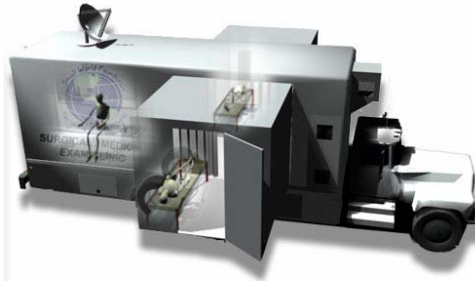


# Small World Foundation



*Happy New Year!  
January 2006*

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SWF Mobile Hospital I continues to be our vision for 2006!

There is a great need to help those in remote areas who have no access to medical care. It will be a fully equipped self-sufficient medical-surgical unit staffed by American doctors and nurses. Your donation toward this very special project will be greatly appreciated. We are 60% toward our goal!

Please refer to our website for more details.

## Erika's Story

To those who have been reading our newsletters, Erika's story is a familiar one (see April 2002 edition) Briefly, she had been found abandoned by her mother as a infant. She was floating in a river, stuffed inside a plastic bag, covered with ants and worms.. We first met Erika in a damp, dimly lit ward in Santa Tecla Hospital where she had been brought by the woman who found her. She was severely malnourished (3months old, weight less than 3 kg). We taught the staff how to feed her with a syringe of formula and gradually she was nursed back to health. However, her severely clubbed feet needed repairing.

SWF brought Erika to Dr Karl Rathjen at Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, who graciously performed surgery. She spent many months of painful rehab and returned home to El Salvador. When we last saw her in 2002, she could stand and take a few tentative steps. Her village, Guayapa Arriba if far out in the remote western mountains of El Salvador along the Guatemalan frontier in Ahuachapan.

In November, a SWF team made the trek back to Guayapa Arriba to assess local needs and plan a return mission. Only in God's mercy were we were able to find Erika again. She was still living in the same house made of mud and straw.

Our hearts melted as this strong, confident young lady, now almost 6 years old, walked up to us, a bright smile spread across her face. Could this really be the same girl who was left to die all those years ago, because she was crippled and not worthy in the eyes of man?



Dr Laurence Arnold and Ms.Glenda Johnson hold baby Erika at a refugee camp clinic in Cafetelon, El Salvador after a massive earthquake in 2001



Dr Mike and Lorena Tolle are pleased to see Erika again, almost six years later, in Guayapa Arriba

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*"For I am mindful of the plans I have made concerning you-declares the Lord-plans for your welfare, not for disaster, to give you a hopeful future."*

**Jer 29:11**

### Missions to El Salvador, June, 2005 and November, 2005

In June, 2005, SWF brought a medical team to the Valle de Jesus along the northern border with Honduras. The team operated a general medical and minor surgical clinic seeing almost 500 patients. In this village of San Fernando, SWF provided acute case management and assisted local health officials in their long-term strategic approach: identification of disease trends in the population and planning for outreach health brigades. SWF is also engaged in preventative health efforts in the region, such as provision of folic acid to all women of child-bearing age and vitamin supplementation of diets of children less than 5 years of age. SWF plans to continue its work here in the future, working with the local health ministry. We wish to extend thanks to Mr. Rodolfo Alvarez, mayor of San Fernando, and Dr Oscar Sosa, health director for Chaletenango, for their invitation and assistance.

In November, Dr Tolle and his medical team returned to this region along the northern shore of Lago Suchitlan, in the town of San Luis del Carmen. The region, hard hit by torrential rains, mudslides and a recent hurricane were pleased to see us. Several severely ill infants were treated with respiratory and gastrointestinal problems. We were pleased to make the acquaintance of Dra. Ortiz from San Salvador and Steve Quinlan, a senior member of the local US Peace Corps, who joined us to help meet the medical needs of the local population.

### Mission to Nicaragua, July 2005

SWF recently began working in the Diriamba region of Carazo state, Nicaragua, thanks to the efforts and generosity of Mr Alonso Garcia. The area is affected by malnutrition and a high rate of child mortality; there are many in this rural community who live several hours from the nearest clinic. SWF may be the first to visit this region, centered on the ranching hamlet of Pochoton. Adults and children with fever, diarrhea, scorpion stings and machete lacerations were but a few of the conditions treated. We hope to return to the region in March 2006. An epidemiology study will be coordinated with the local health ministry to study treatment outcomes for a poisonous scorpion( Centruroides) which "kills more children than malaria" per local health director.



Ms. Lorena Tolle and Dra. Ortiz

### What Happened to the Fire/Rescue truck?



2001



2004

In 2001, the City of Oakland Park donated a fire-rescue truck to Small World Foundation. We then decided to ship it to La Esperanza, Honduras. With help from Sal's Towing, the truck was transported to Port Everglades, placed on a barge and shipped to Honduras. Problems with registration made it difficult to import the vehicle from port to La Esperanza. Brett DeMott from Such is the Kingdom Ministry finally made it possible. It is good to know that the people of La Esperanza now have an emergency vehicle. It sure beats the back of a pick up truck! Way to go, Brett!

### Visit our website:

[www.smallworld.org](http://www.smallworld.org)

There you can read about some of our past missions, sign up to volunteer your services, and even make a tax-deductible contribution online to the mission of your choice!

### We are Moving!

•Dr Laurence Arnold, Pres/CEO of Small World Foundation and his lovely wife Linda have decided to relocate to the mountains of Western North Carolina. This move will allow them more time to volunteer their God given abilities abroad. As well, the headquarters of Small World Foundation will also make its home there. Change of address will be announced in the next newsletter as well as on our soon to be updated, website. A big thanks goes out to Debbie Andrews, RN for her volunteer efforts as Operations Manager.

*Thanks to Barbara Wolf, Esq. for her tax and accounting assistance!*