
Epiphany Outreach News

May 2009

Spring Focus on World Poverty

Our focus this spring was on world poverty. During Lent we educated the Sunday school children about El Hogar which dovetailed nicely into a Women of Epiphany mission trip to the Honduran orphanage. We also initiated a microlending group where we are researching ways to offer small loans to entrepreneurs working to pull themselves out of poverty. We learned from Canon Samir Habiby about what life in the holy land means and we continue to offer much needed support to the clinic at Ekuvukeni in South Africa. We have outlined some dates below of upcoming events this Spring/Summer and as always, we welcome your support in any way you can participate.

Save These Dates*

May 30, June 20	<i>Dates to volunteer at Germaine Lawrence to spend 1-2 hours with the girls sharing a craft or skill</i>
Tuesday May 12, 6:00 pm in Hadley Hall	<i>Women of Epiphany present "Women and the Experience of El Hogar"</i>
Mid-May meeting TBD	<i>Microlending Meeting to discuss who the outreach committee will loan to</i>
July 13-16	<i>St Luke's BSAFE summer camp program</i>
July 27-31	<i>St Stephens BSAFE summer camp program</i>

* Read more about these programs on p. 2 – 4

Sunday School Children Learn About El Hogar

Between March 1 and April 5th the outreach committee in combination with children's ministry focused on the education and support of children at El Hogar, an orphanage in Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The program started with a comprehensive view of El Hogar by Liz Kinchen, director of El Hogar ministries. The children turned their mite boxes into Honduran shacks, chose a cause or an item they wanted to raise money for and they received a booklet with devotions and facts about Honduras they could read each day and share with their families. They heard bible stories about friendship and reaching out to others and made bracelets for the children at El Hogar. They listened to the experiences of an adult or teen who had been to El Hogar talk about A Day in the Life of a Child at El Hogar

and they saw a slideshow about the children at El Hogar presented by the returning women of Epiphany.



Women on the trip were from left to right back row first, Carol Kellogg, Jenny Rynne, Jenny Rappole, Liz Kinchen, Priscilla Burns, Sandra Kinchen, Nancy Nies, Claudia Bell, Betsy Walsh, Molly Joseph, Stephanie Terry, Ginger Barrow, Barbara Foot, Celia Ceruolo and Kate Reynolds with children and staff from El Hogar.

Women of Epiphany Mission Trip to El Hogar March 14-21

For one week in March, fifteen women from the Parish of the Epiphany traveled to Tegucigalpa, Honduras to work at El Hogar, an orphanage where 107 elementary aged children, 92 boys and 15 girls live and attend school. There are over 250 children total in the 3 schools as part of El Hogar ministries. El Hogar is an oasis in a country locked in a cycle of desperate poverty and hopelessness. At El Hogar the children receive a high quality education, and a technical trade, which makes them employable in their country. They learn love, respect, and a sense of their own ability to break this cycle of poverty and despair, not just for themselves, but for their families, communities and country. Through a program of sponsorship that encourages personal relationships with the children, they learn the powerful effect of compassion and the spirit of caring and generosity. They are transformed, not only by the food and shelter they receive, but by being witness to this kind of love and human kindness. Coming from backgrounds that do not always offer hope and kindness, these children are deeply moved by the true compassion and respect they experience through being part of El Hogar. Knowing that someone cares, builds self-respect, love and hope in these children. To see them and interact with them is to be in the presence of this hope and love; they are not the only ones transformed.



Jenny Rappole and Delma



Betsy Walsh helps tie on friendship bracelets

Work groups arrive at El Hogar to help dig, sand, paint or plant something new for one of the three schools. An important part of the experience is to spend time each day playing with the children which helps build relationships. In the span of one week this group of women heard courageous and eye opening stories about the children, attended their school classes and toured the three campuses. They helped sand, paint and clean the rooms of the new dormitory so the children could move in by the end of the week. They bought native plants to create a garden for the front of the children's new dorm then taught the older children how to maintain it. One of the more moving experiences for the entire group was the home visit to an El Hogar boy, Malvin's, mother's home in the city where she makes tortillas to earn a living to provide for her three children. Viewing her humble home, of just one room, clearly depicted the extreme poverty conditions that millions of people in this world struggle with every day.

They also met with Barbra McCune, a doctor from Brookline, MA who has lived in Honduras for 6 years now. She has helped 9,000 impoverished Honduran patients with low cost medical care since she moved there and treats 15-20 patients each day. You can learn more about her medical mission work by clicking on this link: http://www.elhogar.org/b_mccune.htm

The Parish of the Epiphany has been in close relationship with El Hogar for many years. Epiphany has been sending mission teams to El Hogar for almost ten years – teams of both teens and adults. In addition to over

20 individual sponsors, the parish currently sponsors three young children a boy, Jorge, a girl, Ana and a girl Delma.

On May 12, women from the trip will present a slideshow and speak about: "Women and the Experience of El Hogar" summarizing their experiences there. A Latin American dinner will be served before the presentation. The event will take place from 6:00-8:30 pm at the Parish of the Epiphany in Hadley Hall. You can learn more about El Hogar by visiting: <http://www.elhogar.org>. This special event is open to the public and costs \$10.

The next Epiphany mission trip to El Hogar will be a youth group trip on July 25-August 1st.



Ana, the girl Outreach sponsors, and Kate



Jorge, the boy Outreach sponsors



Mom and Son, Malvin, at home visit

Microlending Initiative

Some members of the outreach committee have formed a subgroup to research potential microlending opportunities with any of these organizations:

- www.kiva.org, www.adelantefoundation.org, www.prismamicrofinance.com, www.onehen.org, www.opportunity.org, www.villagebanking.org, www.accion.org, www.grameenfoundation.org and/or other

organizations in Honduras who could microlend to an El Hogar family. This group will propose opportunities to invest in one or a few small loans and follow it in an effort to help a family and ultimately a community become more self-sustaining and pull themselves out of poverty. If you would like to join this group please contact Kate Reynolds @ kateandjosh@kjreynolds.com.

American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem First Person View of the Holy Land by Jack Roll

Outreach is rooted in our Christian tradition. Each Sunday when we are baptizing infants [and occasionally, youth and adults] we reaffirm that tradition when we repeat “We will” after we have been asked “Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ . . . seek and serve Christ in all persons . . . strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?”

In order for us to fulfill this affirmation, we have to first be informed and then to appreciate the needs of others. Then we can move to action.

In that spirit, on Sunday April 19 we had a special opportunity to see and hear what life in the Holy Land means. We were joined for the Eucharist and for Adult Education by The Rev. Canon Samir Habiby, Special Assistant to Bishop Suheil Dawani, the Anglican Bishop in Jerusalem. Canon Samir spoke of the many good things happening in Jerusalem with Bishop Suheil at the Helm. He also interspersed his presentation with his many personal experiences working in and for the Diocese of Jerusalem.

In addition, Dr. Linda Brown, a member of this congregation, spent two weeks there in February as a medical volunteer, working for the Diocese of Jerusalem. Linda shared her experience with us during this same Adult Education forum. Linda especially spoke of the terrible tragedy of the conflict in Gaza, which was taking place during her stay.

To hear Rev. Habiby’s sermon again, go to the new parish web site <http://www.3crowns.org/> and then navigate to “We Worship” and then to “Sermons”. Also recommended is Churches for Middle East Peace – a coalition of 22 public policy offices of national churches and agencies -- Orthodox, Catholic and Protestant -- seeking to maintain an

on-going dialogue with Congress, the Administration and the diplomatic community, to advance such concerns, assessments, and advocacy positions. You can learn more about them at <http://www.cmep.org/>

And now, the call to action.

That Sunday, April 19, was the third Sunday of April. The Third Sunday offering was directed to The American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. It was a very generous offering and one for which we have received many thanks from AFEDJ.

Locally, you might write your Representative in Congress, your Senator, or the President and the Secretary of State. Let them know how you feel about the conflict, about the injustice and about your concern for a prompt, fair, and equitable settlement. There are suggested form letters available in the office. Or it might be more effective to state your concerns in your own words. Alternatively, go to the CMEP site noted above and use the links there to communicate with Washington.

Ekuvukeni HIV/AIDS Project by Cindy Neels

We heard from Zenith Nkosi that their clinic’s work is going well. She and Clara are retired nurses that run the clinic and sit on the Ekuvukeni board.

1. The HIV/AIDS support group has grown so much (100 members) that they have divided it into two groups. They are cramped for space, since the church veranda where they meet is also used by the Soup Kitchen, so they sit under the tree.
2. Food parcels are given to support group members and to the very ill who are visited by staff.
3. The stove donated by WE is being used to cook meals for the Children’s Feeding Program, which is being run with money donated by Epiphany. They also use it to teach cooking skills and for functions at the church
4. The HIV testing and counseling is ongoing, using test kits they obtain free from the Polyclinic. They were busier than expected over the holidays.
5. Home based care continues to need more supplies, but they are able to get gloves so the caregivers can do their work safely.
6. The builder has been chosen for the addition, and work was scheduled to start after the first of the year.



Home Caregivers in Front of Ekuvukeni Primary Healthcare Center

Books for South Africa

By Helena Champion

This all-volunteer nonprofit collects donated books locally and ships them to poor communities in KwaZulu Natal Province, South Africa.

We seek funds to provide books in Zulu, since early childhood education is in Zulu, the predominant home language. We buy locally produced books, written by South African authors. College education and employment is largely in English.

The Community of Richards Bay eagerly awaits the next container of books we will ship. They will share them with communities nearby in Swaziland and Mozambique.

Volunteers are needed to sort books at the container this summer: Please call Cherie at 617-721-4500 or cherie.arruda@collindecasaubon.com. Winchester Transfer Station, McKay Rd. Hours: Tues & Wed 8-4, Thurs 12 - 8, Fri & Sat 8-4 (closed Sunday & Monday).

Visit the website @: <http://booksforsouthafrica.org/ma> or contact Helena Champion, Director @ (718) 729-2102 booksforsouthafrica@hotmail.com



YLA Project

The YLA or Youth Leadership Academy, is a program where high school students from around the diocese work together to become better leaders in the Episcopal Church. Parishioners Celanie Almquist and Joe Owayda will be traveling on a mission trip to El Salvador in June with this diverse group of accomplished students as part of their outreach experience.

Other Outreach Happenings . . . Germaine Lawrence

by Karina Nolasco

As most of you know, for the last 2 years the relationship between Germaine Lawrence and POE has been strengthening. We have been generous fulfilling some of the girl's wishes at Christmastime through the Advent Giving Tree and we have donated items when GL was the monthly focus and money through the 3rd Sunday Offering.

However, there is a lot more that we can do.....

Germaine Lawrence is a residential treatment facility that serves girls (ranging from 11 – 18 years old) who are struggling to recover from a range of emotional and behavioral problems such as substance abuse, depression, eating disorders, and physical and/or mental abuse. Each year, nearly 200 girls rebuild their lives and leave Germaine Lawrence stronger and healthier, and ready to make positive contributions to the community. It is through the dedication of volunteers like you that many of those girls can learn the importance and value of building healthy relationships and incorporate new tools and skills into their new lives.

Here is where you come in..... we are planning to take a **step forward** and really try to make a **difference** in the girl's lives. We would like to create groups of volunteers who can share their skills and/or craft (such as knitting, sewing, cooking, yoga, dancing, photography and sports) with the girls. Every month, a group of volunteers (4 – 6 adults) will visit GL with an activity already planned. We'll spend 1 – 2 hours, depending on the activity and/or the group of girls (dorm). These visits most likely will happen the last Saturday of each month, in the morning (9am – 11am approx). The dates that we have planned so far are: May 30th, June 20th, and September 26th. We are still waiting from GL to confirm/approve the dates.

In order to become a volunteer you'll need to follow these simple steps:

1. Let us know that you want to become a volunteer (it could be just 1 time or many times)

- Let us know if you have a skill or activity idea that you would like to share with the girls
- Please find the CORI form online. Print and fill out the form and make a copy of your driver's license. Mail the completed CORI form and the copy of D.L. to **Cathy Fulton, Development Office, Germaine Lawrence, Inc., 18 Claremont Ave., Arlington, MA 02476**

(The CORI requires that GL receives the original form back (not a copy) that's why GL HAS TO SEND THE REQUESTS)

If you want to start volunteering right away or if you'd like to think about it, we recommend doing the CORI check now, so when the day comes that you want to jump on board, all the paperwork will be already done. Remember that it takes around 2 weeks, for them, to get the results back. Please let us know if you are having trouble getting the form so we can give it to you in person. So far, we have planned to make the traditional Epiphany Hearts for the first meeting. For the second meeting we would like to have a knitting activity, since we know that the girls at GL LOVE to knit. The problem is that neither of us knows how to knit, so we are counting on one of you (wonderful knitters) to help us by guiding this activity. I forgot to mention that we'll provide all the materials necessary for the activity. As you can see, we are not asking for too much, we are just asking for a little bit of your time.

Thanks in advance for your wonderful support!

Stephanie Terry & Karina Nolasco 729-0006, 721-2816

"Your gift of time and friendship will improve the life of an adolescent girl at Germaine Lawrence.

www.germainelawrence.org

Looking Ahead to Summer . . . St Lukes and St Stephens BSAFE Summer Programs

We will again be sponsoring 2 weeks of BSAFE camp this summer.

- We will be at St. Luke's in Chelsea July 13-16. We will provide lunches for about 60 Monday through Thursday. Another church has offered to do the Friday field trip that week.
- We will be at St. Stephen's in South Boston July 27- 31. We will provide lunches for 150 and 1 big field trip or 2 separate field trips on Friday 7/31. This site actually functions as 2 sites- 60

elementary kids + staff and 60 Middle school kids + staff.

Please join us this summer for one or both weeks. If you can't make it into the city, food donations are always welcome. We'll be in touch soon by email or you can contact Betsy Walsh @ walshhome@mindspring.com.

Summer Reading Corner

We have listed some recommended outreach books for summer reading ideas. Please forward any other "great reads" to us at: kateandjosh@kjreynolds.com

Microlending

Banker to the Poor, Muhammad Yunus
One Hen, (a children's book for 2nd-3rd graders),
Katie Smith Milway

Education, Building Schools,

3 Cups of Tea, Greg Mortenson (3 versions: 1 adult, 1 middle school, and a picture book for elementary aged children)

Leaving Microsoft to Change the World, John Wood

Medical Aid to the Poor

Mountains Beyond Mountains, Tracy Kidder

Homelessness

Glass Castle, Jeannette Walls

Third Sunday Offerings '09

Jan.	Habitat	\$385
Feb.	Ecclesia	\$242
Mar.	El Hogar	\$173
April	Am. Friends of Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem	\$949
May	YLA- El Salvador mission trip	
June	Ekuvukeni	
July/August	BSAFE	