

THE SACRED PORTION CHILDREN'S OUTREACH

A Child Caring Ministry

*"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.

Blanketing the World with God's Love

An image of a five year old boy clutching a sock doll peers from the cover of a relief organization's publication. Pictured is one of the many children in Rwanda who, along with his four siblings, are struggling to survive on their own. An estimated 65,000 child-headed households (involving 300,000 children) are a result of the massive massacre and genocide of 1994. These are households being "run" by mere children, who often own no material possessions beyond the clothes on their backs and yet must find a way to obtain food, shelter and other basic necessities for themselves and their younger siblings every day.

In reading the coinciding article inside the publication, Rebecca Ruefer, SPCO's newest board member, was particularly struck by another photo showing this child and his siblings squatting on a dirt floor of their hut without even a blanket to sit on or wrap around themselves. She began to contemplate the possibility of providing blankets for children such as those in Rwanda, who have so little.

Discovering a ready source of fabric was the impetus to launch a project called "Blanketing the World with God's Love." Through this project, Rebecca envisioned a blanket not only providing warmth

and comfort, but bringing a message of hope. Each blanket would be embellished with a scripture verse and message conveying to the recipient that they have not been forgotten by God, that He sees and knows of their plight, and through His love gave His life for them. The message would also convey that someone across the world cares and is praying for them.

Rebecca envisioned that "someone" being children from our own community and surrounding area. Thus, a secondary mission was added to the project - to help our children see how blessed we are and impress upon them the responsibility we have to reach out to the less fortunate. This would be accomplished by giving them an opportunity to tangibly help.

The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach has obtained, through corporate donations, approximately 1,000 yards of fabric for this project, ranging from heavy wools to cotton flannels. We have a local sewing business willing to cut this fabric into blankets and finish the edges. We would now like to engage various children's groups (classrooms, Scout troops, Sunday School classes, etc.) to assist

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us in decorating the blankets with a personal touch and preparing them

Blanket Project

for shipment. Once a child finishes a blanket, they will keep some type of record of the blanket, either by noting the information in a journal or taking a photo of it. Although they may never know the actual recipient of the blanket, the child will be encouraged to regularly pray for that person.

SPCO will deliver the blankets to groups interested in working on them, pick them up when complete, and arrange for shipment.

Although the idea for the blanket project started with Rwanda, the vision has been extended to destitute children around the globe. Blankets will



be sent with short and long term missionaries, adopting parents, and anyone else going overseas willing to transport an extra parcel to needed child relief efforts (orphanages, children's hospitals, street children's

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ministries, etc.). Currently, we have appropriate contacts in Russia, Ukraine, Romania, China, Kenya, Sudan, Philippines and Nicaragua. Every effort will be made to let the children know to where their particular blankets are shipped and delivered.

If you are interested in considering this project for your school or organization, we would love to talk with you! Please contact The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach at:

**7104 Bristol Lane
Bozeman, MT 59715**
or call Rebecca Ruefer at:
(406) 582-8840
for more information.

*Religion that God our Father accepts as pure
and faultless is this: to look after orphans
and widows in their distress.....
James 1:27*

development and administrative staff write that "sounds of glee and boisterous laughter" can now be heard coming from the play rooms."



The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach has made a commitment to the Children's Shelter of Cebu to continue providing training, technical assistance with the development of the preschool program and financial support for the purchase of additional equipment and materials as needed.



Children of Hope Preschool & Early Learning Project Update

A Portion of Continued Support

This past year the Sacred Portion Children's Outreach has worked closely with The Children's Shelter of Cebu, a residential care facility for children without homes or families in Cebu City, Philippines. SPCO raised funds to equip a preschool program within CSC's new Children of Hope School as well as the play rooms for the infants and toddlers in the Shelter's homes. Jan Druckenmiller and daughter, Kalie, spent the month of March in Cebu during which time Jan helped to get the preschool program up and running. While there, she also conducted some training for the workers who care for

the infants and toddlers. Correspondence from Cebu has



relayed that the preschool program is going well and some delightful photos received show this to be true. The infant/toddler equipment has greatly benefited the children's

In June, 1999, Jan traveled to Minnesota, in the role of preschool representative, to meet with a group of teachers who volunteered their time to generate curriculum ideas for



Preschool Project

the Children of Hope's upcoming school year. Since then, she has been writing curriculum plans which, along with learning materials, are being sent to the Children of Hope Preschool on a quarterly basis.

Jan hopes to return to Cebu in February or March, 2000 to follow up with the preschool and to help develop a program of active learning for the infants and toddlers.

Extra Hands Lend a Portion of Help

On Saturday, September 25, a group of educators and persons interested in young children responded to an invitation to get together to make learning games and materials for the Children of Hope Preschool. Hands were busy cutting, coloring, and gluing and much was accomplished. It was a very relaxing, social time for all who attended. In fact, it was so enjoyable that people volunteered to return the following Saturday to finish things up in preparation for shipment. Watching a slide presentation helped to make a

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connection to the children in Cebu and turned the hours spent into a labor of love. Having people so willing and eager to help and to continue to do so in the future was an



unexpected blessing! We gratefully thank the following people who, through their sacrifice of time, are helping to create an enriched learning environment for the preschool children in Cebu who have so little and need so much:

Ann Knick, Lisa Moellenkamp, Karen Ranta, Tammy Christofferson, Tibusay Himiob-Lipok, Becca Martin, Jeannine Martin, and Linda Heydon.

In addition to helping hands, we are in need of continued financial support for the Children of Hope Preschool and Early Learning Project. We send \$200 to \$300 in books and learning materials to Cebu quarterly and greatly welcome contributions towards this end. Twenty people at \$15 per quarter will allow us to continue to assist CSC in nurturing the development of the children in their care. Please consider becoming a regular supporter of this project.

Christmas in July

Craig, Jan and Kalie Druckenmiller traveled to China in July to adopt the newest member of their family, Sadee Lin Druckenmiller. Sadee is 3 years old and had been in an orphanage in the city of Xi'an, Shaanxi Province, since her abandonment at 18 months of age. Sadee is adjusting well, loves her elder sister, Kalie, (jiejie) and her elder brother, Javan (gege) and is picking up English by leaps and bounds. She is extremely cute, fun and full of personality - truly a precious gift!



SPCO Board of Director Highlights



Linda Heydon has been serving on the SPCO board of directors since March, 1998. She is the proud mother of Tiffany, age 12, who was born in Korea and adopted as an infant. Linda works with the Center for Bilingual/Multicultural Education at Montana State University.



Rebecca Ruefer joined the SPCO Board of Directors in September, 1999. She and her husband, Bruce, have two home grown children: Rachel, age 8, and Sarah, age 6. Their adopted son, Jamie, age 4, is from Russia and Hannah, age 2, is from China. Rebecca has a real heart for the plight of orphans and a great interest in helping other parents experience the blessings of



SPCO Offers Adoption Information and Assistance

While in Guangzhou, China, waiting for visa paperwork to be completed at the U.S. Consulate, we were amazed by the steady stream of adoptive families there. So many, that an entire floor of the hotel where we stayed is reserved just for families and their newly adopted children. Yet, when our local guide informed us that 200,000 baby girls per year are abandoned in China, we realized that 11,000 adoptions annually from that country barely makes a dent in the need. This has prompted us to actively encourage other families to consider adoption and to offer the **Sacred Portion Children's Outreach** as an **Information Service** to persons who may be entertaining this idea. Our board members are all adoptive parents with children from Korea, China, and Russia and we have gained a great deal of knowledge regarding the adoption process through our own experiences. We are not an adoption placing agency but will gladly talk with you, provide you with a listing of adoption agencies, offer our assistance with what can seem like mounds of paperwork, and provide moral support throughout the process.

Unfortunately, the cost of completing an international adoption can be prohibitive for some families who would otherwise dearly love to take a child into their home. We do not wish to see finances stand in the way of a child finding a "forever family" and therefore are looking at establishing a **Scholarship Fund** to provide financial assistance with adoptions. The fund would be administered through the Sacred Portion's non-profit structure with an objective and confidential process for selecting recipients. To get the fund up and running, we are seeking individuals, businesses and corporations who would like to provide their "sacred portion" by making a tax-deductible contribution to this fund. For more information about the adoption assistance fund, contact us at **(406) 586-5773**.

A Needed Portion Sent to China

During the process of adopting our daughter in China, we had the good fortune to visit inside her orphanage, which is not typically allowed by the Chinese government. A family with whom we traveled received their daughter from a "sister" orphanage in the same province. Through our communications with the staff of both orphanages, we were informed of some of their needs. Upon returning home, a donor's gift was used by the Sacred Portion to purchase crib mobiles and crib toys for infant stimulation. Our companion family, through the help of a pediatrician, was able to secure a case of special bottle nipples for babies with cleft palates. These items, along with smoke detectors, were sent via a group of adoptive families traveling to China at the end of September. We are confident that what has been sent will reach it's destination and glad that we were able to help in this way. There is so much we can do if we are aware of the need and God seems to provide the avenues for reaching out around the globe.



FINANCIAL CONTRIBUTORS

(gifts received since 4/99)

Libby Hancock Mack

Naomi & Willard Hahn

Steve & Christie Schlumbohm

Cliff & Becky Cronkleton

Bruce & Betha Pierson

Bruce & Joan Meyer

F.W. & Ann Reading

Bridger Biomed, Inc.

One Anonymous Donor

DISCOUNTS RECEIVED

Toys 'R' Us

Discount School Supply

Thank you for caring for the needy children of the world!



Name _____ Address _____ Phone _____

FINANCIAL SUPPORT

I would like to support this ministry in the amount of \$ _____

monthly quarterly annually

general special projects adoption assistance fund

OTHER NEEDS

- I am interested in serving on the Board of Directors of SPCO. *
- I would like to help make teaching materials or with other hands-on tasks.
- I will commit to praying for this ministry.

* The **Sacred Portion Children's Outreach** is seeking to expand its Board of Directors. This commitment involves attending a two hour meeting approximately every two to three months and some possible time on special projects. If you have a heart for orphans, an interest in adoption issues, or an area of expertise such as grant writing or fund raising, please consider this opportunity to serve. For more information call **586-5773**.

Please return to:
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Bozeman, MT 59715



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SPCO
Board of
Directors

Craig Druckenmiller, Jan Druckenmiller, Linda Heydon, Rebecca Ruefer



Dear Friends,

The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach is a fledgling ministry, yet we marvel at what was accomplished and the doors of opportunity that opened in the year gone by. As we approach the end of the century and move forward into a new millenium, we are excited and eager to see what God has in store for the work we have begun. It is our mission and desire to reach out to the needy children of the world in whatever capacity we can serve.

We will meet the basic survival needs of children by providing blankets for warmth and comfort. We will nurture the development of children who are in institutionalized care by providing stimulating environments for their growth and learning. We will help more children to be placed in permanent homes with loving families by providing information and financial assistance for adoption. Hopefully, we will do beyond what we even thought possible.

Our hearts and minds are open, desiring for God to mold this ministry into whatever He would have it to be. And so, we move forward into the year 2000 in faith, trusting Him to direct our steps and to provide the financial support for whatever we set our hands to do.

As a fledgling ministry, we have a great need to build a support base for the future work that God places before us. If the focus of this ministry has interested you or tugged at your heart, we would ask you to consider making a contribution during this coming season of giving. We would further ask you to consider becoming a regular supporter of this ministry on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis. If you are unable to give financially, then perhaps you will consider hands-on work related to our special projects.

On the back of this newletter is a form to indicate in what way you wish to be involved in giving your "sacred portion" to the needy children of the world. Thank you so much!

Sincerely,

*Craig Druckenmiller
President
The Sacred Portion Children's Outreach*