Between Friends
Fall 2022 Newsletter

A Message from Our President

At Christmas we celebrate when God came to us as a child—pure innocence. Our gift-giving tradition re-enacts the gifts of the Magi to the child. Can you make room for one more gift? An extra gift to the children of our NPH homes? If you are able, please visit www.fotocan.org/Christmas-Campaign.htm, or contact our office to make an extra gift for sponsoring or other projects. It’s one thing that you can do to make this troubled world a little bit better.

Experience the strength and the peace that comes from giving. Merry Christmas, Andy Ross

A Fundraiser Thank You

We’ve rallied up the money raised from the plant sale and concert. We want to give special thanks to: Margot and Andy Uyl, who devoted countless hours growing and nurturing seeds to make the plant sale an actuality, the E Z Street Band for their wonderful music, the organizers of the concert and silent auction, the Crooked Creek for hosting an amazing time, and everyone who came by either event to give their support!

Plant Sale: $8,979.30
E Z Street Band Concert: $7,834.60

Combined we were able to raise $16,813.90 for otherwise disadvantaged children, so thank you to everyone who offered their support to make these events a success!

From Our Office

2022 has been a year of moving forward from the pandemic, which has greatly impacted all of our lives these past years. While this has been a very difficult time for many people, it’s been extremely challenging for our NPH homes. The staff at each home has met the challenges with the utmost dedication.

During a time when everything seemed to be standing still, we were encouraged to move forward. The work involved has been significant: including new computer implementations, mapping new drives, and more. It has been very productive! At this time of year, anticipating the Christmas season, we contemplate the love of God, in the gift of the Holy Child, a sign of promise for all Christians. Through each and every faith, we can look forward to 2023 with hope and excitement, as we all experience what we trust will be a more “normal” environment.

We want to thank each and every donor who has consistently supported the work of Friends of the Orphans of Canada. Your sacrificial giving to meet the needs of each child in the care of NPH is appreciated more than words can express.

We would like to wish each of our donors a very blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year,

Barbara Perry & Margaret Blair
Return of In-Country Projects

Getting Ready for In-Country Projects

Winter 2023 is bringing a lot of hope, promise of great things, and of course: group projects! There’s time and a few spots left to jump on board the Peru Crew 2023! Our focus, as always, is to deepen our connection with the kids, but we’ll sweat a bit and check off items on their wish list too!

NPH Peru made the best of being “guaranteed” during 2020 and 2021; they added an acreage of crops, pigs, chickens, guinea pigs, and goats. They plan to add a fenced area to keep beef and milking cows, which will be one of our main projects while we are there. With your help, they will be well on their way toward being a truly self-sustained home.

If you are able to join us in January 27th to February 10th in 2023, please reach out to Traci (traciblair16@gmail.com), Andy (roos@bamroos.com), or Margaret Blair (info@fotocan.org), as soon as possible to book your spot! If you are unable to join us, we are happy to chat about other ways you can support this project.

Journeying to the Dominican Republic

In anticipation of returning to our in-country projects in February, five souls braved the Pearson airport to fly down to San Pedro de Macoris to jump start our farm team. Success in Nicaragua before COVID caused us to embark on another three-to-five-year commitment to assist the DR home to beef up their farm. There’s a lot to do in two separate locations: including building animal shelters, planting seeds, providing irrigation, resuming the pottery workshop, and buying a new tractor.

The Canadians who visited this past September are in constant contact with the farm manager at the home to update the coming projects they want to tackle. We’re looking for anyone interested in helping us to help them. Contact Joy King (jiang@fotocan.org), Ken Speers (kspeers@fotocan.org), or Margaret Blair (info@fotocan.org) to join our team or to receive more information about this project. Please donate to the David Carpenter Legacy Fund, found at www.fotocan.org, if you wish to support us financially.

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A Merry Christmas in all of Our NPH Homes

Some of us have witnessed first-hand the reappearance of stockings and Christmas cards in January and March and June and October. They’re pulled, by little hands, out of cupboards and shoeboxes. We’ve listened to our pequenos speak excitedly about their sponsors, past holidays, big dinners, and programs. Christmas is a special time marked by gifts, celebrations of mass, and joy around our community table.

Please join us in sponsoring Merry Christmas for all of our children in all of our NPH homes. We invite you to contribute in any way that you can, with a donation that will go directly towards scrumptious meals, filled stockings, and presents for our pequenos. This year, we are suggesting that $25 will provide a Christmas meal for one pequeno, and that $125 will fill a stocking. We are also encouraging donations towards gifts of board games, art supplies, and sports gear, that can be enjoyed by whole houses of young people.

Any gift, in any amount, is appreciated, and will go a long way. Visit www.fotocan.org/christmas-campaign.html to make this Christmas more wonderful. It is donors like you that make this season merry, and all seasons bright, for otherwise disadvantaged children in nine countries. They thank and wish you a very merry Christmas.

Together on Christmas

Through NPH’s OneFamily program, families such as Glenda’s can stay together on Christmas. Glenda is a single mother working in El Salvador. She has three children: Gitela, Mike, and Muriel. Balancing work and family is a struggle on one’s own, but NPH’s OneFamily program is here to support her! Her children are able to go to school through NPH Scholarship programs. The youngest siblings, Mike and Muriel, go to NPH’s own school, while Gitela, the oldest, goes to a public school on an NPH scholarship.

Christmas traditions in El Salvador include gift exchanges and special dinners with friends and family. A popular dish is “pene con gallo” which is bread and chicken. Glenda and her family don’t share their country’s typical Christmas dinner; they prefer delicious food that they normally get like tacos and barbecue. One year, Gitela learned how to prepare pizza at an NPH bakery workshop, to the family’s enjoyment. The family enjoyed homemade pizza together for Christmas. On Christmas Eve they wake up and clean the house, while Glenda goes to buy little gifts. They eat together and end the festivities with a special prayer accompanied by hugs.

You can keep families together for the holidays by donating to the OneFamily program through www.fotocan.org