

Between FRIENDS

Spring 2018 NEWSLETTER



Father Rick Frechette *Our Guest Speaker for Our 40th Anniversary*



When Rick Frechette became a Passionist priest in 1979, his goal was to minister to the spiritual health of humanity. Born in 1953, Frechette graduated from Assumption College in Massachusetts. He next attended St. John's University in New York and studied theology as a seminarian, and was ordained a priest in 1979. After a few years as a parish priest in Baltimore, he met Fr. William B. Wasson. Mother Teresa's Sisters of Charity in Haiti directed Fr. Rick to the next turning point in his life. The sisters were caring for babies born of dying mothers, frequently sick with AIDS. Many of the babies did not survive, but those who did needed care, love and a place to live. Fr. Wasson and Fr. Rick visited the poor country and children's hospice and decided to open Nos Petits Freres et Soeurs (NPFS) which survives amid political chaos, economic disaster and uncontrollable crime.

After Fr. Rick obtained his medical degree in 1998 from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine, his duties included overseeing NPH Haiti's St. Damien 150-bed pediatric hospital, which still provides long-term care to critically ill children and outpatient services to over 95,000 children and adults each year. He also founded the St. Luke Foundation which creates dignified jobs in social service fields including 29 street schools, water delivery to the slums, hospitals and clinics and burying the unclaimed dead from the city morgue.

Fr. Rick is the former National Director of NPH Haiti, serves as the Medical Director of NPH International and is a member of the general assembly for the NPH International Board.

Recently, Fr. Rick and the Haitian team won the \$1 million Opus Prize, which acknowledges individuals and their organizations that are largely unsung yet provide exceptional and unique responses to difficult social problems in the world's poorest communities.

His speaking engagements around the world are well attended and we are indeed fortunate to have him as our guest speaker this anniversary year!

**40th
Anniversary
Year!**

Save the Date
Saturday May 5th, 2018

You are cordially invited to attend the

Annual General Meeting of **Friends of the Orphans Canada**

Location Victoria Park East Golf Club
1096 Victoria Rd. S, Guelph ON N1L 1C8

Cost Register by April 20th, 2018 \$40.00
Registered after April 20th, 2018 \$45.00

Schedule 10:30am Registration
11:00am Business Meeting
12:00pm Lunch
1:00pm Presentation of the work accomplished at our homes this year by our Country Coordinators.

A LIFE CHANGING EXPERIENCE AT N.P.H.

Dates for 2019 projects will be announced for some countries!

Missed your team mates from the previous projects? Reunite at the AGM!

Make sure to call the FOTOCAN office (519-763-9560) to book your tickets!

Unable to attend? Please consider making a \$40 Donation to honour FOTOCAN's 40th Anniversary! Visit our website to donate.

Between FRIENDS

NPH Honduras Welcomes Eight Youths to the Ranch



Excerpt from a NPH news release
by **Stefan Feuerstein**, National Director of NPH Honduras

It is a sometimes confusing and upside-down world, where joy and sadness, love and indifference, plenty and terrible limitation, are all so intertwined in the fabric that we know as life and community. So confusing and upside down, in fact, that at times we lose our bearings and find ourselves on one side or the other, momentarily forgetting that the one doesn't necessarily imply the elimination of the other, and that without community, responsibility and service, we are nothing.

Yesterday was one of those days where we were reminded of it all. And we were reminded yet again of the strength of our NPH family, the strength of our community and the power of our daily work.

We found sadness in finding out that there was a home for disabled children in Catacamas, near our transition home, that was being closed down for failing to comply with government regulations. We have been in talks for the past few days about how we could help, but there was nothing concrete. Early in the morning the authorities went to pick up the children, expecting resistance and a longer legal process, but the expected resistance never came, and the children started their journey here to the Ranch, to NPH Honduras.

Honduran Childcare Services, under observation of the National Commission on Human Rights, rolled into the Ranch with three ambulances from the fire brigade, bringing eight severely disabled children to us. We asked the authorities if they had the children's names, and they shook their heads. Medical history? Nothing. Any kind of papers to give us an indication of the families where they started their immensely challenging lives? Nothing.

But in this terrible situation that should never have been allowed to come to be, there was beauty, comfort, inspiration and renewed hope in watching our team take responsibility. Our Coordinators, Doctor, Nurses, Therapists and Volunteers calmly brought their knowledge, their skills and their smiles. Our childcare staff came with hugs and welcoming words. Our younger children came with teddy-bears and curiosity. Our older children came to help.

Only one child can speak. Liliana*, a hilarious nine-year-old who gave us names, ages, medical history and even behavioral issues – she comfortably eased into her new and important role of Everyone's Assistant.

Our medical team set up their work station on the back terrace of the home that the children moved in to. Everywhere, there was bathing, combing, eating, playing, making harnesses for wheelchairs and labeling toothbrushes. Everywhere there were smiles, laughter, hugs and reassuring words.

There is tremendous sadness, limitation and indifference in the story that brought these children to us. But the joy, the plenty and the love is equally if not more evident. And what holds everything together and makes it all work is a bunch of people who care. A bunch of people held together by family, by commitment, by hard work and a lot of caring.

A bunch of people held together by NPH.

*not her real name



*One of Our First
Mission Team Projects
15th Anniversary*

Nicaragua Mission Trip 2003 NPH Orphanage



Ken, Scott, Dan, Doug, & Chris



Bob in the music room



Jennica, Wendy, Shannon, Scott



Vicki and a friend



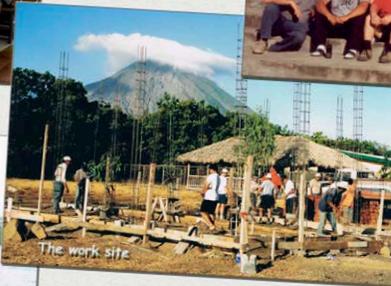
Church service at the orphanage



The team outside the orphanage church



Doug trims the choppy saw



The work site



Bob & Edgar - toys for the children



Some of the team have time at the beach

From our Church Family were Bob Finlayson, Ken & Diane Speers, Shannon Robinson, Mark Robinson, Jennica Balk-Smith, Doug and Chris Fotheringham, Helen McFadzean, Wendy Logan, Tom & Vicki Johnson, and Rev. Peter Hartmans

Photos by Mark Robinson

Saturday April 28th, 2018 10am-4pm

REMINDER



LISTOWEL HOLISTIC HEALTH FAIR

Parkview Gardens - Legion 575 Elizabeth St. E. Listowel - beside arena
Contact (519)291-7508

Featuring over 50 Practitioners, Vendors and Educators
DOOR PRIZES / FREE SAMPLES & DEMOS / FREE TOTE BAG
CASH DONATION AT THE DOOR FOR CHARITY/FUNDRAISER

A Story of Life, Love and Discovery

Imagine stopping into an entirely new place. New soil, new people, sounds and culture.

Imagine feeling welcomed and embraced by complete strangers, who are so full of love, joy and caring for others.



This is how it feels to be on a mission with NPH in Nicaragua. Now you do not only connect with the locals, but one also connects with fellow team members. These people become your family for the duration of the two week stay. We always have each other's back.

It's not a vacation- it's an eye opener. I have learned that people can do just about anything no matter what barriers prevent them. I learned more about myself by taking the time to discover who I was without the disturbance of the social media world. I learned that no matter my age, I could be myself. A rainy day is as good a day as any to get things done and I learned that for every action there is sometimes an opposing reaction. If there are bad times, there is always some good to be learned and a solution that's available. I learned that scorpion bites really hurt. But most importantly, I learned true love. Unconditional love. It flows through each and every one of us as a powerful reminder of what we are capable. A smile, a "gracias" - things that cannot be bought but are often taken for granted. The less one has, the more one loves. It's comforting to know that all of us walk under the same moon.

Evangeline Edwards

Installing Irrigation Systems in Dominican Republic

This year was my 4th time going to the NPH home in the Dominican Republic near San Pedro de Macoris.

We have worked on multiple construction projects on our past trips and it has always given everyone in our group a great sense of satisfaction and pride when we return the following year and see something we helped build being used by the children and having a beneficial impact on their lives. This year we worked on designing and installing an irrigation system on the farm and we are very happy to be have been able to complete it. The irrigation system, will provide water to many different types of plants that are now grown on the farm and increase their yields. Tomatoes, eggplants, cilantro and yuca now grow and are consumed by children on the farm.

I thank everyone for their contributions and hard work on this year's project, it is truly invaluable. I also want to thank all of you who contribute in any way to better the lives of the children.

Lawrence Russo

