyle, South Dakota from Canada with the Mission of Love to build the first Native American Hospice. I had not realized that Native Americans were literally dying on dirt floors. As a nurse for the past 25 years, I realized that North America (one of the most affluent countries in the world) had individuals who were receiving Third World healthcare. This brought about a great sadness to my heart, as well as anger.

I was there for 12 days and during that period of time, many of the local people living in and around the area of Kyle would come to volunteer their service or just share a cup of coffee. I knew this first hand, because during my last four days there, I volunteered to work in the kitchen, preparing food for the other volunteers and visitors—whether that was buffalo soup for 200, washing dishes, serving ongoing coffee and juice, breakfast, lunch and dinner and the occasional treat of freshly baked cookies.

Volunteers came—young mothers with their newborns, as well as the elderly in the community. Their visit was a hardship for them. Although the beauty of the land with its majestic landforms and vast spans of sky are breathtaking to the visitors, this is a natural barrier for communities. In reality, to visit someone in the next community, it would take a two to three hour drive by car. I knew some of our visitors sacrificed their ration of gas money to come. There are only two gas stations on the reservation which serve the community, but whose prices are higher than off the reservation. Gas was at a premium, as some needed to scrape money together for ongoing medical appointments as far away as 100 miles, one way. Keeping these appointments for such treatment as kidney dialysis usually meant the difference between life and death. I honored their presence for making the choice to come to visit or to help in the building of the hospice.

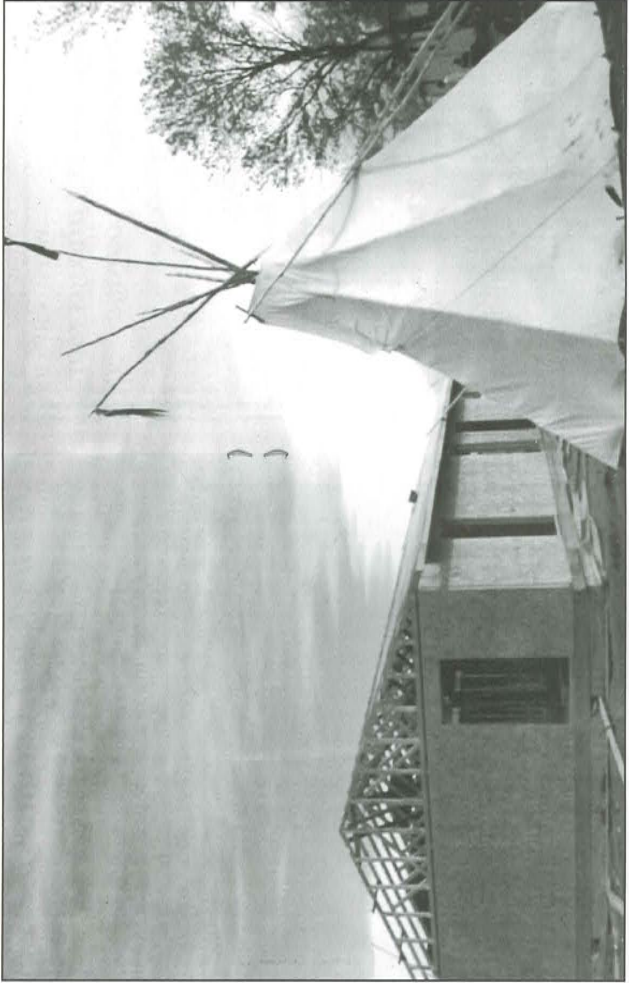


Lyle and Rebecca

Rebecca, one of the native American volunteers was in the kitchen, helping to make lemon cake, while her husband, Lyle, was working on the roof. They both were dedicated to helping and often would walk part way or hitch a ride to come and help. Lyle had grown up on the reservation and in the 44 years of his life, this was the first time he left the Wounded Knee community, 45 miles away from Kyle. Rebecca and Lyle's story is a common one among the people who are isolated and have little reason or opportunity to visit a neighboring community although they all live on the reservation.

The building of the hospice not only brought much needed care to the sick, but it became a catalyst to forge friendships and to have individuals working side by side, building hope for the larger community. I looked around our large dining table at dinner, with all our friends breaking the bread of life and laughing together—we were building community!

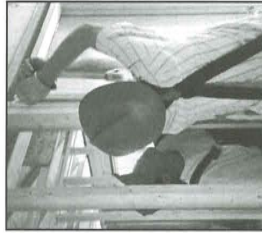
—C. Mark



A blessing ceremony was held in this teepee at the start of construction



From left-right: Kathleen Price, Hospice Director and Founder, and Louie Fostvedt, Construction Foreman



Volunteers worked diligently to build the hospice at Pine Ridge.

Without the support of donations and building volunteers from Canada and the United States, Mission of Love would be unable to provide dignity to the dying, as well as closure for family and friends.

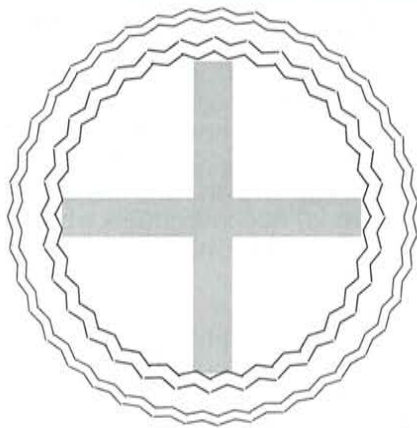


Volunteers completed the Hospice this year.

Some have passed on without the comfort of their loved ones being nearby because of hospital visitation policies and lack of transportation.

The Hospice has been built in the poorest community in the United States and is the first to be built on an Indian Reservation.

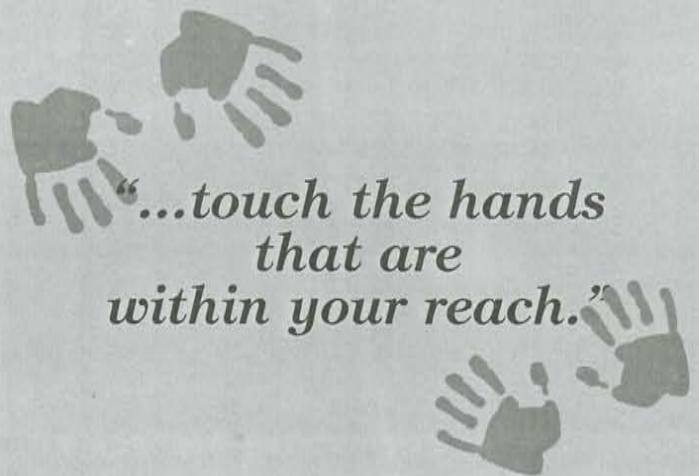




There was a time when man looked no more than he needed.
That time is gone.
There was a time when he gave something back.
That time is gone.
There was a time when he worshipped the Creator
And honored Creation.
That time, too, is gone.
And now, the waters are polluted,
Our natural resources are all but gone
And Creation is dying.
It is time to find our way
Back to the earth.

Kevin Thunderhorsewright

*Courage doesn't always roar.
Sometimes, courage
is the quiet voice
at the end of the day
saying,
"I'll try again tomorrow."*



An Update...

Built by Mission of Love in Isla Mujeres, Mexico in 2001, the Centro de Apoyo Psicopedagógico (The Little Yellow School House) is an institution whose main purpose is to provide education to children with special needs. Currently, there are 45 students attending and the numbers are growing.

There are three basic groups of students. The first group attend the school approximately 14 hours per week and range in age from 5 to 17 years old. The second group attend public school, but have handicaps such as hyperactivity, attention deficit disorder, dyslexia, etc. Some of this group have had to repeat the same grade or have not learned how to read. The majority of these 7 and 14 year olds are in primary school and they come to The Centro de Apoyo Psicopedagógico approximately six hours per week. The third group are pre-school children with physical and/or mental handicaps such as paralysis and Down Syndrome. They attend three hours per week.

The majority of the second and third groups of children present major behavior problems. About 85% of these

students come from homes of alcoholics.

The staff consists of Paula Salas de Sulub, Director and three teachers, Esther, Marisol and Fatima. Each receive a modest salary for the hours they spend with the children. The school is supported by donations and attendance is free.

Mission of Love built The Centro de Apoyo Psicopedagógico. The inside of the second room was just recently finished and the next challenge is to finish the exterior of the building and construct a small playground with slides, swings, etc.

If you would like to help, but are not able to donate supplies or money, please say a prayer for each one of the children. If you can contribute financially, please make checks payable to: Amor a la Ninex A.C. and send to Centro de Apoyo, Attention: Paula Salas de Sulub, Lote 1 Mza. 202 Fracc. La Gloria, Isla Mujeres, Quintana Roo, Mexico, C.P. 77400.

Remember, every little bit helps!

A Letter from...

**The American Nepalese Children's Foundation,
Ravenna, Ohio**

Dear Kathy Price:

I want to thank you and the members of the Mission of Love for your generous donation of medical supplies, clothes and toys for the poverty-stricken people of Nepal.

I took the donations to Father Watrin's Outreach Clinic on June 20. This was a new clinic further out from Kathmandu. Because it was within the area not frequented by members of the Shining Path, we had to pass through a number of military checkpoints. Although it was extremely hot and the clothes were almost all winter clothes, people were reluctant to take off their new things.



We brought the remaining items to the SOS Village for dispersal throughout the country on June 23.

Thank you again for helping to make these donations possible to the poor people of Nepal.

—*Mary Celeste Starzyk*

Congratulations...

Congratulations to the winner of the handmade Lakota "Morning Star" quilt—**Sharon Pacione**. Look for more great fundraisers in the future



The next time
you're surfing the web,
check out our new website:

www.missionoflove.org

Thanks to
Carol and Nausheen
for creating this website

A Letter of Gratitude...



Dear Mission of Love:

It is such a fine morning out, the sun is shining and all is still as I lay here just thinking about our two extra bedrooms. To think that the Mission of Love built those two bedrooms for us and, Oh!...we are so thankful! It has been almost a year now, but it still seems like a dream and still another day that we are so thankful for!

I talked to my friend, Kathy Price, and told her that I would give my eyeteeth for two bedrooms built onto my house. She said that she would see what we can do. (Kathy did not know that I had false teeth, but I would have given those up for them, too!)

Kathy helped so many people to make their lives better. She has helped the healthy, the sick and the dying to help them have a happy ending. She is doing all of this through the Mission of Love, and that is what it is all about—LOVE!—love for people and children. Kathy and the people who donate their time do not have to do this, but they do it for the love and caring of people.

Even though when Kathy visits, I may only see her once, I know that she is close by and that is a good feeling.

I watch the news on CNN and I see things that are heartbreaking—these little children starving to death, their hair changing color because of no vitamins, no food for these little ones. That is why I wrote this letter.

If I could make a difference in one little one's life, this is what I would love to do with all my heart. I saw a little guy on TV who held his arms up to a passerby. That broke my heart. I have dedicated my life to taking care of children and it is a darn good feeling when they depend on you and when they know that they need you.

I feel that Kathy gives me strength to go on like she does and to be honest with you, I would love to be just like her.

—*Mary*





Mission of Love Foundation

2054 Hemlock Ct. Austintown, Ohio 44515

Missoflove@aol.com • www.missionoflove.org

Kathleen Price, Founder/Director • (330) 793-2388



SUCCESS

The Mission of Love Mission Statement

*To laugh often and much,
To win the respect of intelligent people and
the affection of children;
To earn the appreciation of honest critics
and endure the betrayal of false friends;
To appreciate beauty;
To find the best in others;
To leave the world a bit better,
whether by a healthy child, a garden patch
or a redeemed social condition;
To know even one life has breathed easier
because you have lived.
This is to have succeeded.*

Ralph Waldo Emerson

"You are not here to change the world, but to touch the hands that are within your reach."



***The Mission of Love Foundation is a non-profit organization
that provides humanitarian aid to those in need worldwide, especially children.
Backed by individuals, local businesses and the U.S. Military's Denton Program,
the Mission of Love airlifts clothing, medicine and food and building supplies
to third world countries, including the poorest community in the U.S.—***

Pine Ridge Indian Reservation, South Dakota.

***Once the supplies arrive, groups of people, both young and old, from all walks of life,
are there to utilize the supplies by building medical clinics, repairing orphanages,
administering medical treatment to the ill and serving those who need help.***