



Rebuilding Children's Lives After Natural Disasters

August 2010

“This trip changed my life!” – Monique Peters

Dear **Happy** Friends,

**Summer is well under way and the Happy Hearts Fund is excited to announce the first ever HHF Vacation With A Purpose!** In June, a very special group of HHF sponsors and staff visited with the precious students and faculty of a number of schools in Peru. Together, we made new friendships and gained a greater awareness of the lives of the children that have been impacted by the generous contributions made to fulfill HHF’s mission.

**Setting out together of an ambitious journey across the Peruvian countryside, the group’s first stop was at the Villa Maria School and Bakery.** Upon entering the school, the group was warmly welcomed by the students as they performed cultural dances and played live music – even inviting us in on the fun with them. **Next on the agenda – a challenge for each person on the HHF team – football against primary school students. We are proud to announce that while we could have easily lost, the game ended in a tie!** What better a way to cap off a game of football than with a stop at the Villa Maria Bakery for a tour of the facility and a taste of the delicious cakes that were prepared by the talented student teams.



*Team HHF playing football against primary school students at the Villa Maria School.*

**Our next stop brought us to the Bernhard Lotterer School for a visit to each of the classrooms and the computer lab.** Students gathered together with the HHF team in the newly built HP computer lab for a special treat – a reading of *Cooper and Me* by Alexa Peters, HHF’s youngest ambassador. Next, a tree planting ceremony, commemorating the

special day as students and HHF team members worked together to plant the small tree in the courtyard.



*Alexa Peters shares her book Cooper and Me with students at the Bernhard Lotterer School.*

The group then spent the afternoon visiting with the staff and students of the Petra Nemcova School. **Following a visit to the classrooms, the school children showed their artistic talent as they created beautiful works of art, painting on river rocks that were later decoratively placed in the award winning gardens on the school grounds.**



*A student at the Petra Nemcova School with his artistic creation.*

**The next morning the group left the bus behind and took a boat ride to the Ballestas Islands, learning how the natural environment area positively impacts the community of Paracas.** Finally, the group made it to the final stop of the four-school tour ... the Francisco Perez Acampa School. Devastated by the impact of the 2007 earthquakes, the school is currently being rebuilt by the generous contributions made

through the HHF supporters. Students gathered in the temporary facility and painted pictures of what the school currently looks like and their dream school.

**Designed to give participants the opportunity to meet the students and faculty of the schools that they support, the HHF Vacation With A Purpose program goes a little deeper.** As the participants work together as a team, they have the opportunity to reflect throughout the trip as they discover simple ways to make a lasting difference in the lives of the children. **“This trip is like no other I have been on,”** stated Kelly McManus. **“I have traveled throughout the world and after each trip, I returned home as the same person I was when I left. But after this trip, I will be returning home as a different person.”** Kelly’s stepson, Connor McKernan, quickly **added “That’s because it’s a vacation with a purpose!”**



*A student from the Francisco Perez Acampa School shares a drawing of her dream school.*

There will be more opportunities in the future for participants to join a Vacation With A Purpose team. Find out how you can be a part of the fun by emailing us at [helpnow@happyheartfund.org](mailto:helpnow@happyheartfund.org).

HHF receives specific donations to underwrite all administrative and fundraising expenses, allowing all public donations to support our programs. HHF is extremely grateful to our corporate partners – Continental Airlines, DLA Piper, HP and ING – for their philanthropic commitment to help build a future for children affected by natural disasters.

With our happy heartfelt wishes,  
Happy Hearts Fund Team

HHF is committed to help accomplish the UN's Millennium Development Goals (MGD's). In the meantime, we would love to hear from you! Let us know if you like our "HAPPY newsletters" and feel that they are informative. If you have any questions or comments on what you would change or programs you want to hear about please email us at [feedback@happyheartfund.org](mailto:feedback@happyheartfund.org). We would be really happy if you connect with us – remember, communication is a two-way street!