

HEADQUARTERS
509th RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

IAPVCUV

7 Jun 1967

VILLEGAS

Carpentersville, Ill 60110

Dear Friends,

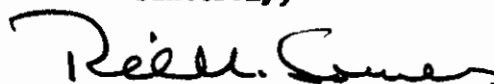
Your box of most welcome clothes and toys arrived yesterday. We shall deliver it to the children in the next few days. I know the children will be delighted with the nice articles of clothing included and also the various other items will make them happy. All in all, the choice of articles was very excellent.

Since they are entirely dependant on our help and the assistance of wonderful people like yourself, your concern is most appreciated. The children are realizing that there are people in the world that care for them.

I have taken the liberty to send you the monthly Newsletter for this month which tells about the children, various projects we are working on, and lists the persons who send donations during that month. I hope you will enjoy reading it, especially now that you are a welcome member of our project in helping these unfortunate children.

Thank you again for your kind assistance.

Sincerely,



RICHARD L. SOWERS
Cpt., President
S.M.O.A.

HEADQUARTERS
509th RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

IAPVCUV

6 Jul 1967

The Villegas Family

Carpentersville, Ill. 60110

Dear Friends,

Your box of donations arrived safely. Once again I wish to thank each of you for your continued interest and assistance to our project here in Vietnam. As these items are a constant need, your choice was excellent, as usual.

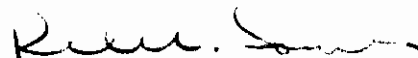
I'd also like to thank each of you that sent their photo for the new photo board at the Orphanage. I'm sure the children will enjoy seeing them.

The repair of the second story of the downtown building came at a very bad time, as the buildings at the farm are not complete enough to move into for good yet. Therefore, it was necessary to repair the second floor at once. It was in very bad shape and was becoming more dangerous every day. The smaller children could actually put their arms and legs through the large cracks in the floor.

They are building the new housing at the farm to house 500 children, although we only have about 300 to date. The number grows at a steady rate, therefore, we wanted to plan ahead for expansion. No, there are no infants there, as they find a family that will take care of the very small babies and pay for their keep. The staff at the Orphanage is just not large enough nor equipped to handle small babies. It's not a good situation, but much better than nothing at all. We do the best we can in helping them, and that's all we can do.

With most appreciative regards, thank you again for your sincere interest in our worthy cause.

Sincerely,



RICHARD L. SOWERS
Cpt., President
S.M.O.A.

HEADQUARTERS
509th RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

IAPVCUW

11 Aug 1967

The Villegas Family

Carpentersville, Ill. 60110

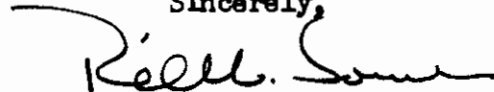
Dear Friends,

Thank you very much for your donation to our building fund. With the help of people like yourselves, we are making progress, slowly but surely.

I enjoyed reading of your very fine project with the boys from the hospital. It was a fine thing you did for them, and I know how much they appreciate your kind deeds. It is at a time like that when the boys need to know that Americans are with them and appreciate what they have gone through. I only hope that more people throughout our country follow your example.

Our thanks again for helping, and our good wishes to all your children.

Sincerely,



RICHARD L. SOWERS
Cpt., President
S.M.O.A.

HEADQUARTERS
509th RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

IAPVCUV

24 Sep 1967

The Villegas Family

Carpentersville, Ill. 60110

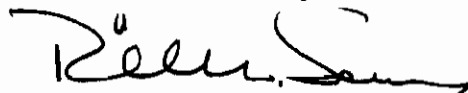
Dear Friends,

This is to acknowledge the receipt of the box of clothing and baby needs that has just arrived. In fact, it came just a day after I had written this month's Information Letter, so I couldn't thank you for your help this month. I shall, however, include this in next month's.

I hope you received and enjoyed the 4th of July photos of the picnic we sent last month. The photos arrived the same day we were mailing the Letters, so we went ahead and included them anyway. I think that there are some very good shots of the children and the day's activities. We all had quite a good time entertaining them.

Hope your family is all well and back in the swing of school once again. Thank you all once again for your continued interest in this project.

Sincerely,



RICHARD L. SOWERS
Cpt., President
S.M.O.A.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 509TH RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

Our children need your help. The officers and enlisted men of the 509th Radio Research Group have undertaken a worthwhile project - and your help is needed.

In 1952, Mr. Nguyen Van Vung, or "Andre" as he is known to 509th personnel, began a small operation to aid orphans and refugees in Cambodia. In 1954, when many Vietnamese were able to return home or resettle thanks to the provisions of the Geneva treaty marking the withdrawal of the French, Andre moved to Saigon. In 1957, he founded the Sancta Maria Orphanage using an inheritance given to him by his family to purchase a site in Saigon.

As his orphanage grew in number of children that were supported there, Andre worked at various jobs to help support the construction of the orphanage buildings.

In addition to the orphanage proper, Andre also has a farm near Saigon where some of the boys from the orphanage as well as some Cambodian refugees live. In the past, Andre has allowed American troops to utilize his land as a base area. In December, 1969, Andre was ambushed by Viet Cong terrorists while on his way to this farm. His recovery has been long and painful and he is still not able to work on a regular basis.

In 1964, the 509th selected the Sancta Maria Orphanage through a screening process from a list of civic organizations given by the U.S. Embassy and the Catholic Relief Society. Since then, the 509th has sporadically aided the orphanage. Exact figures for financial assistance before 1967 are not available. During 1967 the 509th donations totaled \$9,626.08. With the Tet hostilities of 1968, however, 509th assistance was virtually brought to a standstill. Today the 509th is renewing and redoubling its efforts to create a better life, provide greater opportunities, and restore hope to the orphan children.

In the past, many organizations in the U.S. (Boy Scout troops, Girl Scout troops, Church groups, PTA's, etc.) have sent gifts of food and clothing to the orphanage. However, the orphanage board failed to acknowledge these gifts, and failed to maintain correspondence, so these contributions have practically ceased.

In an effort to keep these lines open, we are asking you to please send contributions to the Sancta Maria Orphanage Council, ATTN: Custodian, 509th Radio Research Group, APO San Francisco 96307. A partial listing

of the needs that children seem to have most frequently includes the following items: soap, cooking utensils, plastic bowls, children's picture books, toys in any condition, toothpaste, toothbrushes, lightweight baby blankets, detergents, pots, pans, lids, plastic plates, vitamin pills, coloring books, clothes for all ages to 17 years (summer weight), wash cloths, towels, powdered milk, plastic cups, diapers, crayons, instant hot or dry cereal, and all bulk-rate feedstuffs. Many of the children are Catholic and an extra Rosary would be greatly appreciated as most of the children do not have their own.

The needs of the orphanage are simple and the condition of items is of little importance. If an item needs mending or repairing, we can make it work.

The men of the 509th Radio Research Group ask for your help toward the support of the Sancta Maria Orphanage. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sp4 Ken Mestad

RICHARD L. TALLMAN *for*
Lieutenant Colonel
President, Sancta Maria
Orphanage Council

PLEASE RETURN PLEASE.
Mrs. Villegas.

HEADQUARTERS
509th RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION
APO San Francisco 96307

1APVHIS

19 October 1968

Villegas Family

Carpentersville, Ill. 60110

Dear Friends,

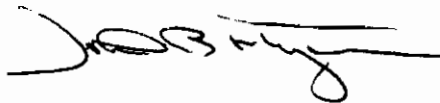
As the new president of the Sancta Maria Orphanage Association I wish to gratefully acknowledge your generous contribution in behalf of the orphanage.

The hostilities during the first and second offensive have worked a hardship on our program of continued assistance to the children at the Sancta Maria Orphanage. The enemy infiltration in the Gia Dinh area during the Tet (January) Offensive has not been completely neutralized and remains a threat, however, in recent weeks the situation has eased and we have been able to resume our support to the downtown orphanage. Conditions at the orphanage farm are more hazardous, although we were able to make a daytime visit last week.

On a recent trip we distributed your gifts. American foodstuffs and toys are a source of delight to Vietnamese children. Many of these children have never been decently clothed and your donation of clothing in conjunction with the contributions of many other fine Americans has enabled us to provide clothing for all of the orphans and some of the refugee families that are currently living at the orphanage farm.

We are currently compiling a photographic essay to send to you and our many other kind contributors throughout the U.S. Your efforts are deeply appreciated by the children of the Sancta Maria Orphanage and the soldiers of the 509th Radio Research Group.

Sincerely,



JOHN B. FLYNN
1LT President
S.M.O.A.

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS 509th RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

19 May 1971

Dear Members of the Villegas Family:

It has been brought to my attention that in the past you have been a special friend of the Sancta Maria Orphanage Association. It is with regret that I admit that you were probably not properly thanked at the time your assistance was received. This has been a serious shortcoming of our association in the past and is a situation which we are now trying to correct. I am afraid that we may have lost a number of good friends because of this situation.

In an effort to renew old acquaintances, I have taken the liberty of forwarding the enclosed letter and list of needed supplies. The list is similar to one you may have received in the past.

We of the 509th Radio Research Group sincerely hope that you will find it in your heart to forgive us for our shortcomings and once again help the children of the Sancta Maria Orphanage. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Sp4 Ken Mastak

RICHARD L. TALLMAN
Lieutenant Colonel *for*
President, Sancta Maria
Orphanage Council

HEADQUARTERS
509TH RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION

INFORMATION LETTER #7

MAY 1967

1. To give you an idea how a day at the Orphanage goes for the children, below is a schedule of a day's activities. For most, depending on age, it goes like this:

5:30	Awake, wash, and dress
6:30	Morning prayers and church
7:15	Breakfast
8:00	School
11:00	Play and wash for lunch
11:30	Lunch
12:30	Play
1:00	Nap
3:00	Showers
4:00	Afternoon religious training
4:30	Set tables and supper
6:00	Evening prayers
6:30	Play
7:30	Bedtime for the little guys and the older children stay up until 9:00

Of course, it's a pretty loose schedule sometimes when we're speaking of moving over 300 children around, but it is amazing how well it does go, due to necessity. Discipline is good and the children respond well and help each other, which is a blessing in itself.

2. Some of the current projects under way are new bathrooms; improved kitchen facilities (possibly even stoves, as the present method is over a wood or charcoal fire): a new refrigerator; and some badly needed repainting. So things are progressing well, and much improved facilities are not far off, thanks to the response of everyone.

3. A visit to the Orphanage Farm this week revealed good progress there also in the new construction of facilities to house up to 500 children. One of the two living quarters is close to completion, with the foundation laid for the second and also for the new church.

This is a very large acreage in the country and show great promise for the children. Most of the teen-age children work there. The farm produces all the rice that is needed for their main diet, and in addition, there are coconut palms, vegetable gardens, stocked fish ponds, and facilities to produce macaroni and noodles. They also raise their own hogs, which are sold to help support the farm. These are among the finest hogs any of the former farmers in our group had seen anywhere.

Everyone is quite proud of them. There are the usual toad; dogs, cats, ducks, guineas, turkeys, chickens and a calf.

One of the biggest advantages however, will be the opportunity to get the children out of the city and the present over-crowded conditions in which they live and play. The farm will offer good fresh air, plenty of space to run and play, and much improved living conditions. We share their enthusiasm in wanting to complete the buildings as quickly as possible and move out to this new location and its facilities. We should all be proud to be a part of this project.

4. Speaking of help, our list of benefactors this month is long, as many boxes of needed items have arrived along with checks for these projects. Therefore, thanks for this month go out to:

Rae Ann Keyser, Karen Coon, Pat Wiegand, and Sand Brutkiewicz of Saginaw, Mich, who got together and had a bake sale to raise money for the children. Our special thanks to you girls and the mothers who may have helped out a little on their project.

SP5 Charles M. Carter of our 509th RR Group for the case of candy.

Mr. Fred Felton, also of Saginaw, who sent a whole case of instant milk. This was very welcome.

Mr. Virgil Morgan, Renton, Wash, whose check will help out on the new facilities being installed.

E.S. Grinnell, Mayville, Mich, for the box of soap, toothbrushes, combs and other toilet articles.

Chester J. Gembski, Chambersburg, Penn, for the box of soap.

Mrs. E. MacArthur, Saginaw, Mich, for the box of new baby blankets.

Rev. Toubell and the congregation of the Valley Chapel Methodist Church, Derwert, Ohio, for their letter that a box of clothing is on its way.

Marion Zieminski, La Miranda, Calif, for the box of Misc. needs.

Miss Eva Angastadt, Reading, Penn, for the box of toys and candy.

Mr. & Mrs. Bob Sikorcki, Huntsville, Ala, for the box of soap.

Last but not least - by any means - our thanks to the wonderful group of friends of one of our own S.M.O.A. Council members, Lonnie Malatiro, who answered his plea for soap for the children. The response in and around Lonnie's Hometown of Oxford, Alabama was tremendous. Answering the call for clean kids were:

The American Legion Auxillary, Post 111, of Oxford
 Mr & Mrs Orlando Malatino, Oxford
 Miss Eileen Frase, University
 Mrs Joseph A Whitehead, Oxford
 Mrs Laura Lloyd, Blue Mountain
 Miss Lucile Pearce, Anniston
 Mrs Elena M. Clayton, Anniston
 Mrs W. A. Poe, Coosa Valley Extention H&M Club, Ohatchee
 Mrs Hoyt Vaughn, Anniston

Our special thanks and the prayers of the children go especially to Miss Corabell Gilbert, 12 years old of Anniston, who collected 156 bars of soap among her church congregation. Thanks to each of you who helped make her project such a great success.

5. We have been asked by Andre and the staff at the Orphanage to request a photo of each of the persons and/or groups that have donated to the Orphanage. Any appropriate size snapshot would suffice, which will be posted on a large board at the Orphanage so the children can see who actually sends contributions from all over the world.

If each of you that receive this Information Letter would be so kind to do so, the staff and the children will appreciate it greatly. The photos will be displayed in the entrance room of the Orphanage. Plans at the moment are to place it under the Marble-inscribed stone which has been placed in the wall in commemoration of the work done by the 509th Radio Research Group in support of the Orphanage. Please print your name and address on the back of each photo, so it can be so identified on the board.

We of the S.M.O.A. Council hope that each of you will be able to participate in this request and will forward your photos in the near future. Of course this is voluntary, but your participation will be greatly appreciated by all.

6. Our thanks again to each of you that responded so helpfully this month. Be assured, you are remembered by the children in their prayers.

7. Do not hesitate to write if there are any questions regarding the children or the Council's activities with the Orphanage. We will gladly furnish all available information to you at your request.

"He who stops to help a child will never be without love"

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard L. Sowers".

Sancta Maria Orphanage Council
CPT Richard L. Sowers
President

HEADQUARTERS
509th RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

INFORMATION LETTER #8

JUNE 1967

1. Close inspection of the second story of the Orphanage revealed that some urgent repair work was needed. Therefore, the children have spent the past month in temporary housing at the Farm while work is being completed downtown. Actually, it didn't take close inspection to see the rotted flooring that was, somehow, supporting the sleeping quarters of the children. This problem is now being corrected by the laying of a new concrete second floor and other allied refirbishing. The project is moving along, slowly, but surely, and we can look forward to much improved and safer facilities in the next few weeks. The Association Council has approved the funding of the majority of the repair costs which comes from the monetary donations of the members of the 509th Radio Research Group each pay day. We could think of no better investment than the welfare and safety of the children.

2. The 4th of July is going to be real American holiday for all the kids. We are planning a party-picnic here in our own compound, and hope to introduce hot dogs and all the trimmings to all the children. Also, games, toys, gifts and a lot of G.I. attention is promised to fill out our mutual celebration. We hope to have some photos from this occasion to send to each of you.

3. Boxes of needed articles have been coming in almost daily since the publication of our last letter. Again, the list of benefactors is long, so thanks for this month go out to:

A. Kozicki, Warren, Michigan - 4 boxes of soap, toys, and miscellaneous needs.

Marian Zieminski, La Mirada, Cal. - Toilet articles, books and crayons.

Church of the Resurrection, Alexandria, Va. - 6 boxes of books, clothes, soap, shoes, toys, and misc needs.

American Legion AUX Post III, Oxford, Ala - 4 boxes of soap.

BETA Clubs, Oxford High School, Oxford, Ala., - Box of soap.

Mrs. M.A. Haley, Peoria, Ill. - box of clothes.

C.R. Anthony, Miles City, Montana - box of clothes and toys.

Mrs. E.M. Clayton, Anniston, Ala., - box of soap.

Mrs. M. Scott, Anniston, Ala., - box of clothes

Ladies Aux VFW 9148, La Mirada, Cal. - box of toys, books, toilet articles.

Mr. Wengland, Red Bank, N.J. - Three boxes of toothbrushes-toothpaste kits.

Kings Couples Class of Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chillicothe, Ohio - 2 boxes of clothes and toys.

Villegas, Carpentersville, Ill. - Box of toys and clothes.

E. Welch, Midland, Michigan - Box of plastic-ware dishes, cups, saucers,

E.S. Grinnell, Mayville, Michigan - box of Instant Milk.

Hazel Dault, Iron Mountain, Michigan - clothes, soap, toys and miscellaneous needs.

G.O. Cadwell, Halstead, Kansas - box of clothes.

Mrs. Mary C. Stevens, King of Prussia, Pa., - box of soap.

Mack Richards, Braddock, Pa. - Box of candy, and soap.

H.A. Mathews, Savannah, Ga. - box of toys.

VFW Post Aux 712 and Mrs. A. Wall, Newark, N.J. - box of clothes and toys.

Mrs. Darden's fifth graders, Manassas Park School, Va., - box of clothes and soap.

Valley Chapel Methodist Church and Rev. Touvell, Derwent, Ohio - box of clothes, and baby needs.

Twin Lake Girl Scout Troop 123 and Mrs. Lusk, Twin Lake Mich.

Special thanks go to 5 girls of the Troop that hand-made toy monkeys out of socks, buttons, yarn, and foam rubber, to qualify for their Toy maker Badge. The girls sent their very nice projects on to the children to enjoy. Congratulations girls on a job well done and another successful step in your Scout work.

Also: The American Legion and Aux #38, Overton, Nevada, George and Ann Davis, and all the following members who helped achieve a very successful project of 4 huge boxes of many needed items:

The Moapa Valley High School Faculty
The Moapa Valley High School Student Body
Mrs. Jo Ann Hitchcock
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Perkins
Mr. & Mrs. Harlan Lyon
Georgi Anne Ozaki

Mr. & Mrs. Joe Dodzinbier
Martha Rasmussen and the Rebel Club
Western Auto Store
Mr. & Mrs. John Hill
Overton Volunteer Fire Dept.
Lee Bishop and the Texaco Station
Mr. & Mrs. Darrel Bricker
Jack Heitman

In addition, Mrs. Davis and the Child Welfare group sent 4 boxes of baby needs that were certainly needed.

4. Please don't forget to send your photographs. We have received a few, and we're hoping more are on the way to complete our photo board of benefactors for the Orphanage. Remember - any size will do - just place your name and address on the back. Some group pictures would be very nice from the many groups mentioned this month, which the children would greatly appreciate - they are looking forward to "seeing" you.

5. We shall have news for you next month (and photos, if we are able to get them developed and duplicated in time) of our 4th of July party, so wish us luck and no tired backs from piggy-backing.

6. Do not hesitate to write if there are any questions regarding the children. We will gladly furnish all available information to you at your request.

"He who stops to help a child will never be without love"

Richard Sowers
Sancta Maria Orphanage Council
CPT RICHARD L. SOWERS,
President

HQ 509 RR GROUP
ATTN: RR CIV - SMOA
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Villegas

Carpentersville, Ill
60110



HEADQUARTERS
509th RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION

"He who stops to help a child will never be without love."

INFORMATION LETTER #9

July 1967

1. We are most happy to report that the 4th of July picnic was a complete success. It was discovered, however, that the average American soldier had no concept what-so-ever of the great unending stamina and endurance of a child. No one child was exhausted, but there were a number of play-weary G.I.'s following the party, as well as a very large group of children with full tummys and arms of toys.

The children arrived in 3 buses, and the first order of the day was the passing out of toys. Included were 3 boxes of plastic beach balls that required blowing up. Many young and healthy soldiers were soon various shades of blue & green, huffing and puffing, by the time this was done. Dolls were distributed to the girls, and for the first time, we had enough toys to go around. (toys are a problem for us, as we must put back the groups toys we receive over a period of time until we have sufficient number to be able to give something to each child-and this time your response was so good prior to this party that we were able to do this with no problem.)

Beach balls were soon flying, dolls were being attended to as only little girls can do, paddle-balls were being explained and demonstrated by the "experts", and plastic boats, ducks, and the like were being floated in our little pond by our water enthusiasts. (The children also got to play with them.) The facts were that you were either going to get hit in the head with a flying beach ball, or slightly damp from retrieving lost boats, out of reach by small hands and arms. One little guy, evidently not impressed by the time it took to retrieve his plastic duck, promptly stepped into the 6 inch deep pond - shoes, clothes, and all, and got his duck for himself - putting our "floating toy retrieve team" to shame. His shoes were soon removed and he was elected leader of the team by the men.

Lollypops were next and soon many of the toys, as well as Army uniforms, became a bit sticky, but still usable. Hamburgers, hot dogs, fresh buns, cold sodas, and all the trimmings were next, followed by ice cream and cookies, followed by more sodas, followed by full tummys. Pickle relish was very popular, as the children had never seen it before and more expert demonstration was necessary to show where it was supposed to be put on the sandwich. Mustard and ketchup were also unknown by the kids, but "American-know-how" came to the rescue once again.

Photos were taken; however, due to the large number required, we aren't able to get them in time to accompany this letter. We will forward them to each of you next month.

When the celebration came to an end - all 3½ hours of it - we couldn't be sure who had the most fun - the men or the kids. It was a pretty even draw when goodbyes were exchanged and the children loaded the buses for their return home.

As we watched these future leaders and members of tomorrow's Vietnam leave our Station, it makes us even more determined to help them gain the freedom their elders are fighting for today. Without that freedom these kids, and all other children in the world, are lost. Maybe some day during their own Independence celebration, they will recall to their own kids, that day they spent with the American soldiers, playing games and eating that exotic American food called a Hot Dog. For their children's sake, we hope so.

2. We wish to express the sincere appreciation of everyone concerned in the Sancta Maria Orphanage project to the students and faculty of Ursinus College, Collegeville, Pa., and to the members of the Campus Chest Fund. I quote their letter:

"Every year the students of Ursinus College conduct a ten-day fund raising drive for the benefit of selected charities. This year we have chosen the Sancta Maria Orphanage Asso., to receive part of the funds collected. Please find enclosed a check for \$800 to be used to further the help being given the small victims of this war."

Once again, thank you all for your part in this worthy cause. Ursinus College is a shining example of the true American Spirit.

3. Another special word of thanks goes out to Mrs. E. MacArthur of Saginaw, Mich., who took on the project of getting our Orphanage information in the local Saginaw News. Her efforts resulted in a half-page story in their 4th of July issue about our interest and work with the children. Sarah Smith, a reporter for the News, wrote the fine story and the response of the readers has already been most gratifying. Matter of fact, Sancta Maria has a large number of friends throughout Saginaw and all of Michigan, and the number is now growing, thanks to the efforts of Mrs. MacArthur.

4. Further words of thanks this month go to:

Mrs Wm. Ogin and the GSA Troop 2006, Manassas, Va., for their hard work and donations of clothes, toys, books, and soap.

Mrs. Arlene L. Williams and the Monday Night Circle of Women's Fellowship, Congregational Church of Peterborough, N.H., for the boxes of toothbrushes, toothpaste kits, and also soap. (Would you believe we have a lot of cleaner teeth lately?)

The Villegas Family - Carla, Miguel, Evelyn, Marina, and Alan, Carpentersville, Ill., for their box of clothes and soap. Also to Mrs. Villegas for the 2 special recipes.

7 Mrs. J.A. Whitehead, Oxford, Ala., for the box of soap.

Mr. Chester J. Gembski, Chambersburg, Pa., for the box of clothes.

E.S. Grinnel of Mayville, Mich., for the boxes of Instant Milk and misc. food needs.

Church of the Resurrection members, Alexandria, Va., for their donation of clothes and toys.

Miss Loretta Zielinski of Detroit, Mich., for the 2 boxes of clothes and toys.

Mrs. M. Scott, Anniston, Ala., for the box of clothes.

Mrs. Darden's Fifth Grade Class, Manassas Park School, Va., for the two boxes of needed items.

Mrs. Shirley Pulley, Terre Haute, Ind., for the box of clothes.

Mr. Wayne Munkel, Ames, Iowa, and a former member of our organization, for his check in support of the new building fund.

Mr. & Mrs. W.H. Golombisky of Ithaca, Mich., for their check and good wishes.

Lillian A. Miller, Saginaw, Mich., who responded with a check after reading the newspaper story of our project.

Steinkamp Bros. Post 853, V.F.W., N.Y. and Mr. Morton Wildfeuer who headed their project of collecting soap for the children.

R.J. Ksenich, Hallstead, Pa., for the box of clothes.

G. Freeman, Dayton, Ohio, for the box of clothes, toys, plastic-ware and other needs.

Mary E. Jones of Marysville, Calif., for her donation of soap.

Mrs. W.A. Poe and the Coosa Valley Ext., H&M Club, Ohatchee, Ala., for their contribution of soap.

Mr. Fred H. Haas, V.F.W. Post 9300 of Napa, Calif, for the box of soap.

Mr. & Mrs. Carl Zeigler, Reading, Pa., for the various toys, but especially the plastic beach balls that were flying through the air during our party.

Mrs. E. MacArthur, Saginaw, Mich., who also sent soap, toys and crayons.

Marian Zieminski and the Ladies Aux. V.F.W., 9148, La Mirada, Calif., for 5 boxes of soap, toothbrushes, combs, toilet needs, and baby clothes. These boxes have been coming in at a steady rate. A big thanks to all you ladies who worked on this large project.

Mrs. Sophie Cole and all the members of the Hyner Sunday School, the Vacation Bible School, and the Women's Society of Christian Service of the Hyner Methodist Church, Hyner, Pa., for their contribution of \$40.00 for the children's welfare.

4. Word was also recently received from Mr. & Mrs. F.P. McAnery of Lighthouse Point, Fla, who have completed another huge drive for the Orphanage which has successfully resulted in the collection and shipment of 97 cartons of needs, weighing well over a ton. This marks the second year that these wonderful people have responded in a gigantic manner to the needs of the children. We'll have more specific info on this when it arrives. Our heart-felt appreciation hardly expresses the gratitude of the children who will benefit from this effort.

5. (The following is a personal 4th of July message from the President of S.M.O.A., CPT Richard L. Sowers.)

Almost every day I receive letters from interested people and groups all over the United States, and in every case the writer never fails to express their appreciation and/or prayers for our soldiers, the children, and this worthy project we are engaged in here in Vietnam. I thank each of you for this, because it not only gives us personal cheer - but, more important - we are able to show the Vietnamese people that America is made up of people that care for other human beings and will respond when help is needed.

It is regrettable that the outstanding work and efforts of each of you that receive this Letter is not publicized with greater, or at least, equal vigor as are other stories that do not truly reflect the real America spirit of brotherhood. Unfortunately it seems "bad" news has always gained more attention than "good" news. Nevertheless, know this. We who receive your kind words, wishes, prayers, and the proof of your sincere interest in what we're doing here, along with the Vietnamese people and children that we work and associate with, know and recognize the wonderful spirit of America. They witness what is in your heart. For this, we thank you. You represent the compassion and true spirit of our Country.

Recently I was fortunate to witness 400 Vietnamese orphans singing "God Bless America". Believe me, they were singing that for each of you.

6. Please keep the photographs coming in. For you that have just joined our ever-growing family, we have asked for a photo of you or your group to place on a picture-board at the Orphanage. Any size will do. Just place your name and address on the back, and send it to us for the children.

7. Do not hesitate to write if there are any questions regarding the children or the Council's activities with the Orphanage. We will gladly furnish all available information to you at your request.

May God grant you wisdom and good health in your deliberations to come. You have exalted His name through the miracle of human kindness.

Sancta Maria Orphanage Council
CPT RICHARD L. SOWERS
PRESIDENT

COMMANDING OFFICER
RADIO RESEARCH COMM UNIT, VIETNAM
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

Villegas Family

Carpentersville, Ill 60110

HEADQUARTERS
509TH RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION

"He who stops to help a child will never be without love."

INFORMATION LETTER # 10

AUGUST 1967

1. We would like to welcome the following new benefactors this month to our ever-growing family to the children:

Anna Ott, , Miles City, Mont.

Wm. George McGrath Post 8244, V.F.W., San Francisco, Calif.

Lucille Holle, , Newton Kansas, and the Whitesell-Finnell Aux. # 971 of Newton.

Your kind letters and donations have arrived in good order, and we thank you for your assistance in our project.

2. Those many friends of SP5 Ernest D. Moore, who have been sending your donations through him to us, please note that Ernest has completed his tour in Vietnam and returned to the U.S. He has forwarded the cartons he has received, but would like to remind all of his friends to send them direct to the Orphanage address (as above) in the future.

SP5 Moore did a wonderful job of creating sincere interest among his friends all over the U.S. while working with us. Our heart-felt thanks and those of the children go out to Ernest, and good luck on your new assignment. You will be missed by all.

3. Last May we published a list of items most generally needed by the children. However, with the great number of you who have become active in our project since then - and have requested information on what to send that would be most beneficial - we shall reprint that list for you. Of course monetary donations are always welcome. Remember to make checks or money orders payable to the "Sancta Maria Orphanage Association." Please remember Not to send U.S. currency, as it is not used in this country. Needs include:

Soap
Cooking utensils
Plastic Bowls
Childrens Picture Books
Toys - any condition
Toothpaste
Detergent
Pots-pans-lids
Plastic Plates

Coloring Books
Crayons
Clothes, any condition, for all
ages to 17 yrs, but summer only.
Toothbrushes
Wash Cloths
Towels
Powdered Milk

Instant Hot or Dry Cereal
Light weight baby blankets
Diapers
Childrens games which do not
require written directions
to understand or play

Plastic Cups
Band-aids
Simple medical items for
cuts and scratches

Of course, these are just a few of many needs, but will give you an idea of the things that are difficult or impossible to obtain over here.

4. In last month's Letter, I spoke of witnessing 400 Vietnamese children singing "God Bless America." However, I neglected to mention that these same children singing this song had been heard and recorded by Arthur Godfrey during a visit to Vietnam a few months ago. This same recording was played during one of his programs last month, I believe. So if any of you heard that particluar program, you actually heard some of our own children from the Orphanage who attend the school where the recording was made. My personal thanks to those of you that inquired; thus, bringing it to my attention. Since we had no way of knowing that it was going to be aired, it was not possible to advise you prior to the program; but if any of you heard it, you may have shared my emotion at hearing this wonderful response of these children.

Also, on the subject of the above school, it is interesting to note the marvelous job being accomplished by a dedicated group of Brothers that teach and guide these young Vietnamese orphans at the Don Bosco School here in Saigon. The School is supported by the Catholic Relief Society and welcomes orphans from all over Vietnam, regardless of religious background, and teaches them a trade. In our country we would call it a Trade School. Many of the children from Sancta Maria attend there and learn a trade so as they can later go out into the world and make a living. A number of local businesses have need for particular skills that are taught there, and will plan years ahead for the students that will fill their requirements upon completion of school. The school is staffed by the Silesian Order of Catholic Brothers who have dedicated their lives in helping these children. Thus, this is where Mr. Godfrey recorded the children singing, and I attended a ceremony in honor of the American representative of the Catholic Relief Society, Mr. Mooney, who was departing Vietnam for a new assignment in Kenya.

5. A welcome supply of needs have come in since the last Letter, so we send our thanks this month on behalf of the children to:

Susan M. Mohr, Saginaw, Mich., for her variety of needs which included: Diapers, Plastic Pants, Plastic bowls and glasses, Wash cloths and Soap, and various toys.

Marion Zieminski, La Miranda, Calif., for the 5 boxes of clothes, books, toys and many other needs.

Lucille Holle and the Whitesell-Firmell Aux. # 971 of Newton, Kansas, for their box of misc. needs.

Mr. & Mrs. James Vaughan, Lakewood, Calif., for the baby clothes.

R.J. Ksenich, Hallstead, Pa., for the box of baby clothes.

Mrs. Mary Stevens, King of Prussia, Pa., for the Instant milk and pudding, candy, soap, and cocoa.

Mrs. Elmer Granschow, Saginaw, Mich., for her box of soap.

Mrs. E MacArthur, Saginaw, Mich., for 3 boxes which included; toys, toothpaste, soap, and baby clothes.

The Villegas Family, Carpentersville, Ill., for the donation to the building fund, and 3 boxes of Instant milk and clothing.

The Wm George McGrath V.F.W. Post 8244 of San Francisco for the donation of 2 boxes of very interesting toys. Lots of good times included in there.

The Church of the Resurrection, Alexandria, Va., for the clothes and toys.

Anna Ott, Miles City, Mont., for the selection of clothes.

6. We would like to thank Mr. & Mrs. George Caldwell, Halstead, Kansas, for their kind letter and request for information.

Also, Mrs. E.M. Clayton, Anniston, Ala., who has been very successful in obtaining many needed articles, writes us that other needs are on the way, but were delayed due to her hospitalization. Our thanks for your effort, and best wishes for a speedy recovery.

We thank all those who have written and expressed their appreciation and prayers for the work being done here. Your kind words and thoughts mean a great deal to us here in Vietnam.

7. We regret to announce that the 4th of July picnic photos are not yet available. Increased combat requirements of the photography facility are, of course, higher priority so we must wait. We shall forward them as soon as they are available to each of you.

8. The 509th Radio Research Group Commander, Colonel John J. McFadden, has forwarded the S.M.O.A. Council - and requested that we include in this month's Letter - a "Pat On the Back" to each of you in recognition of your assistance and sincere interest in our project with the Orphanage.

Normally, these are presented only to military members of our Group for various special achievements in the line of duty; however, your heart-warming response to our efforts prompted the Colonel to ask you to accept a small token of appreciation.


As to the design: The Tiger on the left side of the card is the 509th Group emblem that represents the fighting spirit of the Group. (His bandages are typical of the bumps and bruises normally received when fighting to get a big job accomplished.) The orange patch in the lower right is our shoulder-patch; that of the Military Assistance Command, Vietnam.

We hope you will enjoy your "Pat On The Back" and remain honorary members of the best outfit in Vietnam - The 509th Radio Research Group.

9. (Reprinted from last month) Please keep the photographs coming in. For you that have just joined our ever-growing family, we have asked for a photo of you or your group to place your name and address on the back, and send it to us for the children.

10. Do not hesitate to write if there are any questions regarding the children or the Council's activities with the Orphanage. We will gladly furnish all available information to you at your request.

May God grant you wisdom and good health in your deliberations to come. You have exalted His name through the miracle of human kindness.


SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE COUNCIL
CPT. RICHARD L. SOWERS
PRESIDENT

HEADQUARTERS
509th RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION

"He who stops to help a child will never be without love."

INFORMATION LETTER #11

September 1967

1. Publication Error: Contrary to what we stated in last month's Information Letter, the 4th of July photos arrived in time, (the same day we were mailing out the Letters), so they were included with no explanation. Regardless, we were glad they finally arrived, and our thanks to all of you that have written, telling us you received and enjoyed them. Possibly many of you recognized various toys and articles of clothing that you have donated over the past months, and the pride in which the children enjoy them...especially during a "dress-up" day such as that was.

In the "Wish I Had a Picture of That" department: One little girl, about 4, staring at the hot dog on her plate in complete confusion, as she was trying to figure out how she was supposed to eat this thing; Another little guy - unhappy about trying to master the use of a spoon - throwing it away and diving face down into his dish of ice cream, and coming up for air with ice cream everywhere except in his mouth...smiling ear to ear at his success.

Anyway, we concluded that kids are about the same all over the world...especially when it comes to a picnic with hot dogs and ice cream. It was a scene we'll long remember and an experience to cherish for a long time to come.

2. Better Late Than Never: We wish to thank Michigan Congressman Jim Harvey for his acknowledgement of the great interest the people of his state have provided our project. The Saginaw News article of a couple months ago prompted Congressman Harvey's compliments. Michigan continues to lead in the number of persons from one state that are members of our project.

3. New Benefactors This Month: Our appreciation goes out to the following persons and clubs who have recently joined our cause:

Mrs. G. T. Hawkins, Woodlawn, Ga.

Girls Aux - Loch Lomond Bapt., Manassas, Va.

St Anne's Society, Tilton, N.H.

Mrs. Joseph Francis, Anniston, Ala.

Powers and Murphy, Las Vegas, Nev.

L.D. Moyer, Reading, Pa.

Mrs. R. John Miller, Erie, Pa.

Miss Louie Trego, Newton, Kan.

A special word of thanks to Miss Kay Hill and the Firelight Class, Overton, Nev., which includes: Pauline Birch, Laurel Anderson, Becky Anderson, Janet Bushman, Sandy Payne, Deandra Seckinger, Connie Melvin, Angla Smith and Janice Shertiliff. You young ladies did a fine job on your project to assist the children.

4. Increased terrorist activity in the local area has limited our visits this past month to only 3 trips. Nevertheless, we were able to deliver all the donations that have arrived, and are happy to report that all the children are fine and that the construction on the downtown building is still progressing. A completion date may be possible in another 60 days, depending upon local conditions. As you know, conditions are far from ideal in our area. Nevertheless, progress is being made.

5. Welcome boxes of donations and checks have arrived since the last letter, and thanks on behalf of the children go out to the following:

Mr. Virgil Morgan, Renton, Wash., for his check.

Julius Wishanna, Louisville, Ky., (sorry - no record of the correct spelling of this name) for the carton of needed toothbrushes which was passed on to us by the Dept. Of Defense representative in the Saigon area.

Powers and Murphy, Las Vegas, Nev., for the 4 boxes of clothing.

Members of the 101st Radio Research Company for the box of plastic eating utensils.

Mrs. George T. Hawkins, Woodlawn, Ga., for the fine selection of wash cloths; towels; soap; toothbrushes and toothpaste; combs and other misc. needs.

Mrs. S.A. Thompson, Dallas, Tex., for her check.

St. Anne's Society, Tilton, N.H. for the box of clothes.

Mr. Wengland, St. Petersburg, Fla., for his 2 boxes of soap, toys, candy, and games.

Mrs. Alice E. Wall and Sgt. James W. Hennessey Post Aux. 712, VFW, for the clothes, soap, toys and books.

Mrs. Chris Roper, Halstead, Kan., for her donation of clothes.

SP4 Clark, Hq & Svc Company, 509th RR Group, for the slot car track and model race cars.

Miss Kay Hill and the Firelight Girls for the clothes and toys.

Mrs. N. Ziegler, Bath, Pa., for the 2 boxes of toothpaste and soap.

Mrs. Joseph Francis, Anniston, Ala., for her check.

~~Mr. Mack Richards, and the American Legion Post 99, Braddock, Pa., for the 2 boxes of soap.~~

Mr. & Mrs. L.D. Moyer, Reading, Pa., for their welcome check to the building fund.

Miss Louie Trego, Newton, Kan., for the box of clothes.

The Junior Girls Unit, Mrs. Mary Trout and the VFW Ladies Aux. of the Thomas J. Kavanaugh Post 2290, Manville, N.J. for 2 boxes of toys, books, and games. A fine project by the Junior Girls.

The Wm. George McGrath Post 8244, VFW, San Francisco, Calif., for the donation of soap.

6. Correspondence: Local conditions sometimes make it difficult to reply immediately to your inquiries. If you have written and not received a prompt answer, please excuse us. It is not an oversight, and we'll send the information you request as fast as possible.

Again, thank each of you who have written this month for your kind letters and words of appreciation concerning our efforts. Our particular part in helping the Vietnamese people remains very successful through your wonderful efforts in assisting us.

7. Photo Board: As your photos are coming in, the project to post them on the "Photo Board" at Sancta Maria will soon be getting under way. We eventually will have photos of the board in the Orphanage for you.

Please keep your personal or group photos coming to help complete the Board as soon as possible.

8. Do not hesitate to write if there are any questions regarding the children or the Council's activities with the Orphanage. We will gladly furnish all available information to you at your request.

May God grant you wisdom and good health in your deliberations to come. You have exalted His name through the miracle of human kindness.



SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE COUNCIL
CPT. RICHARD L. SOWERS
PRESIDENT

HD 509 RR GRO
ATTN: RRCUV - 443
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96347

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Villezas Family
Carpentersville, Ill. 60110

HEADQUARTERS
509th RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION

"He who stops to help a child will never be without love."

INFORMATION LETTER # 13

November 1967

1. A Friend Goes Home: Fond farewells were spoken this month - some in broken English, but most in Vietnamese - to our Group Commander, Colonel John J. MacFadden who completed his tour here and departed for his new assignment in the U.S. He will not only be missed by all of us who benefited from his outstanding leadership, but the children have lost a real buddy whose ~~outstretched arms were~~ ~~always~~ there to lift a little one; whose large smile broke down all child-like fear of a "very tall stranger"; and whose never ending flow of energy during his visits was always a source of wonder. Andre, the staff, and all the children - especially those who were fortunate enough to be lifted high upon his shoulders - will remember him as a real friend and one who holds the welfare of others first and foremost in his daily life. A friend has gone home to be welcomed and loved by those other children in his life -- his own.

2. Christmas Toys: As we have noted to many of you in letters, we have begun separating the toys that we receive in your various donations and putting them aside for our annual Christmas party next month. We already have a good start, but if any of you are planning to send Christmas presents for the children, we suggest doing it as soon as possible as the entire volume of mail coming into Vietnam during this period will be greatly increased and subject to delays.

We have a Santa Claus suit on the way, courtesy of Mrs. Norman Ziegler, Bath, Pa., and a number of candidates in mind for the main role. Plans are being formed by the S.M.O.A. Council for the many details of the occasion. Again, we plan to have photographs for you as soon as possible after the party. We are all looking forward to a memorable Christmas for the children.

3. New Donors: We welcome the following people to our project who have joined us this month:

Mr. Howard, Manassas, Virginia

Mr. & Mrs. LaVern Koehn, Halstead, Kansas

The Covenant Methodist Church, Reading, Pa.

Bertha Wason, Santa Rita, New Mexico

Deacons of Westminister Presbyterian Church, Terre Haute,
Indiana.

4. Belated Thanks: Due to many and varied operational commitments this month it became impossible to send each of you a personal word of thanks and notification that your donations arrived safely. It is the policy of the Association, and will continue to be, that each of you receive personal notification pertaining to your gifts arrival whenever possible. As it was not this month, please accept our apologies and a large thanks for your understanding and patience until this Information Letter arrives. Therefore, our thanks go out to:

Mr. & Mrs. John Hill, Overton, Nevada: box of soap and clothing.

Mrs. Elmer O. Ganschow, Saginaw, Michigan: Toys, infant needs and clothing.

The Covenant Methodist Church, Reading, Pa.: box of toys.

The Toner Family, Bowie, Maryland: clothes, toys, and books.

Mr. & Mrs. LaVern Koehn, Halstead, Kansas: box of clothes.

Ruth W. Riley and the Ladies Aux 1307, Elgin, Ill.: Box of clothing.

Mrs. Mary Stevens, King Of Prussia, Pa.: plastic ware, candy soap, towels and wash cloths.

The Villegas Family, Carpentersville, Ill.: baby needs, and clothes.

Anna Ott, Miles City, Montana: clothes, toys, and shoes.

Mrs. Fred Pulley and the Deacons of Westminister Presbyterian Church, Terre Haute, Indiana: 3 boxes of items including chewing gum, crayons, coloring books, baby needs, clothing, toys, and toothpaste.

Mrs. Velma Kulp and the S.F. Rainbow Aux 2065 VFW, San Francisco: 2 boxes of toys, infant needs, and dry milk

Mr. Fred Haas and the VFW Post 9300, Napa, Calif: clothes, sewing items, plastic ware, wash cloths and towels, and a second box of clothes, chewing gum, canned goods and package foods.

Susan M. Mohr, Saginaw, Michigan: coloring books, crayons, story books, toys, plastic bowls and glasses, and a second box of needed rubber **things** for the children.

Marian Zieminski and the Ladies Aux. VFW, La Mirada, Calif: 3 boxes of clothes and accessories, books, combs, toys and gifts for Christmas.

Mrs. Paul Pachowka, Woodlyn, Pa.: box of clothes.

Mrs. E. MacArthur, Saginaw, Michigan: 2 boxes of toys, candy, medical items, dry milk, and other various items.

Howard, Manassas, Virginia: box of clothes.

Mr. & Mrs. George Cadwell, Halstead, Kansas, and especially Mrs. H.W. Talbott, Chairman of the American Legion Aux, who furnished the large amount of postage for their many boxes of donations.

Mrs. Pearle H. Corn, Anniston, Alabama: Check for the children's fund.

The Philathea Sunday School Class of McCoy Methodist Church, Anniston, Alabama: Check for the children's fund.

Bertha Wason, Santa Rita, New Mexico: box of clothing.

On behalf of the children - our sincere thanks to each of you.

5. Photos: Many photos of donors and groups continue to arrive for our Photograph Board at the Orphanage. Please forward yours if you haven't already done so, as we will continue to add them to the board as they arrive, (It's never too late.)

6. Thanksgiving: As we observe our day of Thanks this month, we ask that the underprivileged or oppressed throughout the world be made part of your prayers on that day. Let us give thanks for the blessings we have received through the efforts of our Pilgrim fathers who left oppression and settled a free, new world. Let

us remember all those people who are still denied the freedom and opportunity of Thanksgiving, and especially our Vietnamese friends who are striving to gain this basic privilege of free people. These blessings - no matter how large or small - are the result of freedom and the great heritage of free people everywhere.

7. Do not hesitate to write if there are any questions regarding the children or the Council's activities with the Orphanage. We will gladly furnish all available information to you at your request.

8. One Last Word of Thanks: Our deep appreciation is past due to Mr. Harry Golden, well-known author and editor of the Carolina Israelite paper of Charlotte, North Carolina, whose quote we use at the end of each Letter. It seems especially appropriate during this month of Thanksgiving, and it reads:

"May God grant you wisdom and good health in your deliberations to come! You have exalted His name through the miracle of human kindness."



CPT RICHARD L. SOWERS
President, Sancta Maria
Orphanage Association

HQ 1ST BR GROUP
ATTN: CIVILIAN -- SMOA
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

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Villegas Family

Carpentersville, Ill 60110



HEADQUARTERS
509th RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION

"He who stops to help a child will never be without love."

INFORMATION LETTER #14

December 1967

1. A Thought For All Seasons: Whereas mankind owes to the child the best it has to give...

The child shall be entitled from his birth to a name and a nationality.

The child shall enjoy the benefits of social security. He shall be entitled to grow up and develop in health: to this end special care and protection shall be provided both to him and to his mother, including adequate pre-natal and post-natal care...The child who is physically, mentally or socially handicapped shall be given the special treatment, education and care required by his particular condition...The child is entitled to receive education, which shall be free and compulsory at least in the elementary stages...

The child shall in all circumstances be among the first to receive protection and relief...

The child shall be protected from practices which may foster racial, religious and any other forms of discrimination, He shall be brought up in a spirit of understanding, tolerance, friendship among peoples, peace and universal brotherhood and in the full consciousness that his energy and talents should be devoted to the service of his fellow man.

United Nations General Assembly's
Declaration of the Rights of The
Child. October 20, 1959

It is my belief that a child is a child, regardless of religion or race, and that they need homes and loving care. I believe that is the modern attitude. At least, it is the attitude of most intelligent people, and they will lead the way for others to follow.

Pearl Buck, March 25, 1958

I know of no message other than the above two quotes that better explain our feelings about the Sancta Maria orphanage during this time of Christmas. You there at home have shown the children, through your kindness, concern, and assistance, that you share these same feelings. The thousands of miles between us does not allow me to

show your smiling faces, well-clothed bodies, and the looks of hope for a better tomorrow of these children. Yet, let me assure you it is here because you have made this a successful project and one that each of you can be proud to be a part of its great success. Happy faces and hearts are indeed a great reward -- and you have been rewarded.

We ask only that the New Year brings peace and Good Will to the children of Vietnam.

2. Belated Thanks: Apologies go to Mr. & Mrs. F. P. McAneny and all the wonderful people of Lighthouse Point, Florida, for our failure in thanking them for the check of \$192.53 in last month's Information letter. This check was in addition to their tremendous collection of over a ton of donations that are now on the way - as was noted a few issues ago. Our most sincere thanks to the wonderful people of that city.

3. Christmas Party: The plans are completed for our annual party for the children here on our Station. We had first thought of bringing in Santa by helicopter; However, space was ~~not~~ available. Therefore, he will arrive by jeep in traditional Army Christmas fashion. Santa will be assisted by approximately 500 GI helpers, as he passes out toys and "Ho Ho Hos" to the children. Unfortunately, there is no translation of "Ho Ho Ho" into Vietnamese, so we're hoping the children understand our happy Santa. More on the results next month.

4. New Donors: Welcome to the new donors this month go to:

Dr. Evelyn Underwood and the students of Mars Hill College,
Mars Hill, North Carolina

Margaret Nagy and the Newmans Club of St. Luke Hospital
School of Nursing, Bethlehem, Pa.

Eva K. Wherley, York, Pa.

Beta Sigma Phi, Moore, Oklahoma

Walter Garrett, St. Petersburg, Florida

Mrs. Robert Morris, Mundelein, Illinois

Mrs. Carl Putnam and the Girl Scouts, District 7,
Neighborhood 1, Covered Bridge Council of Terre Haute, Indiana

5. A Christmas Thanks: With Christmas gift packages still pouring in at this time, our thanks on behalf of the children - and seasonal cheer - go out to the following who have sent donations, cards, checks, and their good wishes to us and the children:

Loretta Zielinski, Detroit, Michigan, who set the mood by sending 2 Christmas Trees and the trimmings.

Marian Ziemiński and the La Mirada Ladies Aux. VFW 9148, La Mirada, California: 7 boxes of Christmas toys.

Mrs. Elmer Kern and members of the W.S.C.S., Durand Methodist Church, Menomonee, Wisconsin for the nice card and news that their club photo was on its way.

Dr. Evelyn Underwood and the students of Mars Hill College whose donations are still coming in. At last count, 11 boxes had arrived and word that there were many more to come.

Mrs. Darden and the students of the Manassas Park elementary school, who have sent a total of 6 boxes as of this writing.

Mrs. Laura Lloyd, Blue Mountain, Alabama: Toys, of all descriptions and other needs.

Mrs. Velma Kulp and the San Francisco Rainbow Aux. 2065, VFW, San Francisco: Toys and clothing.

Mrs. Pearl Corn, Anniston, Alabama: Loads of toys and clothing.

Howard, Manassas, Virginia; Clothing.

Mrs. H.W. Talbott and the American Legion Aux., Halstead, Kansas: 2 boxes of clothes.

Margaret Nagy and the Newmans Club of St. Luke Hospital School of Nursing, Bethlehem, Pa: Instant Milk

Mrs. Sophia Cole and the members of the Hyner Methodist Church, Hyner, Pa: 2 boxes of toys.

Mrs. Paul Pachowka, Woodlyn, Pa.: 2 boxes of clothing, rubber thongs, baby needs, canned goods, toys and instant milk.

Mr. E. Wengland, St. Petersburg, Florida: 2 boxes of toys, candy, Kool Aid, and clothing.

Eva K. Wherley, York, Pa. for her check and good wishes.

Mrs. N.L. Israel and the Anniston Jayceettes, Anniston, Ala.: 4 boxes of many, many items to include toothpaste and brushes, towels, clothes, shoes and toys.

Walter Garrett, St. Petersburg, Florida: Box of soap.

Alice E. Hall and the Sgt. James W. Hennessey Post Aux. 712, VFW, Newark, New Jersey for 6 boxes of happiness that included: cookies, candy, gum, games, toys, beach balls, clothes, dry milk, soap, rubber thongs, dolls, and hand-made cloth bags for pre-teen girls that included a comb, head scarf, and a Christmas card, which were made by their group of young girls in their community.

E.S. Grinnell, Mayville, Michigan for the dolls, candy, and clothes.

Mrs. Mary C. Stevens, King of Prussia, Pa.: 2 boxes and her very kind wishes.

Beta Sigma Phi, Moore, Oklahoma: 4 boxes of clothes, baby needs, and shoes.

Mr. & Mrs. Orlando Malatino, Oxford, Alabama for their check and good wishes.

Mrs. Robert Morris, Mundelein, Illinois: toys - which included some very nice homemade ducks to cuddle.

The Covenant Methodist Church, Reading, Pa. for the toys, soap, tooth paste and tooth brushes.

Mrs. P. Corn and the Philathea Sunday School Class of the McCoy Methodist Church, Anniston, Alabama for their check.

Mrs. F.P. McAneny, Lighthouse Point, Florida, for her nice card and holiday wishes.

Mrs. Norman Ziegler, Bath, Pa. for her check.

Mrs. Carl Putnam and the Girl Scouts, District 7, Covered Bridge Council, Terre Haute, Indiana for the toys and clothing.

6. Cards, Letters, and Goodies: Special thanks and our deep appreciation is offered to the following persons or groups that have not only sent donations to the children, but also included many gifts and goodies especially for our men:

La Mirada Ladies Aux., VFW Post 9148 for the candy and cookies - and especially Mirian Zieminski, Esther Larsen, Delia Rodriguez, and Jeanie Clay who baked the cookies.

The Sgt. James W. Hennessey Post 712 VFW for the goodies.

Mrs. Mary C. Stevens for her gifts and blessings.

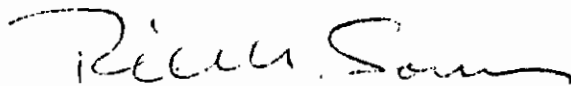
The Anniston Jayceettes for their GI Gift Packs and other gift packages.

And also to each and everyone who have sent us a card or letter with your good wishes and blessings. You have all helped to make it a brighter Christmas season, not only for the children, but for us too. For this, we all thank you.

7. Do not hesitate to write if there are any questions regarding the children or the Council's activities with the Orphanage. We will gladly furnish all available information to you at your request.

Remember this Christmas Day that there is a Vietnamese child with you in spirit who asks, "May God grant you wisdom and good health in your deliberations to come. You have exalted His name through the miracle of human kindness."

Merry Christmas and Joyous New Year.



CPT RICHARD L. SOWERS
President, Sancta Maria
Orphanage Association

FREE

HQ 509 RR GROUP
ATTN: RRCUV - SMOA
APO SAN FRANCISCO 96307

Villegas Family

Carpentersville, Ill. 60110



HEADQUARTERS
509th RADIO RESEARCH GROUP
SANCTA MARIA ORPHANAGE ASSOCIATION

"He who stops to help a child will never be without love."

INFORMATION LETTER #1

January 1968

1. Our Christmas Party: Santa Claus arrived by Army jeep with a trailer overflowing with presents for all during our annual Christmas Party on 24 December 1967.

The children arrived in 3 busses about 1:30 PM, and proceeded to sing a few holiday songs for the waiting GI's. Immediately following the singing, we drove Santa into the party area, where he "Ho Ho'd" with such vigor that his beard slipped. This tragic emergency was corrected at once and went unnoticed to all except a few sharp-eyed soldiers who came to his rescue.

He then began passing out the presents, as the boys lined up in one group and the girls in the other. It took 4 of Santa's helpers to dig through the mountains of gifts to find just the right present for every little hand. As the children were given their gift, each one bowed and smiled a "Thank you." Your tremendous response made it possible to have an abundance of varied toys and gifts for everyone.

After about an hour of play, hamburgers, hot dogs, sodas, cookies, and ice cream were eagerly consumed.

By around 5:00 PM we had 3 bus loads of tummys that were as full as their arms were with gifts. Needless to say, a good time was had by all - GI and child. (A few children are still amazed that a soldier can use a jump rope with ease.) And although Mrs. Norman Ziegler - who made the Santa suit - used light weight material, our Santa still lost a few pounds in the suit, beard, and hat as the result of the 90-~~some~~-degree tropical heat.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus - but ours is a little thinner than before!!

On behalf of the children and all of us - our most sincere thanks to each of you who made this party so successful through your donations and assistance. We hope that your Christmas was as joyful as ours.

2. Christmas Photos: Photos were taken and will be forwarded as soon as we can get them developed.

3. New Donors: Our thanks also this month go out to the following new donors to our project:

Brownie Troop #249, Carpentersville, Illinois, and especially Mrs. J. Kilhefner, Mrs. J. Nixon, and the girls who sent the very nice hand-made wash cloth dolls: Ann O'Brien, Karen Kilhefner, Debra N., Eva Woods, Nancy Schrankel, Sandy Thompson, Linda Meyer, Bonnie Nixon, Denise Giguere, Nancy Arnolde, Debra Novander, Renee Giguere, Decley C., Amy Foley, and Wendy Thompson.

Mr. Robert L. McWithey, Harmony, Pa., who notifies us that a number of boxes are on their way.

Marsha Norman and Troop #69, Marion, Illinois.

"The Little Friends" of the Sgt James H. Hennessey Post & Aux., 712 VFW. These are children of the neighborhood who made stuffed toys, dolls, and turtles of foam rubber and soap, while on summer vacation.

The Young Ladies Bible Class of the Nativity Lutheran Sunday School, Reading, Pa., and especially Mrs. Agnes Becker, Sunday School Teacher, and the Rev. Rodger A. Krause, Pastor.

Mrs. K. M. Vail, Terre Haute, Indiana

Leona Abate, Lakewood, Calif.

Protestant Women of the Chapel, Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Virginia.

4. A Thanks From The Troops: The personal thanks from the men of our unit go to the Ladies Aux., VFW Post 7119, Ft. Harrison, Indiana, who sent gift packs for them, and to Joyce Boram and her 4th Grade Class, Room 61 of Eastwood School, La Mirada, Calif, who made Christmas Cards for the men. The children at the party were not the only ones to receive presents from Santa, thanks to your efforts.

5. A Big Christmas Thanks From All Of Us - Large & Small:

Also making it a happy holiday last month were the following:

King's Couples Class, Tabernacle Baptist Church, Chillicothe, Ohio - Clothes, Toys, and Games.

The Students of Mars Hill College, Mars Hill, N.C., whose boxes of cereal, candy, clothes, soap, food, toys, instant milk, balloons, puzzles, and many, many other items continue to pour in.

Mrs. Paul Pachowka, Woodlyn, Pa., 2 boxes of shoes, clothes, food and baby food.

Mrs. Elmer Ganschow, Saginaw, Michigan: milk and wash cloths.

Mrs. E. MacArthur, Saginaw, Michigan: 2 boxes of gifts, and toys.

Leona Abate, Lakewood, Calif: toys.

Students of Mars Hill College: 25 more boxes of needs.

Louie Trego, Newton, Kansas: Check for the building fund.

Mrs. K. M. Vail, Terre Haute, Indiana: 2 boxes of shoes.

Mrs. Mary C. Stevens, King of Prussia, Pa., Instant milk and pudding.

Mrs. Darden and the Manassas Park School 5th Graders, Manassas Park, Va: Clothes.

E. S. Grinnell, Mayville, Mich.: 3 boxes of clothes and soap.

Susan M. Mohr, Saginaw, Michigan: toys and gifts for the party.

Eva Angstadt, Reading, Pa., and the Nativity Lutheran Church: 2 boxes of soap, in addition to the other donations.

Marian Zieminski, La Mirada, Calif: Selection of children's books.

Loretta Zielinski, Detroit, Michigan: Clothes.

Mrs. Elmer Kern and the Durand Women's Society of Christian Service for the check for the building fund.

Marsha Norman and Troop #69, Marion, Illinois for the many games, toys, candies, and various gifts.

Protestant Women of the Chapel, Arlington Hall Station, Arlington, Va., who sew shifts for the girls again this year.

6. New President of S.M.O.A.: I am most happy to announce that Lt. Garvis Pollard will succeed me as President of S.M.O.A. Happy because I know that he has the ability, interest, and deep appreciation for the large job that he is assuming this month.

Lt. Pollard hails from Arkansas, where he attended the University of Arkansas, and has already begun his work with children through practice teaching while attending the University. As he has been assisting me for the past 2 months, he is well versed in the activities and projects that lie ahead for the Council and the Orphanage.

It is therefore my pleasure to have a man of his ability and understanding to lead this vital cause and continue in our mutual goals for the children of Sancta Maria.

7. My Personal Thanks And Farewell:

When I wrote the phrase, "He who stops to help a child will never be without love", my intent was to convey a message of appeal to you. An appeal to stop a moment and consider the underprivileged child here in this strife-ridden land that has known conflict for over two decades. I wanted you to know that if you could help these children in any way possible, they would not forget.

I can truthfully say that I had never applied the meaning of that phrase to myself until now...now that I have stopped in Vietnam, worked with these children, and am now preparing to leave. For I have stopped...helped...and received more love from small faces of every description than any one man deserves. I have truly come to know the real meaning of my own words.

It seems that it's more than any one man deserves, because I have only been the "middleman" between each of you and these children. I have been the lucky one who has passed on the efforts of you, your clubs, and organizations that have made this project so very worthwhile and successful. Each of you deserve the major part of this love I have received...this warm and rewarding reaction of the children...the unforgettable smiles that a child conveys when holding her first doll... or seeing a small boy pushing a model car across the floor that he can call his own.

This is the love that rightfully belongs to you; yet, how can I pass it on to you? How can I unselfishly hold on to it, knowing it's not all mine?

There seems to be no answer, really. I've tried by a simple "Thanks" in personal letters or through these Information Letters. But I realize how little it is when each of you are not able to see the wonderful results of your efforts. Photos are good, but they're not a hug on the neck. And they can't equal a small hand in yours saying "Thanks" for the new dress...or ball...or T-shirt.

I have received these thanks...these gifts of love...these praises of children. I regret that you cannot. And I shall remain selfish and keep them near and dear to me. Thus I owe each of you a great deal that I cannot repay.

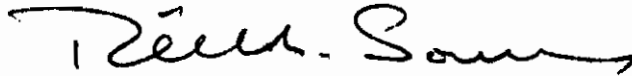
I ask you then, to trust me with this debt to you, and know that it will always be well protected and held dear to my heart. I shall never lose it nor misplace it. I'll have it with me always.

Thus, for the last time, I thank you for your help, assistance, understanding, blessings, interest, and devotion to this project. And for your trust. May it continue through the others that will follow me.

I have stopped and helped and been rewarded with the love of children.

I'm leaving Vietnam with far more than I came with.

8. Remember there is a Vietnamese child with you in spirit who asks, "May God grant you wisdom and good health in your deliberations to come. You have exalted His name through the miracle of human kindness."



CPT RICHARD L. SOWERS
President, Sancta Maria
Orphanage Association

The members of the 509th RRG, and the children of the Sancta Maria Orphanage wish to take this opportunity to extend our thanks and appreciation to a wonderful man, outstanding humanitarian and friend, and a real fine soldier; CPT RICHARD L. SOWERS.

In the past year under the direction of Cpt. Sowers, much progress has been made at the orphanage. A new addition has been added to the present structure, and construction is under way on additional dormitory space at the farm. Also more packages than ever before have been received for the orphanage. The year 1967 also saw the addition of another GI/Orphan get together.

He has devoted much of his time to the trust that was given him, and we (orphans and GI's) feel that he has more than proven himself loyal to that trust.

It is impossible to express in a few short paragraphs the way the children and the members of the 509th feel but we would like to have him remember not only the 509th, and the Orphanage, but the people in the states who have helped him so much. Where ever he goes and what ever he does, may God give His blessings to him in all that he may undertake in life.

Members of the 509th RRG And
Children and Personnel Of The
Sancta Maria Orphanage

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