



COMPAÑEROS

Companions on the Journey

Offering hope. Restoring dignity. Worldwide.

CHRISTIAN FOUNDATION FOR CHILDREN AND AGING

Spring 2008

Your new advocacy newsletter

by Kim Plumb

Welcome to Compañeros, your new newsletter published especially for CFCA advocates. We hope you will find much information and inspiration within its pages each quarter. Every issue will feature tips for successful advocacy efforts as well as interviews with CFCA advocates and other articles.

We welcome your contributions and ideas for upcoming issues.

This issue introduces personal outreach as an activity for CFCA advocates. Personal outreach involves reaching out to your family members and friends and inviting them to become sponsors, as well as assisting at CFCA events in your local area. Community outreach, which is making presentations about CFCA within your local community, will be covered in the next edition of Compañeros.

If you would like to invite others to become sponsors but don't

know quite where to start, consider hosting a sponsorship party. Our party kit makes introducing CFCA to your family and friends an easy and fun activity. Included is a party planner, invitations and a DVD. We also supply you with "live folders" of children, youth and aging members who are awaiting a sponsor. While the party creates a

perfect opportunity, it's your sharing of personal experiences and enthusiasm for sponsorship that really make a difference.

Another important personal outreach activity is providing assistance at local CFCA events or weekend appeals. Describing her experience helping at a weekend appeal, advocate Michele Miller said, "I really enjoyed answering questions

about sponsorship and watching others choose their sponsored children. It was so easy

to do and took nothing but a little of my time." ■

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Important information concerning live folders

Thank you to everyone who has accepted responsibility for "live folders" of children, youth and aging members who are eagerly awaiting a sponsor. Your efforts to find sponsors are greatly appreciated!

An important bit of information to remember is that the folders have an expiration date. Personal outreach advocates have eight weeks from the time the folders are received to find sponsors. After eight weeks, the folders of children, youth and aging are sent out with other campaigns.

If you are in possession of folders, please locate the expiration date printed on the coupon in the lower right hand corner. Example: E06/25/2007. If your folders have an expired date, send them back to CFCA. We will be glad to provide you with a postage-paid return envelope, if needed. Thank You!

Focus on advocates: Bob and Sonja Matejewski

by Drucie Peterson

Bob and Sonja Matejewski first learned about CFCA when a visiting priest came to their church. They fell in love with a child pictured on a folder. They decided to become sponsors instead of giving gifts at Christmas because they liked the idea of giving a long-term gift.

At first, sponsorship seemed to consist of making monthly contributions and writing a couple of letters a year. But then they experienced a mission awareness trip — and met their sponsored friend in person. This humbling experience compelled them to want to share even more with others.

Both Bob and Sonja agreed that meeting Carolina was a powerful experience. Carolina was so

excited she started hyperventilating! On that trip, they separately encountered Kimberly. The connection was so strong that they decided to sponsor her, too. Now they receive many more letters.

After the mission awareness trip, Bob and Sonja found five new sponsors by sharing folders with friends and family. They also convinced their parish priest to have CFCA presenter Father Art Kirwin come speak at their church. Bob and Sonja shared experiences about their mission awareness trip after Father Kirwin



Advocates Bob and Sonja Matejewski have been sponsors since 1998. Their sponsored children are Carolina and Kimberly, both of Costa Rica.

spoke. As a result, 36 children were sponsored that weekend.

In addition to being advocates, Bob enjoys singing in the church choir and performing in a regional theater while Sonja delights in gardening and volunteering in the church office. ■

Act locally and your efforts will be felt a world away

Not everyone can afford to volunteer in developing countries in order to make a difference in the world. The good news is, you don't have to. Through personal outreach, CFCA advocates are acting locally and the effects are being felt throughout CFCA projects worldwide.

There are many tangible ways to help CFCA build the worldwide community of compassion, starting in your own church. Talk to your pastor about inviting CFCA

to your parish. We will provide you with a pastor packet containing information about CFCA, our mission with the poor and the benefits of sponsorship. You can also help more children, youth and aging have the opportunity for a better life by assisting at the sponsorship table at one of our weekend appeals. Advocates answer questions, share their enthusiasm for sponsorship, and direct traffic around the table. It is easy to sign up; just contact Drucie Peterson at (800) 875-6564 or (913) 384-6500.

You can also review the schedule of weekend events on our Web site, www.cfcausa.org.

Once people in your parish commit to sponsorship, help build awareness and solidarity with the poor by hosting letter-writing parties or having a presentation by sponsors who have been on a CFCA Mission Awareness Trip. Acting locally with CFCA is an empowering way to make a real difference that is felt throughout the world. ■