



# SMILE POWER NEWS

Enriching Lives One Smile at a time

Volume 4 Issue 1

May 2002

## BOLIVIA 2002 Children Shaping Our World

Our trip to Bolivia this year found our team without Jerri Shinn, our beloved nurse and Sherwin's right hand. She decided to stay home with Alfonso as he prepared for surgery. A heart wrenching decision for her as it meant she would miss going another year without holding the children and seeing her friends in Bolivia.

With this challenge facing us we joyously added 6 people to our team, Danna Colingham (Issaquah PTSA Council Humanitarian co-chair), Jay Colingham (Danna's son and Issaquah Liberty High School 10th grade Student), Penny LeGate (KIRO TV Anchor), Joe Shinn (Sherwin and Jerri's son), Jana Chambers (Dr. Shinn's niece) and Rich Couden (Marlene's son).

With all this new energy, the excitement was high in anticipation of the journey.

Gordon Trucking (generously with out charge) shipped 52 containers of clothing, school supplies, medical supplies and gifts to Florida the week before. Plus with over \$10,000 raised by school children to be delivered, we arrived in Bolivia with our work cut out for us.

As we moved from day to day experiencing mountains of joy and heart wrenching sadness we realized what an honor it was for us to be on a team delivering the loving gifts from children back home.



Bolivian deaf girl signs "I love you"

Continued pg 3

## Alfonso's surgery was a great success!

Thanks to the tireless caring and unrelenting positive energy of Kathleen Steoger, Alfonso Escalera Figueroa arrived in Seattle on December 7th for the life-saving spinal surgery he can only receive here. Alfonso was one of the hundreds of orphans in Bolivia who we met while doing dental treatment. He has a severely deformed spine due to an early infant tuberculosis infection. We have been trying since 1999 to arrange for the surgical correction and passage to the US for Alfonso. Finally with the help of hundreds of determined Issaquah-area students we were thrilled to greet Alfonso at the airport in Seattle on December 7th, 2001. He is accompanied by Trina Fairbanks who does the English/Spanish translations and assists with his daily education and care. Alfonso's 12 hour surgery took place on April 3rd and was a great success. During this long and difficult surgery, Dr. Wagner removed three vertebrae and inserted metal rods to straighten out Alfonso's spine. Alfonso now wears a "turtle like" body cast while he recovers over the next three months.



Photo by: JIMI LOTT / SEATTLE TIMES

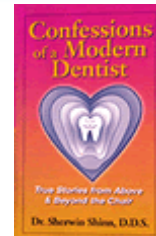
Alfonso Escalera Figueroa, 11, smiles as he beats Sherwin Shinn, the Issaquah dentist who helped to bring him here for surgery, in a Nintendo game in his bed at Swedish/First Hill Medical Center. Alfonso was released from the hospital Thursday, April 11th.

We wish to wholeheartedly thank Dr. Theodore Wagner the spinal surgeon, Swedish Medical Center and their whole medical/surgical team, and American Airlines for donating their services in order to make this a reality for Alfonso.

We owe all of this positive outcome to the caring and dedicated students of the following schools and churches; Arbor Middle School, Beaver Lake Middle School, Maple Hills Elementary (who also raised \$900 for Alfonso's fund), Pine Lake Covenant and Four Square Churches.

Students Sarah Richter and Sean Wooden independently raised money for Alfonso's expenses, and Sean also collected games and activities for Alfonso to do while he recuperates.

Continued pg 2



Support Smile Power...  
buy a book or a t-shirt!  
Dr. Shinn's book has sold over 1600 copies.

Available Online at  
<http://www.smilepower.org>

## Mission Statement

The mission of SmilePower is to provide health care, supplies, and disease-prevention education to people in remote areas of the world, building bridges of understanding and peace through the mutual sharing of our talents and cross-cultural knowledge.

### Inside this Issue

Smiles keep coming in 2002	2
Alfonso ... continued	2
Tooth brushes for Islands	3
Bolivian Heroes	3
Bolivia 2002 ... continued	3
Thank you!	4
What's Next / Upcoming events	4

## Smiles keep coming in 2002

The last half of 2001 was action packed and very successful for all of us at Smile Power. The return to the Cook Islands was one of the special highlights. Six of us flew to the island of Rarotonga on September 17th and divided into two teams for efficiency. In this way three islands were visited; Mangaia, Aitutaki, and Aitu. Judy and Jana Chambers went to Mangaia and managed the distribution of supplies and education in the schools there, as well as doing prevention education on Aitutaki while the Shinns concentrated on Aitu, and delivered supplies to the Aitutaki Hospital. Due to the generosity and caring of the pharmacy staff at Sammamish Bartell's we were able to deliver over \$6,000 of much needed antibiotics and burn medication to the respective hospitals on these islands as well as hard-to-get medical/surgical instruments, dressings and other basic supplies.

We were happy to see that the books from Endeavor Elementary were being well used but still holding up and in good shape on Atiu. The Smile Power team distributed over 1,000 toothbrushes on the three islands, did preventive and interceptive dental care using the fluoride sealant and other dental supplies generously donated by the Patterson Dental Co., met with the local physicians and dentists to assess the needs of the communities, and worked with several dental students from Germany teaching them humanitarian outreach skills.

We also delivered several huge crates of school supplies, personal hygiene products, and handmade and personally decorated individual chalk boards, necklaces, bracelets and whistles all collected, compiled and lovingly created by the Bellevue Stake Youth Group.

The happy whistles echoing around the island afterward attested to the unforgettable and uplifting impact of these gifts.

The Chambers-Rinks Foundation purchased a FAX machine for the Atiu hospital so that accurate and quick communication of diagnostic tests could be relayed between there and the main hospital on Rarotonga. The doctor was ecstatic with this ability to enhance the care for his critically ill patients.

The people of the islands were so appreciative and overwhelmed by what Smile Power provided that the Prime Minister of the Cook Islands flew out to meet and dine with us at several huge Maori-style feasts that were prepared in our honor. We proudly sat face to face with him, eating with our hands Cook Island style, loudly slurping our coconut sauce to show our pleasure and contentment with the sumptuous meal.

The people of the Cook Islands abound and overflow with the joy of being alive and being close to nature and family. It is always humbling to see how capable their youth are at survival, social and creative skills. All the work, play, worship and hunting trips through the jungle were accompanied by melodious singing and free-flowing giggles, laughter, and exuberant shouts.

They wholeheartedly welcomed us into their pristine environment and we have been changed for the better because of their generosity and pervasive uplifting spirit.

We continue to support the medical/dental needs of the Cook Islands. The most pressing and important is getting a portable hospital x-ray machine for the Aitutaki hospital. Currently, there is only one physician there for 1500 people and he is setting fractured bones by feel. There is no x-ray! Smile Power is committed to providing one. A good quality, used machine can be delivered to them for \$10,000. We are looking for someone or group to provide the funding for this life-saving machine as soon as possible.

They also need wheel chairs. Quite a few disabled elderly people have no mobility because there are no wheel chairs available to them. If you or your friends can help us with this, many people would be grateful. Smile Power may be returning to the Cook Island area in 2002 and we now have some shipping resources that can deliver larger equipment for us for little or no charge.

Please let us know if you can help.



Our Cook Island friends have prepared a fabulous feast for us!

### Alfonso continued...

Their unwavering love and support of Alfonso has demonstrated again that our children have the power and capability to do extraordinary things at their age. Their leadership has saved the life of another future leader, and has made the world a better place.



We hope that Alfonso will be able to return home to his family (Alfonso's Mother pictured left) when he returns to Bolivia in a few months.

## Tooth brushes & School Supplies for the Islands

Inspired by Dr. Shinn and Jerri's heartwarming stories of Smile Power's humanitarian and dental outreach efforts in developing nations, and armed with the belief that two ordinary women could help make the world a brighter place, my Mom and I headed to the Cook Islands for a three week vacation/humanitarian outreach effort.

Our first excursion was to Mangaia, the southernmost island of the group. Mangaia has roughly 700 inhabitants (about 15 of whom were gainfully employed), three villages, two "bed and breakfasts", four schools, and some of the happiest people I've ever met. In a short amount of time, we made some close friends. Mangaia is definitely remote. They live a very basic life with basic supplies and basic needs. Things that we take for granted, such as access to toothbrushes, toothpaste, pencils, pens and paper, all have to be shipped in from other countries and the cost can sometimes be prohibitive.

Our friends arranged for Mom and I to visit the primary school for the main village and the college (what we would call high school) for the whole island. We arrived just in time to watch the Monday morning assembly, which was held in a covered outdoor area with views of coconut trees and endless ocean. We were given the center seats on the stage as the guests of honor and were treated to the children's singing and presentations before we were asked to speak to the children. I explained to the enraptured children that the children of Issaquah, Washington had heard about the beautiful children of the Cook Islands and they wanted to give them a gift of toothbrushes, toothpaste, pens, pencils, paper and money to go towards their fundraising efforts for computers. We then sat with the kindergartners while they brushed their teeth and taught them how to reach the

front and back of each tooth and then were treated to a performance of singing and dancing by the beautiful little kindergartners. It was a heartwarming experience and Mom and I walked away from the schools feeling rather extraordinary.



Jana gives the children of the Cook Islands a tooth brushing lesson.



Jay Colingham with the two scholarship recipients.

## BOLIVIAN HEROES

Jay Colingham raised over \$1200 in college scholarship money as an Eagle Scout project. He worked hard, raised it on his own, and went to Bolivia to deliver it himself. The two students, who otherwise would not have been able to go to college, stood with him, arms around each other, a friendship formed forever.

Casey & Callie Holman raised \$1745. to go towards the Bolivian effort. \$1000 of it was donated to build a play center at Nora's school for the deaf, and the remainder was used towards a scholarship fund for Sarah Dorado—a child psychology major.



Beautiful wind charms created by Apollo Elementary School were given to Nora's school for the deaf.

## Bolivia 2002 continued...

Each day was jammed packed as we watched a play area being built, handed out handmade puzzles and zip lock bags of treasures to children grinning from ear to ear, watched children pull all sorts of coats and clothing over their heads, handed over money to build a home for a family who was homeless due to flooding, and bought shoes for over 300 children in a refugee village.

Dr. Shinn was up early every morning off to do dentistry with Jana as his assistant—lovingly trying to take care of as many kid's teeth as possible. During that time the rest of the team was emailing and preparing for our next delivery.

This year we had 15 schools participating including schools in Bellevue, Graham, Snoqualmie Valley and Issaquah School Districts.

This experience makes us even more passionate about the importance of giving our children this humanitarian experience so they can learn our purpose on this earth is to make this world a better place for all people. It is in this place of sharing who we truly are that we are healed, find wisdom, and experience the joy that goes to the core of our being.

Thank you to all the people who gave of themselves to make this all possible.

Visit our web site (<http://www.smilepower.org>) for more information about this journey!



Penny Legate & friend at an orphanage/school for boys.



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*Enriching Lives One Smile at a time*

### What's Next?

**BOLIVIA:** Ongoing support for orphanages, street kids and refugee villages. Next trip in March of 2003

**COOK ISLANDS:** Raising funds to purchase an X-Ray machine for the hospital on Aitutaki.

**GHANA:** Healthcare assessment trip planned for July 2002.

**NEPAL:** Continued support for the medical/dental facility being built in Lukla. Also looking for volunteers for that location.

**PAPUA NEW GUINEA:** The government of Papua New Guinea has issued a request for support from other nations because they are in dire need of healthcare professionals. Healthcare assessment trip in May 2002.

**VIETNAM:** Healthcare assessment trip planned for Fall

### SmilePower Board Members

Dr. Sherwin Shinn, President  
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**Smile Power is In need of volunteers for Marketing, Accounting, Publicity & Fund raising.**

## Thank You! Thank You!

for your powerful expressions of humanitarian outreach and personal commitment to making a positive difference in the world.

Kinkos (Issaquah)  
 Lowe's Hardware  
 LAB Airlines  
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 Sunny Hills Elementary  
 Beaver Lake Middle School  
 Maple Hills Elementary  
 Arbor Schools  
 Echo Glen  
 Maywood Middle School  
 Bellevue High School  
 Skyline High School  
 Liberty High School  
 Issaquah High School  
 Frontier Jr. High  
 St. Joseph's School of Issaquah  
 Tolt Middle School

Susan, Paul & Madeline Moulton  
 Mary O'Brian  
 Dr. David Hildebrand

## Smile Power would love your help!

Please indicate your name, address and how you would like to be involved.

Mail to:

International Smile Power Foundation  
 704 - 228th Ave. N.E. Suite 204  
 Sammamish, WA 98074

Name

Address/City/State/Zip

Phone/Email

- My tax deductible donation is enclosed.
- I want to work for several weeks at a time in foreign countries.
- I can help provide equipment/supplies.
- I'm interested in your work. Please put me on your mailing list.
- I would like to purchase your book and have enclosed a check.  
 Book Price \$14.95 + shipping/handling: add \$5.00  
 \*Washington state residents must also add \$1.32 for sales tax.
- My group would like to see Dr. Shinn's presentation about his travels and experiences. **Please Recycle**

*Thank you!*

