



Dear Friends,

I'm so thankful for what God is doing in El Salvador, and we praise Him for His faithfulness in guiding our steps as an organization. Being obedient to what He asks us to do isn't always easy, but we've learned to trust Him as we walk by faith, knowing that nothing is too hard for Him. It's been an exciting year for SHIP.

The children in the orphanage are doing well. We continue to meet their needs for a safe and loving home, which we believe will become a foundation to help them be successful adults with thriving families of their own someday.

You've most likely noticed a change in the trajectory of our work, which now includes the people who live in the very poor neighborhood surrounding SHIP El Salvador. Before SHIP stepped in to help, there wasn't much hope for their future.

The El Pino Beautification Project (or urban renewal, El Salvador style). In 2011, we began by helping them spruce up the neighborhood – picking up trash, painting their homes, etc. – and we saw a change in the families as they began to take pride in their neighborhood. These projects continue, and each SHIP

mission team has its own special project: building cinder block shower facilities, repairing or replacing roofs on homes so they can stay dry when it's the rainy season, building a retaining wall to keep a house from sliding down the mountain, adding a room for a growing family, and many other construction projects to improve their living conditions.

The Way Out of Poverty. In El Salvador, the public schools are less than challenging and more than dangerous. And after the 7th grade, parents must decide if they can afford to send their child to school and also buy food for their family. Parents in our neighborhood can't afford the expense of school. But SHIP has stepped in to fill that void. Currently, we send six neighborhood children to a private Christian school, with much more rigorous standards than the schools they had been attending, and we've hired tutors, who work with them every school day. Beginning in January (the start of the school year) a total of 23 kids from our neighborhood will be attending a private school. SHIP believes that knowing Jesus and having knowledge is the way to a brighter future.

The Power to Change. Most households in the neighborhood are headed by single mothers, and very few opportunities are available for them to earn a living, while caring for their families. In July, SHIP started a micro-business at our facility. Initially, the ladies are given 20 free t-shirts to sell for whatever price they can get. They can then come back to our facility and purchase additional clothing items to sell to earn money to support their families. Currently, 43 ladies are working, and they're excited about this opportunity. They're earning more money than ever before, and it's helping them to provide for their families!

The Means to Make It Happen. Because these ladies are selling so much merchandise, we began filling a shipping container in August with new and gently used clothing and other items that were donated to the SHIP Resale Shop in Bryan. The container was delivered to SHIP El Salvador in mid-November, and you can't imagine how excited these ladies were to see new merchandise arriving! We've started collecting clothing again for another shipment in the near future (and we welcome your clothing donations at our resale shop).

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Thank you to the generous donors who supported our

Passport to El Salvador
fundraiser!

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The Answer to All Our Problems.

Most importantly, we're seeing people come to Christ! As we help these families, they want to know what makes us tick, which gives us an opportunity to share the Gospel. We've also partnered with a local church that is regularly involved in their lives, picking them up for church and holding Bible studies in the neighborhood. God is changing their lives, and we are witnesses to what He is doing there!



Passport to El Salvador

SHIP held its annual fundraiser, *Passport to El Salvador*, on November 7th in Bryan, Texas. The audience heard from our special Salvadoran guests: Astrid Zavaleta, SHIP's NGO President; Susana Martinez, SHIP's tutor; and Ana Coto, one of SHIP's scholarship recipients who won a contest that was based on academic achievement, personal and spiritual growth, an interview, and an essay. A second scholarship recipient, Jocelyn Aguillon, was to attend but was unable to secure a passport in time for the trip; we continue to work on obtaining her passport and hope she will be able to visit us very soon.

When Astrid, Susana, and Ana spoke to the fundraiser audience, hearts were touched as they shared their stories of life in El Salvador and how God has used SHIP to make a difference in so many lives there. While they were in the States, our guests also went to Edmond, Oklahoma, and spoke at Oak Hills Church, a church that actively supports SHIP and has had a number of its members go to El Salvador with our mission teams. Additionally, they spoke at Faith Bible Church in Bryan, another church that has had its members on mission trips with us. We included a lot of fun sightseeing

The Future Is Spelled O-P-P-O-R-

T-U-N-I-T-Y. We are already seeking God's will for what He wants us to do in 2014. He has revealed some of it, which continues what was started in 2013. But He has given us a new opportunity to do more for the people of our little neighborhood of El Pino. He has placed His hand over our community and protected and blessed SHIP's work. In the coming months, we will be sharing what He is leading us to do. So, stay tuned! And if you'd like to be a part of this amazing work through prayer, joining a mission trip, or by your financial blessings, we welcome you to join us.

Robert Horton
SHIP President



events for them while they were here, too, including riding a horse – one of their special requests. We were so blessed to have these ladies with us, and it was hard to see them leave.

We would like to thank the sponsors and others who donated at the fundraiser and when we visited the churches. We raised almost 1/3 of the money needed for SHIP's 2014 budget of \$150,000. We especially want to thank our Underwriter Sponsors – Buckey and Carolyn Turk with **MacResource Computers** in Bryan; and our Platinum Sponsors – Steve and Kerry Beck with **Beck Construction** in Bryan, and a table sponsored **in memory of John Hamilton**, who is a former SHIP board member. We've included information about each of these sponsors on the next page. We appreciate their generosity.



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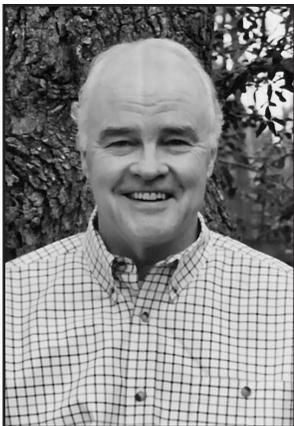
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In Memory of John Hamilton

John Hamilton passionately served as Vice President on SHIP's Board of Directors until his death on July 11, 2011, so it was fitting that those who loved him would honor his memory by becoming a Platinum Sponsor of SHIP's fundraiser in November.

John was a highly respected, independent real estate appraiser and consultant. He had been actively engaged in the real estate profession since 1974, working in many areas of Texas. His intense interest and expertise in real estate made him such a valuable partner in SHIP's work to provide homes and hope for a brighter future to the homeless.

We are grateful to him for sharing his life with us, and for giving us the gift of his humor, intelligence, compassion, and wisdom. His death left a big hole in our hearts, but his legacy continues.



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James 1:27 *“Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress and to keep oneself from being polluted by the world.”*

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2014 Mission Trip Schedule

SHIP's mission trip calendar is filling up for the first half of 2014, so God must have some exciting things planned for us in El Salvador next year! Please pray about going with us, and begin your fundraising right away if you need to raise money to go. The cost is \$650 plus airfare.

- Please be praying for the team that will be in El Salvador January 2-10. They will be working with the coffee trees on SHIP's property and putting in an irrigation system.
- **Spring Break mission trip: March 8-15.** An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, January 12, at 2:30 pm (youth meeting room at Central Baptist Church, Bryan). Your completed application form and \$250 deposit is due on January 27. Final \$400 payment is due on February 21.
- Special closed mission trip for KOR Education School in College Station: May 24-31. This trip is the culmination of the high school juniors' study on service. They'll have many opportunities to put what they've learned into action!
- **Summer mission trips: June 13-20 and June 21-28.** An informational meeting will be held on Sunday, April 13, at 2:30 pm (contact us for location information). Your completed application form and \$250 deposit is due on April 28. Final \$400 payment is due on May 26. If you would like to go for both weeks, the cost is \$925 plus airfare.

For additional information, email us at contact@shipinternational.org.