

June 1, 2003

## Guatemala Habitat, Livelihood Development and Now Scholarships

LifeNets has provided habitat and livelihood development support to Guatemala for the past three years. We became aware of one of the most asked for needs for improving living conditions: a concrete floor. Consequently we have poured more than 15 of them. In addition, we have alleviated terribly overcrowded living conditions by building on extra rooms in existing homes. Sometimes seven to nine people would live in a single room.



*A new roof for a home in the northern Peten region of Guatemala*

rains every night. Using volunteer labor, we provide materials that normally cost no more than \$400 per household.

As part of our mission statement, we want to help people with the means to make a living. We have helped set up

small grocery stores and shops. For a modest cost we helped Guatemalans build outdoor baking ovens. This has given them independence from poverty by providing a living.

Our most ambitious livelihood development project has been the purchase of four used commercial sewing machines

this month for women who lost their jobs and who now will sew clothing at home to sell. Each machine cost \$650 and will provide a full-time job.

We have added nine Guatemalan students to our popular

Also we have repaired leaky roofs in a country where during the rainy season it

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*Developing Nations Scholarship Program.* We believe that one of the best investments we can make with young people is to train them for a profession or vocation in a country that has an astronomical unemployment rate. In Central America we can send young people to universities for less than \$500 a year on average. Our aid to Guatemala was \$5046 in 2002 and the budget for 2003 is \$7235.

## Rare Visit to Chernobyl and Special Center for Children

Seven people from Central Indiana traveled on a LifeNets mission to the Chernobyl region of Ukraine from January 12-19th. They were able to become acquainted with the "Revival" Center of Rehabilitation for Disabled Children that we have had a big part in establishing and maintaining since 1995. Those going were Tom Peine, Debbie Shabi, Malcolm McClure, Jonathan McClure, Katie Shabi, Katie Durham and Victor Kubik.



*Some Of the children at the "Revival" Center of Rehabilitation for Disabled Children in the Chernobyl region of Ukraine.*

The Center was established by three doctors who could not wait any longer for the government to build a vitally needed rehabilitation center for children victimized by the worst nuclear accident in history a mere 40 miles away. It was opened on the tenth anniversary of the 1986 disaster. The Center's director Dr. Vasil Pasichnyk was the head pediatrician in Chernihev, Ukraine during the nuclear accident.

Over the years we have helped with construction, sending containers of equipment and medicine. We are sending a 40 foot container this summer from Indianapolis. This will be our fifth container to this location in seven years and it will be filled with hospital beds, medical equipment, linen, toys and

LifeNets itself was born when Western doctors and interested parties started to set up this center that now serves 120 children monthly. Dr. Vasil Pasichnyk has devoted his life to helping children suffering mostly from neurological problems. His wife Natalia is a neurologist and they treat many children suffering from cerebral palsy and other problems.

(please go to "Chernobyl")



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### Our New Newsletter!

We feel that it's important to talk regularly to our friends and donors about the variety of projects LifeNets has in progress around the world. We would appreciate any comments about how we can make this newsletter more useful.

Donations to LifeNets are tax-deductible in the United States. If you would like for us to put a friend on the mailing list, please let us know via email at: [newsletter@lifenets.org](mailto:newsletter@lifenets.org) or write us.

## Chernobyl (con't.)

much more.

During our January mission we were able to better understand what the continuing needs are as the government simply does not do enough to supply all the requirements of disabled children.

We had the rare opportunity to visit the doomed Chernobyl nuclear power plant site. Normally no one is allowed within 25 miles of the reactor, but with special permits we were able to see for ourselves the awesome and unique site that's a testimonial to man's inability to fully control vast nuclear energy and has damaged the health of millions of people. Some of that harm is passing on to another generation. The memory of Chernobyl 16 years ago is fading, but health concerns are not.

We visited the city of Pripyat less than two miles away that once had a population of 45,000 and is now desolate.

We are continuing to help the *Revival Center* by establishing connections between Indianapolis and St. Louis hospitals

## Helping Filipinos with Fishing, Raising Goats and Making Cocoa Tablets

Several people from Leyte and Baco-laod age 63-72 wrote proposals for LifeNets micro-loans to help raise goats, buy fishing materials, construct a well and obtain the necessary equipment to manufacture cocoa tablets. The cocoa plant grows in the Philippines. Its seeds are roasted, then ground to become powder to form the finished product which can be any size and wrapped in paper and sold. The tablet is placed in a glass of hot water. Then a small amount of sugar is added and it is stirred and drunk. The cocoa tablet is

just like a chocolate in color, but it has a different taste.

In mid-March, the projects were successfully underway! For the cost of \$1000, \$900 that was loaned, 18 people are benefited by making an income.



## Ongoing Wheelchair Program

For the past three years we have collected and distributed dozens of wheelchairs. Many have been shipped to Africa and Ukraine on containers, but others are given to people who are not able to afford wheelchairs in the United States. People contact us through our Internet site at [www.lifenets.org/wheelchair](http://www.lifenets.org/wheelchair).

We find LifeNets volunteers who pick the chairs up and help find a home them. Wayne Stephens. ([wayne@lifenets.org](mailto:wayne@lifenets.org)) has been coordinating this project.

We have shipped wheelchairs to



South Africa, Venezuela, Moscow, Ukraine and several places throughout the United States.

On the left Debra Gussman of Indianapolis, Indiana, suffering from Mitotonic Muscular Dystrophy, receives an electric wheel-

chair and will now have mobility in her neighborhood.

LifeNets has given away nearly 30 wheelchairs recently.



*Our delegation in the abandoned city of Pripyat outside the Chernobyl nuclear power plant.*

and doctors.

Dr. Vasil Pasichnyk will visit Indiana this summer and speak to public service, church and other groups to keep people in remembrance of the effects of Chernobyl — a constant reminder to nuclear energy gone wrong.

We want to thank all of our friends who help support our helping Chernobyl victims.