

Friend Ships Unlimited (a.k.a. Park West Children's Fund, Inc.)

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April 2011 – Activities Report

Dear Friend Ships Family:

Warm greetings. Thank you for all you do to support *Friend Ships*. This has been a time of preparation and strategizing as we look ahead and evaluate the most effective plans for our efforts here at *Friend Ships*. With the recent addition of the *Sea Hawks* program that gives us the time, talents, energy and brilliance of young men and women who love the Lord and are earnestly serving Him, along with the three newest additions to the *Friend Ships* fleet: *Pearl*, *Navy Blue* and *Divine Wind*, we are excited to lay out a battle plan. Each boat, although smaller than our ships, has unique capabilities and we have a specialized vision for each vessel. It is with great excitement that we unfold to you our visions and dreams for the future.

As you can see by the map on the reverse side of this letter, these two facilities are strategically placed to give us access to thousands of coastal communities in the United States, Central America and throughout the Caribbean. In order to enhance our ability to minister to people when disaster strikes, we are working on the following:

- Complete work on *Pearl* and *Divine Wind*, sail them down the Pacific Coast, through the Panama Canal, and on to our bases where they can be dispatched as needed. Utilize sailboats *Divine Wind* and *Navy Blue* to transport *Sea Hawks* in training from the US to the mission field in Honduras and other Central American ports and to supply our boats and base camp in Roatán, minimizing fuel use. Deploy *Pearl*, our lovely mobile conference center to do advance work for our missions, bring Christian disaster response training and other dynamic seminars to Pastors and their church members in coastal cities throughout Honduras and other Central American countries.
- Continue to build farming and aquaponics at *The Village* in Roatán in order to provide food for a large class of Central American *Sea Hawks* and to utilize for disaster relief missions. Birth the Central American *Sea Hawks*, helping young men and women draw closer to the Lord, become physically fit, learn work ethics, job skills and practical ways to serve the Lord.
- Be ready with our ships, 206 Bell Jet Helicopter, fleet of trucks and food service equipment to respond to disasters in the U.S., Central America and the Caribbean where we can form an effective regional team by working with Spanish speaking *Sea Hawks* and others we have trained to reach the hurting communities. Conduct periodic medical and humanitarian aid missions. Expand and refine the *Sea Hawks* program at Port Mercy providing training for up to 100 young men and women each year.

Overall, we hope to continue to build the *Friend Ships* team as we train people to offer a hand of love, the love of Jesus, in desperate times of need; a glass of cold water, a plate of warm food, medical care and a blanket to wrap around cold shoulders; a listening ear, a prayer of salvation and a word of support and encouragement.

To reach people at that moment when they most need to find hope, defenses are down and their hearts are open to receive the Good News of Jesus Christ. When we are devastated by loss, it is a time like no other that we are in search of solid ground, so open to a relationship with the Lord and ready to be embraced by Him. And the Lord is never more ready to meet us than He is in our time of need. Thank you for helping us to be there for people and to have the honor of letting people know "The LORD is close to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit." Psalms 34. . . "He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak." Isaiah 40. . . ". . . raises the poor out of the dust, and lifts the needy out of the ash heap" Psalms 113

Thank you for your prayers, friendship, love and support and for listening to our hearts and dreams. One of our biggest needs at this time, along with general operating funds, is to have the funds available to sail *Divine Wind* and *Pearl* through the Panama Canal, to Roatán and home. We still are in need of fuel, a portion of the Panama Canal fees, dry dock and a few remaining pieces of equipment. \$4 will cover the fuel and oil needs for each mile we travel. As you know, we rarely ask for financial help and we know that finances are very short for everyone at this time, but we could really use your help. If the Lord puts it on your heart to consider sponsoring \$4 a mile or more, we would be so very appreciative.

Love,

Don & Sondra and the Friend Ships Crew