

# THE SACRED PORTION CHILDREN'S OUTREACH *A Child Caring Ministry*

Fall 2010

*"And you . . . shall rejoice in all the good which the Lord your God has given you and your household. And you . . . shall say before the Lord your God, I have removed the sacred portion from my house, and have given it to . . . the orphan according to all thy commandments which thou hast commanded me . . . I have listened to the voice of the Lord my God."  
Deuteronomy 26: 11, 12 & 14*

## Our Mission



The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing for the needy children of the world who are without homes or families.

Formerly known in our community as Southwood Child and Family Education Center, the organization was directly involved for 22 years in the development and operation of an early childhood program. In 1997 the organization passed the care and continuation of that program into another's hands and the founders, Craig and Jan Druckenmiller, turned their hearts towards serving a more needy population of the world's children.

The organization, as part of its new mission seeks to assist facilities that care for orphaned and abandoned children in providing healthy, secure environments in which these children can grow and develop as normally as possible.

## The Heroes of Summer of Hope

By Jan Druckenmiller



The Summer of Hope program has always been billed as a fun, summer vacation for older orphans with the underlying goal of introducing them to potential adoptive families. This year, Summer of Hope became more than that. It became about **SAVING LIVES**, in particular, the life of a little girl named Caroline. Caroline is from the Philippines and traveled to the U.S. with her three siblings, Angelo, Jessica and Allan. The children were hosted by the Scheuffele family in Boise, Idaho. Because many of the children who participate in the Summer of Hope program receive minimal medical care in their orphanages, we have made it a practice to include basic medical screenings as part of what happens during their four week stay. This includes a basic physical exam, dental exam, hearing and vision screening. This is where Caroline's story begins.

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The Summer of Hope children in Boise were seen at the Capitol Dental Clinic for their dental exams. This clinic has donated its services each year that Boise has done the summer program, amounting to thousands of dollars of dental work. We have experienced this same level of participation and generosity by the health professionals in each of our Summer of Hope Communities.

Prior to going to the dentist, Caroline's host family knew that there were problems with her teeth. She had been bleeding from the mouth if someone even touched her face and her baby teeth were reduced to sharp points. At the scheduled dental visit, it was determined that both Caroline and Allan needed to be seen by a specialist. A referral was made to Dr. Dan Streeby, a pediatric dentist. After examining Caroline and Allan, Dr. Streeby stated that the children needed to get into the hospital as soon as possible. Caroline's gums were infected to the point where they had become like Jello with her teeth going in all different directions. The infection had actually moved into her jaw bone and become life-threatening. The doctor said that, if not treated, Caroline could be dead in six months as the infection would eventually move up into her brain. Because of the number of teeth needing to be removed, the procedure had to be done in a hospital setting under general anesthesia.

Although we purchase a short term major medical insurance policy for each of the children who come on the Summer of Hope program, the insurance does not cover pre-existing conditions. One of our Summer of Hope volunteers in Boise contacted St. Luke's Regional Medical Center to see if they would donate the cost of the operating room, anesthesia and nursing staff. It took a few phone calls to different people, but the answer came back affirmative! God was at work and the Scheuffele's received a phone call at 9:00 pm saying that surgery was scheduled for the very next day. However, the hospital could only take Caroline. Thirty minutes later, another call came saying they would take both children first thing in the morning!

Upon arriving at the hospital, the children were very scared and did not let Michele, their host mom, out of their sight for one second. Caroline went into the preparatory area first while one of the hospital staff came and played with Allan to help him



understand what was going to be done to him. Caroline ended up having a total of fifteen teeth extracted and Allan had four. The children were sent home with pain meds to take as needed. By the second day, Caroline did not want to take the meds. She took her hands and patted her face saying, "No hurt! No hurt!" The chronic pain that she had been living was gone and she felt the difference!

No sooner had Caroline and Allan recovered from their surgery, then Jessica, their older sister, developed a problem with her neck. Once again, St. Luke's donated their services in performing a CT scan. Fortunately, the CT scan was normal and Jessica eventually began feeling better. St. Luke's corporate values are noted by the acronym "I CARE", which stands for "Integrity, Compassion, Accountability, Respect, and Excellence" which they showed throughout the entire process of treating these urgent medical needs. We salute St. Luke's Regional Medical Center, Capitol Dental, and Dr. Streeby for being **MEDICAL HEROES** of Summer of Hope 2010 and acting to save Caroline's life.

Another medical hero emerged during the Summer of Hope program - **Dr. James Mack**, endocrinologist at the Billings Clinic in Billings, Montana. A sibling group of three boys, Rael, Weeno and Melrod, were coming to Bozeman, Montana to be hosted by the Schroeder family. Two of the boys are on growth hormones and the orphanage had asked if we might be able to get their



prescription written here so that they didn't have to deal with taking a month's supply of the drug on the airplane. We found a local doctor willing to write the prescription. However, shortly before the children's arrival, we learned that the particular growth hormone that the boys were taking is no longer made in the U.S. At that point, there wasn't time for the orphanage to get the drug on their end and make arrangements with the airline to put it on the plane. I panicked as I knew that it would be very detrimental for the boys to go for more than a few days without the growth hormone, let alone an entire month! Desperate to find a solution, I crossed the

boundaries of privacy and went to the white pages on the internet to see if I could find the home phone number of an endocrinologist I had seen in Billings. I found the number and left a message on his answering machine explaining the dilemma. I really did not expect him to return my phone call. Much to my surprise, he did call me back in a relatively short period of time and the first words out of his mouth were, "I think what you are doing is a great thing and I will help you!" Dr. Mack took time out of his very busy schedule to research a comparable drug, write the prescription and fax it to a local pharmacy in Bozeman. He then proceeded to write up detailed step-by-step instructions for the host family on how to administer the daily injection of the drug. Finding a comparable drug and a doctor to write the prescription was not the only obstacle to be overcome in

this situation. The cost of the growth hormone in the U.S. is extremely expensive - over \$2,000 for one month's supply! We were put in touch with a woman in Minnesota who had adopted siblings from the Children's Shelter of Cebu, the orphanage of Rael, Weeno and Melrod. Several of her children are also on growth hormones so she was eager to help. Barbara got busy contacting people she knew and, within a matter of a few days, had raised the funds to cover the cost of the growth hormone for the boys. We are so grateful for her efforts and for Dr. Mack's help and support.

I had a personal medical appointment with Dr. Mack in September and he was eager to hear how the summer had gone for the boys. I was thrilled to be able to tell him that, not only did they have a great time, but that their host family was going to be adopting them!



# *Thank you for being our Heroes of Summer of Hope 2010!*

**Capitol Dental, P.C.**

**Dr. Dan Streeby, D.D.S./Pediatric Dentistry**

**St. Luke's Regional Medical Center**

**Dr. James Mack, Endocrinologist/Billings Clinic**

**Other Medical Heroes Who Donated Services To  
Our Summer of Hope Children:**

## **BOZEMAN**

**Gallatin Valley Pediatric Dentistry/  
Dr. Joel Sayre**

For closing his clinic for an entire day just to see the Summer of Hope children.

**Eyes On Main/Dr. Jeff Squire**

For providing vision screenings for all of the children and glasses for several of the children.

**Family Practice Associates/Dr. Luke Omohundro, Dr. Tracy Fairbanks, Dr. Cathy Waterman-Grace, & Kristi Lavin, NP**

For providing basic medical exams for the children.

**Big Sky ENT /Dr. Trang Rogers**

For providing hearing screenings for the children.

## **BOISE**

**Treasure Valley Hearing & Balance Clinic/  
Dr. Mel Miller**

For providing hearing screenings for all the children.

**Eyecare Associates/Dr. J.W. Vail**

For providing eye exams for 4 children.

**Treasure Valley Eye Center/Dr. Brandon Crawford, Dr. Bret Williams, Dr. Mark Miller**  
For providing eye exams for 3 children.

**Eye Associates/Dr. Katherine Whitfield**  
For providing eye exams for 3 children.

**Intermountain Eye Center/Dr. Catherine Fethke**  
For providing eye exams for 4 children.

**Shopko Optical/Dr. David Slagowki**  
For providing an eye exam for a child.

**St. Luke's Family Health/Dr. Sam Battaglia, Dr. John Wick, Dr. Terry Ribbens**  
For providing medical exams for 8 children.

**Saltzer Medical Group/Dr. Wendy Seigersma**  
For providing medical exams for 2 children.

**McMillan Medical Center/Dr. Mark Turner**  
For providing medical exams for 2 children.

**Boise Family Medicine Center/Dr. Eric Jacobsen**  
For providing medical exams for 2 children.

**Pediatric Cardiology of Idaho/Dr. Eloisa Walker**  
For providing an echocardiogram for a child.

**Carter Dental/Dr. Elizabeth Carter**  
For providing dental services for 2 children.

*Thank you to all of our other heroes of Summer of Hope 2010 including those who contributed money to bring the children, volunteers who gave of their time and talents to organize the Hope Walk/Run and other fundraising events, businesses that provided services and in-kind donations, the Community Coordinators who worked non-stop around the clock, and the host families who opened their hearts and homes to the children.*

*You made a difference!*



# Rehoboth's Special Children

We would like to introduce you to some special little people residing at the Rehoboth Children's Home. Nikki, Joshua, John Levy, Noelito and Jomar are all children that have some varying type and degree of special need. Having been abandoned or relinquished by their birth parents, an alternative plan must be made for these children's futures. As with all of the children at Rehoboth, the social workers have been working diligently to complete the necessary paperwork to clear our special needs children for adoption. This process has been completed for Nikki, Joshua and John Levy who are now legally available for adoption and included in the Intercountry Adoption Board's "special home finding" list. Noelito's paperwork is close to being finished. It is our hope and prayer that a family will be forthcoming for each of these children that is willing and able to take on their special needs. Our concern with these children continuing to reside at the Rehoboth Children's Home is that they are not receiving the special services that they need in order to grow and develop to their fullest potential. Rehoboth is located in a remote area, several hour's drive one way to Manila. To transport these children daily or even several times a week to Manila for physical, occupational and speech therapy is not possible given the resources that would be required in staff time, fuel, and the cost of the services. Educational facilities that can adequately meet their learning needs are also non-existent in the area of Sampaloc. At this point in time, Rehoboth is not a large enough facility to be able to hire it's own in-house professionals to provide special services to the children. A family that can provide not only love and nurture but access to appropriate therapy and educational services is what each of the children truly needs.

## Nikki



Nikki was admitted to the Rehoboth Children's Home at one year of age. She is now three years old. Nikki has been diagnosed with global developmental delays but has been progressing nicely. She

can climb, jump from a chair to the floor and runs eagerly to the door when it is time to go outside. She draws with chalk, paints, manipulates stickers and can cut with scissors. She eats independently using a spoon and is potty trained. Nikki sings and follows along with the motions of simple action songs and likes to be included with the older children in devotion time. She is kind to the younger children at Rehoboth and will, for example, pat a child's back when they are crying. Nikki can call all of the caregivers by name, speaks two to three word phrases and can ask and answer "what" questions. She can also follow simple instructions.

## Joshua



Joshua was admitted to the Rehoboth Children's Home at the age of two months. He is now three years old. Joshua has been diagnosed with global developmental delays and exhibits autistic

# Rehoboth's Special Children

characteristics. Joshua has little to no language. He is being trained to use the Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS) in which he presents a picture card to his caregiver showing what it is that he wants such as a drink of water or a certain toy. This will give Joshua some means of communication and hopefully decrease his frustration level. Joshua is a strong boy who is physically active. He loves the butterfly spring toy in the play yard and throws his body back and forth to get it moving. Joshua paints and can manipulate small stickers during craft time. He eats independently with a spoon and fork and is potty trained. Joshua is social and friendly, greeting everyone with a big smile, hugs and kisses. Joshua interacts with the other children when they are playing outside but prefers solitary activities inside the house.

## John Levy

John Levy was admitted to the Rehoboth Children's Home at two years of age. He is now six years old. John Levy has a speech disorder/delay. He is very much in need of speech therapy but has been progressing well in all other areas of development. He runs confidently in racing competitions with the other children. He uses pencils and crayons with ease but has a little difficulty cutting with



scissors. John Levy tends to his own personal care needs with some supervision. He is friendly to all and greets everyone with a charming "hello." He is polite to adults and comfortable speaking with visitors at the orphanage. He is a sweet boy who always has a kind word to share to others.

## Noelito

Noelito was admitted to the Rehoboth Children's Home at three years of age. He is now 6 years old. A hearing test conducted in May showed Noelito to have a severe hearing loss in both ears. He needs to be fitted for hearing aids but impacted wax and dirt in his ear had to be removed first. Because of the small opening in Noelito's ear canal, this needed to be done under anesthesia in the hospital. The **Rotary Club of Bozeman, Montana** donated

the cost of the hospital procedure and is also providing the hearing aids. Noelito's development of speech has been affected by his hearing loss and his child sponsor is graciously covering the cost of speech therapy. We are very grateful for this assistance. Aside from his hearing loss, Noelito is a healthy boy who is growing and developing normally. He is coordinated in physical activities and enjoys drawing, coloring and cutting with scissors. He loves to build block towers as high as possible. He is able to take care of his personal hygiene with some supervision. Noelito is a very friendly and social child. He shows his sweetness to his caregivers with lots of hugs and smiles. He attends the Rehoboth Early Learning Center and is able to identify colors, shapes, letters and numbers. He can also write his name clearly.



# Jomar



Jomar, approximately five years old, was recently admitted to the Rehoboth Children's Home. He was left by his mother at a neighbor's front door at 3:00 in the morning. They heard the boy crying and found him with a plastic bag in his hands containing a pair of clothes and a short letter. The mother wrote, "To all my neighbors, I am leaving my son. I cannot take him with me as I do not know where to go. For now, I am not planning to come back to get him...my son is yours now." The circumstances were reported to the local Department of Social Welfare and Development and the Rehoboth Children's Home was then contacted. Jomar seems normal aside from the large mass on his face. Professional help is being sought to determine his condition and what can be

done to remove the mass. The first step is a CT scan which will cost between \$300 to \$350. At this point in the year, our budget for Rehoboth is close to being expended and we do not have extra funds for the tests that will be needed for a



medical diagnosis of Jomar's condition. Thankfully, several adoptive moms of Rehoboth children who have gone to Australia raised the funds for Jomar's CT scan. Jomar had his CT scan on September 27 and we are waiting for the results. We are so grateful for the way that people step forward when there is an

## expressed need **Being God's Heart for Jomar**

By Jan Druckenmiller

*When Fe, the on-site Administrator of the Rehoboth Children's Home, sent me notification of Jomar's admission to Rehoboth, I must confess that I was taken back by the photos. Here was a child with a very severe looking condition that would no doubt require extensive diagnostic tests and multiple surgical procedures to return his face to normal. Already having four special needs children at Rehoboth and knowing our budget constraints, I was concerned about having added this fifth special child. But then I had to ask myself the question, "What would I have done if I had been there? Would I have turned Jomar away for money reasons?" No, I would not have been able to do that just as Fe was not able to refuse the management of Jomar's case. Jomar, a child abandoned in the middle of the night, needed someone to come to his rescue. He needed to be rescued not only in terms of providing shelter but in finding the resources and means to remedy his medical condition. This is God's heart for the orphan and these are the children we must serve regardless of how much money is in our budget. We look forward in anticipation of what God will do and know that we will all be blessed by His amazing faithfulness and provision for Jomar.*

### SPONSORS NEEDED

Jomar is one of a number of new children who have come into the Rehoboth Children's Home recently. We are in need of sponsors for these children. If you would like to become a child sponsor, please go to our web site at [www.sacredportion.org](http://www.sacredportion.org). You can download the **CHILD SPONSORSHIP FORM** and mail it to us. We will assign a child to you and provide you with periodic progress reports and photos.

## *Mark Your Calendar!*

# 'Twas the NIGHT BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Main Street Dance Theatre and the Bozeman Lion's Club will once again be presenting a delightful Christmas production for your enjoyment. The net profits from this production will be donated to The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach and be used in the Philippines at the Rehoboth Children's Home to expand their facilities. The three-phase expansion project includes a Medical Clinic, Baby Home, Administrative Building, Commercial Shopping area, Sustainable Agriculture, Staff and Respite Housing and Educational facilities. You can help us by planning to attend this performance knowing that your admission fee will be going to a worthy cause.

## Two Performances Saturday, December 18 2:00 and 6:30 PM Willson Auditorium

General Admission

Before Show: \$15 Adults, \$7 Children 4-12, ages 3 and under FREE

Day of Show: \$17 Adults, \$9 Children 4-12

Tickets Available at:

Main Street Dance Theatre & Borders

### **Short Term Mission Opportunity Construction Manager Needed for Overseas Building Project**

We are anticipating that the December "Twas the Night Before Christmas" production will give us the remaining funds that we need to complete the match for the grant from the Lion's Club International Foundation for the Medical Clinic. We would like to begin construction this coming January. A **Construction Manager** will be needed to oversee the project for a period of four to six months. Responsibilities would include soliciting bids, ordering and purchasing materials, and supervising a crew of local Filipino laborers. Construction engineering experience would be required for this position, particularly a working knowledge of cinder block construction. Ability to adjust to another culture and work effectively with the local people would also be very important. This person would need to raise their own support for travel and their living expenses. Housing for a family is available on-site with meals and laundry provided. This is a wonderful opportunity to do more than just build a building. It is an opportunity to serve where God is at work in a small corner of the world, to bless others, to build your character and grow your faith in ways that you never imagined. If interested, contact Craig Druckenmiller at (406) 586-5773 for more information. We can also put you in touch with Josh McKenzie who took his family to the Philippines in 2008 to be the Construction Manager for the building of the security wall. Josh would be happy to share about his experience as Construction Manager and his family's stay at the Rehoboth Children's Home.

# Summer of Hope for Orphans



## Outcome of Summer of Hope 2010

The Summer of Hope program was conducted in Bozeman, Montana and Boise, Idaho this year. Twenty-seven children, ages 4 to 14, participated with 12 children hosted in Bozeman and 15 children hosted in Boise. Fifteen of the children were from the Philippines and twelve were from Colombia. This was our first year to bring children from Colombia under the auspices of The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach - a result of working for several years to gain approval from the Colombia government. Seventeen families went through the preparation process to either host or serve as back-up families. Each community held a Hope Walk/Run to raise the funds to cover the airfare of the children and their escorts, passports, visas, medical insurance and other expenses associated with carrying out the summer program. The children from Colombia arrived on June 29 and the children from the Philippines arrived on July 11. The children had a great time during their four week stay. They were exposed to many new ideas and experiences and had lots of fun participating in all of the activities that were provided for them. We are pleased to announce that many of the children have families moving forward with adoption. We are advocating for families for the remaining children. The Summer of Hope program continues to be a successful strategy for finding adoptive families for children who are considered hard to place because they are older or are part of a sibling group. We are grateful to the families who opened their hearts and homes to host and to give these children a wonderful vacation in another country and culture. We are also in awe of the families who, in faith, are stepping out to make these children a permanent part of their family. They are aware of the challenges that lie ahead but are responding to God's call to care for the orphan.

# *The Working of a Miracle!*



Brent and Tonda Schroeder of Belgrade, MT hosted Rael, age 15, Weeno, age 14, and Melrod, age 12 from the Philippines. The Schroeders are looking forward to becoming an instant family of five! In making the adoption decision, there was a challenge facing the Schroeders that was going to require the working of a miracle. They knew that Rael would be turning 16 on October 5 and "aging out" which means that, according to U.S. immigration laws, he would no longer be adoptable. Previously, the immigration laws allowed a child to still be adopted if the child had younger siblings. With the implementation of the Hague Convention in 2008, that law was changed to where a child can no longer be adopted at

the age of 16, regardless of whether there are younger siblings. Thus, orphanages are now faced with the difficult decision of either keeping siblings together, in which case none of the children will get adopted, or splitting up sibling groups. There is legislation currently in the works to change the law back to the way it used to be. The bill has passed the Senate and is now in committee in the House of Representatives. Not wanting to bank on this legislation passing, we put the Schroeders on a fast track to get their paperwork done. Their home study and dossier were sent to the Philippines on September 17, only a month after the end of the summer program! The Intercountry Adoption Board was given a heads-up regarding the urgency of this case. The Schroeder's application was reviewed by ICAB on September 30 and official approval given for their adoption of the boys, four days before Rael's birthday! Credit goes to Lynne Hooper, our social worker, and Brent and Tonda Schroeder for blasting through this process at record-breaking speed. To God be the glory for going before them and making the way smooth to secure this approval in the nick of time.



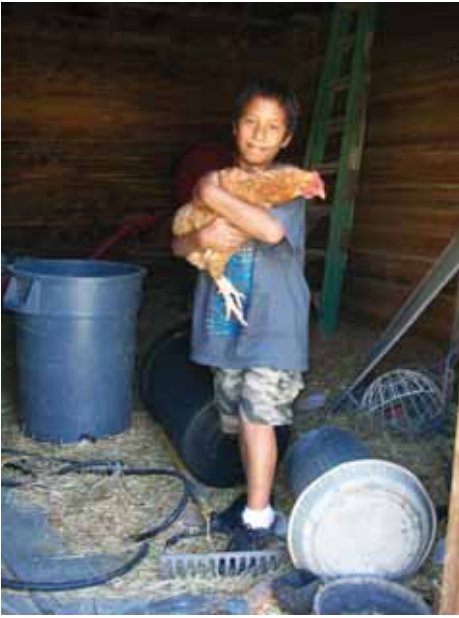
The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach is a licensed child placing agency with the State of Montana. We are able to do home studies for families adopting both domestically and internationally. We have a licensed social worker with whom we contract for the home studies. Please feel free to call us if you are in need of a home study. We will provide you with a home study packet and information on cost. We are happy to serve you in this capacity. Call us at (406) 586-5773 or e-mail [info@sacredportion.org](mailto:info@sacredportion.org).

Summer of  
  
*Hope*  
for Orphans



*Painting T-Shirts*





*Gymnastics!*

*Hiking!*



# *Picnics and Potlucks!*



*Families visiting & sharing about their hosting experiences!*



*Adobo Festival hosted by the Filipino-American community in Boise, Idaho*





*Hellos and Goodbyes!*



# Host Families & Kids!

The host families that participate in the Summer of Hope program go through 15 hours of pre-hosting training that prepares them for their hosting experience. They are helped to understand cultural differences and to develop realistic expectations for the children they will be hosting. Each host family's experience is different and comes with a range of ups and downs, endearing moments and exhausting challenges. Some families feel confident at the end of the summer program in making a decision to move forward with adoption. Other families are more uncertain and take some time to reach an adoption decision. Then, there are families that, after getting to know a child, recognize they are not the right fit for that child. The Summer of Hope program welcomes and encourages other people to meet the children while they are here. Sometimes, one of these "visiting" families ends up being the family to adopt a child. This exposure to potential adoptive families is especially important for children who are in advocate homes where we know the host family does not have intentions to adopt. Regardless of whether a family hosted or not, all families wishing to move forward with the adoption of a child must be approved as an adoptive family through an extensive home study process. The home study process not only assesses the family's capability to parent an adopted child, but also helps the family assess themselves in terms of their resources, energy, parenting skills and other important factors.



The Carroll family of Bozeman, MT hosted a brother/sister pair from Colombia - Luz, age 13, and Marcos, age 10.



Ivan, age 7, from the Philippines was hosted by Paul and Denise Thomas of Manhattan, MT.

Paul and Becky Lamb of Belgrade, MT hosted Erika, age 11, from Colombia.



The Jardstroms of Bozeman, MT hosted Clarize, age 13, from the Philippines.

The Evanson family of Belgrade, MT hosted Stiven, age 11, from Colombia.



# Host Families & Kids!



Terry and Michele Scheuffele of Meridian, ID hosted a sibling group of four from the Philippines - Angelo, age 11, Jessica, age 9, Caroline, age 7, and Allan, age 4.



The Stern family of Boise, ID hosted Aura, age 11, from Colombia.



Daniel and Clemencia Herdegen of Boise, ID hosted Jefferson, age 11, and Steven, age 7, from Colombia.

Eric and Belinda Jacobsen of Eagle, ID hosted a brother/sister pair from the Philippines - Arjate, age 13, and Kya, age 12.



Monna Nichols of Star, ID hosted Maria, age 14, from Colombia.



Liz, age 11, from Colombia was hosted by the Conner family of Meridian, ID.

# Advocate Families & Visiting Families!



Erik, age 11, was hosted by Jeremy and Patty Lucas, an advocate family in Boise, ID. Another family learned of Eric and is starting the home study process to adopt him.



Jaycob, age 10, and John Loyd (JC), age 9, are two very spirited little guys from the Philippines who immensely enjoyed their Summer of Hope vacation in Boise, ID. They were hosted by the Cutlers, an advocate family. During their stay, the boys were able to spend time with Lee and Lea Cotton, a "visiting" family.



The Cutler family of Boise, ID hosted Jaycob and John Loyd (JC), but also had the pleasure of getting to know Michael and spending some time with him.



Michael and Trinity Jones of Meridian, ID hosted Michael, age 13, from the Philippines as an advocate family.

The Heaton family of Belgrade, MT hosted Kelly, age 11, and Ana, age 9, from Colombia as an advocate family.



Ingrid, age 12, from Colombia was hosted by the Triemstras of Bozeman, MT, an advocate family.



# *Children in Need of Families*



**Luz and Marcos from Colombia**

This sibling pair did well with their host family. Luz, age 13, is a quiet, reflective girl who opens up and shows her great sense of humor once she feels comfortable with other people. Marcos, age 10, is an active boy with a positive disposition. The host family of Luz and Marcos feels that they need to be in a family that can give an unlimited amount of time and attention to show this brother and sister how precious they are and that relationships are the basis of our existence. They have endured so much and have learned to survive and cope, but not how to live a hopeful and joyous life. They would benefit from being the youngest children in the family so they do not have to compete for attention. Luz and Marcos yearn to be part of something great, something loving, something like a family.

Ingrid, age 12, is a very outgoing and assertive girl. Her host family had a lot of fun with her. She interacted well with the host family's four older daughters and was very talkative. She willingly participated in everything that the family did. Ingrid likes physical activities such as sports, swimming and bicycling and would do well in an active family. She is a tease and has a tendency to flirt with boys. Her host family feels that she will need good Christian guidance in that area to keep her out of trouble in the future. Ingrid has an older sister who also participated in the summer program. Her sister has expressed that she does not want to be adopted. Colombia does separate siblings when deemed appropriate and will allow Ingrid to be adopted apart from her sister.



**Clarize from the Philippines**

The host family of Clarize, age 13, thoroughly enjoyed her stay with them. She was reserved at first, especially around the host father and son, but opened up over time. Clarize, age 13, has a happy and playful disposition and likes to tease and joke. She prefers physical activities such as riding bikes and swimming. She likes being around children her age and her host family feels that she would do well in a family where she is not the oldest child. Clarize has a strong Catholic faith and, although not a requirement, it would be a benefit to her to be adopted by a Catholic family.



**Ingrid from Colombia**

***Help us advocate for these children by telling people you know who might have an interest in adoption!***

# Children in Need of Families



**Kelly Johanna and Ana Maria  
from Colombia**

Kelly Johanna, age 11, and Ana Maria, age 9, are two very delightful children. Kelly is a fun girl who understands that there are rules to be followed and does her best to follow them. She often feels responsible for keeping her younger sister in line, but does so in a gentle way. She related well with each member of her host family, was kind and helpful. Ana had more of a tendency to test the limits in the host family's home and to scream and pout when she didn't get her way. She frequently wanted to be the center of attention and would become increasingly loud until properly recognized. Ana liked to help out in the kitchen including sweeping the floors. Both girls are very active and enjoyed riding bikes, swimming and riding horses during their stay with their host family.



**Jefferson and Steven from Colombia**

Jefferson, age 11, and Steven, age 7, would do great in an American home. They genuinely care for one another and get along well together. Jefferson models good behavior for Steven. Steven can be challenging at times, but does respond to firm discipline. Both boys are caring individuals and are very good around younger children. The boys seem to be open to new experiences and make friends easily.



**Ivan from the Philippines**

Ivan, age 7, is a curious little guy who is intrigued by the world around him. He loves to be the center of attention and make people laugh. He was well behaved in his host family's home most of the time, but could be somewhat demanding and had a tendency to shut down when he didn't get his way. His host family described him as a sweet child with lots of potential.

**The host families of these children will be happy to share additional information about their hosting experience and can give insight into the children's personalities and temperaments. If you know someone who has an interest in adoption, please tell them about these children. We can provide information about the adoption processes in the Philippines and Colombia. Our HOPE is that each of these precious children will find a family. Please contact Jan at (406) 586-5773.**

# *Walking Humbly*

*By Lisa Qualls*

Recently, a friend and I leaned against my kitchen counter, watching our children play in the backyard. As we sipped coffee, we chatted about a young couple in our church that is in the process of adopting two children. We reminisced about the time when we were in their shoes, recalling how little we truly knew and understood about the road that lay ahead. My friend and I agreed - we wished we could share all we have learned since that time about adopting children from "hard places." We wished that someone had done the same for us. As we talked, I realized that much of what we have learned along the way might be helpful to more than just this couple. They are good lessons and timely reminders for all of us who are on the adoption journey, no matter how far along.

I would encourage my friends *to give up their pride and their desire to compare*. I thought I was a fairly humble person, but adopting my children has brought me to my knees when it comes to thinking highly of myself and my capabilities as a mother. My oldest daughter was a hard baby and a challenging toddler, but once I got on the 'Christian Mommy Discipline Train', she shaped up pretty well. That doesn't mean I never had a child misbehave or throw a tantrum in public. I won't even mention the time that four-year-old Noah pulled the fire alarm at church and the congregation had to evacuate the building. There were embarrassing moments to be sure. But this...this kind of parenting brings a different sort of humility.

In my first 20 years of being a mother, before adopting, I was never so stumped or so completely empty of wisdom as I have been at times in trying to be a good parent to the children we have welcomed into our lives through adoption. I never read so many books, pored over so many websites, or called so many experts in search of help. I never took my child to a therapist or felt that I might need one myself. I never called my husband home from work because a child was so distressed or out-of-control that I couldn't keep everyone safe - not just once, but many times. And as someone who was a passionate homeschooler, I never had to seek out alternatives to homeschooling because it wasn't working. I never thought about acronyms such as IEP, RAD, or PTSD. I never sent an email to my friends telling them I couldn't manage the summer on my own, and asking if they would be willing to help. Based on my years of experience as a successful parent, I thought I had it all figured out, only to find that as we began the adoption journey I was, in many ways, completely starting over.

But I quickly learned that there were many other things I did not know from my previous years as a mother. I didn't know the indescribable joy of watching a child fall in love with me. I didn't know the beauty of holding a child in my arms and fiercely loving her even though I had only met her weeks before. I didn't know the agony of waiting for a child who was 8,000 miles away, or seeing her turn her face to me for the first time and come into my arms. I didn't know the hope I would feel when I saw sad and tender tears on my child's face for the first time, after months of anger and frustration. I didn't know how incredible it would feel to hear my child say, "I love you, Mommy. You are the best Mom!" when I knew this was truly a revelation to her.

To those who are considering adopting a child from a "hard place" as well as those who are already traveling this journey toward healing, I say: *be ready to lay down your pride and abandon yourself to love*. It will be different than you think - better in some ways and much harder in others. Find a few people you can trust, friends you can call at any hour, friends who will understand and love your children even when they seem unlovable. Don't pressure your child to become like your other children who have been raised with loving guidance and discipline since birth. *And do not, under any circumstances, compare your newly adopted child with your friends' children*. Rather, give your child time and permission to heal, and become a committed and active participant in that healing. It won't be easy nor is it likely to come quickly. This healing will take a great deal of your time, energy and finances...but give it all away for your child's sake.

I have come to learn that it is precisely this kind of adoption journey - a journey of humility, selflessness and sacrificial love - that God called us to when he called us to adopt. I suppose Eby's vacation bible school verse says it best:

*He has shown you, O man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you? But to do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with your God - Michah 6:8*

**Lisa Qualls writes about her life and family on her blog, *A Bushel and a Peck*: [www.onethankfulmom.com](http://www.onethankfulmom.com)**

## Focus Groups Met in October to Discuss Adoption Respite Care Network

Anna Graham, a friend of The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach, is exploring the idea of forming an **Adoption Respite Care Network** in Bozeman, MT, **with the goal being to promote family wellness through respite care support to adoptive families.** To get the discussion started, she hosted two Focus Groups in October, for brainstorming and information gathering purposes.

The first Focus Group met on October 4 and was geared towards hearing from families who may be (or have been) in need of respite, whether in crisis or just needing a short-term break to rest and re-group. This was an idea gathering session on what families would reasonably need/want/expect from a future respite program.

The second Focus Group met on October 18 and was geared for discussion with potential respite care providers - persons who would be in a position to reach out and help others who may be struggling in some way with their adopted children. Ideas were sought on what a respite care provider could reasonably offer adoptive families and what would be needed in terms of respite care education, training and support.

The Adoption Respite Care Network is a work in progress and Anna is still welcoming ideas and input. If you are an adoptive family that has been in need of respite care at some point and have some thoughts to share, please don't hesitate to contact Anna with your ideas. If you are someone interested in providing respite care to adoptive families, Anna would love to hear from you.

As information is processed from these first two Focus Groups, future meetings will be scheduled to begin working on a specific plan and design for the **Adoption Respite Care Network.**

Anna's contact information is below:

Phone: (406) 587-6115

E-mail: [annagraham@bresnan.net](mailto:annagraham@bresnan.net)

## **TOGETHER IN PARENTING** **Post Adoption Prayer and Support Group**

**Last Thursday of Every Month**

**Evangelical Free Church Classroom #102**

**6:00 PM - Informal Sharing and Prayer Time**

**7:00 TO 8:30 PM - Parenting Session with Kate-Cremer Vogel, MS, LCPC**

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## Summer of Hope

There is not room enough in this newsletter to acknowledge the **hundreds** of people who donated to the Hope Walk/Run in both Bozeman, MT and Boise, ID. We are so very grateful to all of you for supporting this cause!

**We express our thanks to those donors who have chosen to remain anonymous.**

*Support for our General Fund is a need that is looming large for us for 2011. Please consider becoming a "constant" - someone whose regular monthly contribution added to those of others will provide the sustainability we need as a ministry to carry us into the future.*



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*Twenty-seven children from the Philippines and  
Colombia participated in Summer of Hope 2010  
in Bozeman, Mt and Boise, I.D.  
See inside for details and great photos!*

### *Inside This Issue:*

**THE HEROES OF  
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**POST ADOPTION  
RESPITE CARE NETWORK**

