



A Story of One Family

A family in Northern California reacts to the atrocities being committed during the war in the Balkans by creating a non-profit organization to take shipping containers full of humanitarian aid to victims. They had no experience running a non-profit organization or shipping internationally, but in a few short years they collected and personally delivered over 100 tons of aid to areas that were being overlooked by the governments and larger charitable organizations. This is a compilation of some of their experiences.

The Founders

More information on Page 55



**From left to right standing: Deborah, Jim, Glenn, and Mary
Sitting: Brent, Helen, and Chuck.**

Front Cover: Our logo represents our belief that everyone in this world is a member of one family. When one hurts we should all hurt.

Forward

After driving all morning past countless piles of rubble that were once homes, we arrived in Kistanje, a city in Western Croatia that was once home to 3,500 people. Now it was a ghost town. It was eerie to stand in the main square. There was no sound and no one to be seen in any direction. The buildings were all damaged missing roofs displaying the effects of the fighting that raged throughout this area. It was a brutal conflict filled with so much hatred that the fighters left booby traps and land mines behind in hopes of killing anyone who returned to their homes and businesses. So we had to be careful where we walked.



We were a family from the San Francisco Bay Area. You would certainly think that this 77 year old American woman and 3 of her 6 adult children were out of place if you saw us there. That is until you learned that we were there to bring humanitarian aid from hundreds of Northern California families to the victims of this ugly war. This was a personal undertaking for our family because we had travelled through Yugoslavia before the war staying in bed and breakfasts meeting families and learning about their lives. When our local news reported about families being chased out of their homes in Banja Luka, Bosnia and Hercegovina, it hit very close to home. We stayed with a family there and to think that they might have been forced out of their home and were possibly living out in the open or in some makeshift shelter, made this news personal. In response, we started a charitable



organization and called it One Family because we believe that everyone in this world is a member of one family and, if one is hurt, we all should hurt.

Originally One Family was conceived to help one refugee family at a time get out of a refugee camp. It was a simple plan that seemed easy to execute. We needed to have a trustworthy contact in Bosnia to work with us and to setup a bank account that we can transfer money to. We estimated that we could accomplish this with each of us contributing \$30 per month. The contact would find a refugee family and an apartment for them and use our funds to get them moved and settled in. Then we would work on helping them to become self-sufficient. All the arrangements were made and the first refugees, an elderly man named Stoyen and his wife, who became homeless



refugees, were selected and moved into an apartment. Then the call came that completely changed our direction. It was a request for 1,000 blankets because people were being forced out of their homes and living in the woods. There was an early snow that year prompting this emergency call.

Since that day in September 1995, One Family has shipped and personally delivered over 100 tons of humanitarian aid and supplies to 9 different countries including semi-truckloads of relief supplies to victims of Hurricane Katrina in Biloxi, Mississippi.

This was just an ordinary family, a mother, her six children, their spouses and children, who wanted to help families that were victims of this brutal war in the Balkins. They had no experience collecting humanitarian aid on such a large scale and shipping internationally but the pieces fell right into place to make it happen. Their story is a testament to what can be accomplished when a group of people become committed to a common goal.

The following pages contain a few stories about One Family's experiences and people they met along this journey.

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1,000 Blankets

Our local TV station, Channel 7 an affiliate of ABC, “saluted” a person each week for something they were doing in the community. They came to Brent’s house to film a segment about him replacing typewriters in schools with computers. While there, they discussed a large pile of blankets that he had in his garage. The blankets were being collected by One Family to ship to Bosnia and Hercegovina to help refugees of the war. Richard Brown, the news reporter, became very interested in this as a story to follow. The urgent request we received from Bosnia was for 1,000 blankets, but since the media would be broadcasting our needs, we thought we’d also ask for coats, sweaters, sleeping bags and warm clothing too. Channel 7 put together a segment on the story and aired it the next week then continued with new segments each week for a month. The news generated an outpouring of interest because we weren’t asking for money but for basic necessities to take to the victims of this terrible war. One Family received calls from over 900 families all over Northern California. The One Family members lived all around the bay area so they

picked up the donations that were closest to them. Kevin had the largest area to cover. He often rented a truck to handle all the calls that came in from north of the Golden Gate Bridge. Channel 7 occasionally travelled with us so they could film and interview the donors for their follow up stories.



We accumulated an enormous amount of donations and now had to find a way to get them shipped to Croatia and then trucked into Bosnia. This became a challenge since none of the shippers based in California could get a shipment to Croatia. Many calls to shipping companies on the East Coast were unsuccessful then we received a call from the office manager at Skynet, an international courier based in South San Francisco. She had seen the news coverage and asked the company owner, who was Croatian, if they could help us. He not only agreed to air shipping our donations, but he volunteered to travel with us to ensure the shipment made it to the destination.



We rented trucks to move all the donations to a photography studio in San Francisco that offered us space to sort and pack our shipment. Volunteers came to help and we worked into the night making sure each item was in good condition. Skynet provided the bags and took the packed donations to their warehouse so they could arrange for the air shipment. That first shipment weighed 9,300 pounds and contained 966 blankets, 1974 coats, 1787 sweaters and 909 pairs of shoes. The plan was to fly it to Rome then truck it from there to Ancona, across the Adriatic on a ferry boat and into Bosnia.



With the shipping arranged, our attention turned to what the shipment would face with Croatian and Bosnian customs. We learned that an undocumented shipment arriving at the border would be unloaded, the contents assessed and the shipper would be charged 30% of the estimated value payable right there and then. So we had to figure out how to get the necessary customs documents. More calls, this time to charities that ship to that area. There wasn't much success until a little after midnight (Pacific Coast Time) when we talked to a charity in London that takes truckloads of humanitarian aid into Bosnia. They advised us that the only way to bypass the border charges was to make the shipment a donation to a registered charity inside the country. They suggested an organization in Split, Croatia called Medjugorje MIR. It was established during the war by a Franciscan priest named Father Leonard Orec to stay in touch with the needs throughout the war zone and coordinate incoming humanitarian aid directing it to where it is needed most.

By 2am we were talking with Miljenka Majic, a secretary working for Medjugorje MIR. Obviously she had been through this a hundred times, but for us getting these documents, as the shipment was about to leave, was very stressful. Miljenka graciously asked for us to fax a list of the shipment's contents to her and she would handle the rest. And she did. We had the documents we needed and also access to a warehouse that Medjugorje MIR owned in Ljubuski which became the destination for all of our shipments to Bosnia. What a relief. Miljenka also made arrangements for rental cars and lodging and travelled with us in Croatia serving as our guide, interpreter and advisor. We were so blessed to find her and Mathilda (next article).



Mathilda

There is no one more instrumental in our ability to function in Bosnia than Mathilda. She and her family were refugees of the war themselves. They had to leave everything behind and escape from Sarajevo on foot in the dead of night. They travelled to Medjugorje and moved in with her father-in-law. She and her husband eventually built a house next door that included several guest rooms. Renting these rooms with meals to groups that came on pilgrimage to Medjugorje became their source of income.



Mathilda is highly educated and speaks excellent English. Being a refugee herself caused her to have a special compassion for the people we were helping. When we travelled to Bosnia, we rented rooms from her and she travelled with us everywhere we went serving as our interpreter, guide and advisor. She also arranged for the volunteers that provided a delivery truck and assistance loading deliveries and unloading them at the various refugee camps.

Mathilda was the person who agreed to help us as we were developing our initial mission of helping one family at a time get out of a refugee camp. She went with us to set up the bank account in Bosnia for supporting the refugees and made the necessary contacts to find families who were in the most need of assistance. It was Mathilda who called us in September 1995 with the urgent request for the 1000 blankets because people were sleeping out in the snow. She had her finger on the pulse of what was needed and was instrumental in directing our collection efforts.

So as we undertook this effort to try to help victims of the war in this far off land many things fell into place to make it work. Channel 7 News spread the message that resulted in an outpouring of donations and volunteers, SkyNet air shipped our first shipment and made arrangements for a semi-truck to deliver it to refugees inside Bosnia then allowed us to use their facility to pack and ship the second one. Miljenka, at Medjugorje MIR, arranged to receive the shipments, handled the customs documents for both Croatia and Bosnia, provided a warehouse for unloading our containers and directed us to the camps where our shipments would do the most good. Mathilda made it all work in Bosnia. *Looking back, it is easy to see that whatever we needed was provided and whenever we ran into an obstacle, a solution quickly appeared. We were so blessed!*

Breaking Through The Border

After the first air shipment, we found a company in Montreal Canada that would take our containers to Croatia. Canada Maritime would pick them up in the Bay Area, put them on a train to Montreal then on a ship to Croatia. The timing wasn't exact so we had to estimate when the shipments would arrive and make our travel plans to meet them.

One time we got to Split Croatia and the container hadn't arrived and worse, the shipper couldn't tell us where it was. We had planned to be in Bosnia for a week making deliveries so this was concerning. After three days we found the container sitting in Koper, a seaport in Northern Croatia. That was its final destination. We made arrangements to have it brought to Bosnia by truck. That would take two days, so we worked on a schedule that would get everything delivered in a day and a half.

When the truck arrived at the Bosnian border, we went to meet it. We found it in a long line of trucks waiting for customs. We observed a process straight out of the Flintstones. When a truck reached the customs house at the border gate, the customs officer would open it, inspect the contents then handwrite the details into an enormous ledger in the office. It was taking about a half hour per truck and our truck was about a mile away. To make things worse, the border closed at 8pm and reopened at 8am. We were in a panic and called our interpreter (Mathilda: see previous article) to see if there was anything she could do. She arrived with a local priest who was waiting for the shipment. It was a scene we wished we filmed. Mathilda made such a ruckus that the customs officials agreed to let our truck through the border as long as the priest would guarantee that it wouldn't be opened until it could be inspected the next morning. What a relief to see our truck pulled out of the line and allowed to pass through the gate.

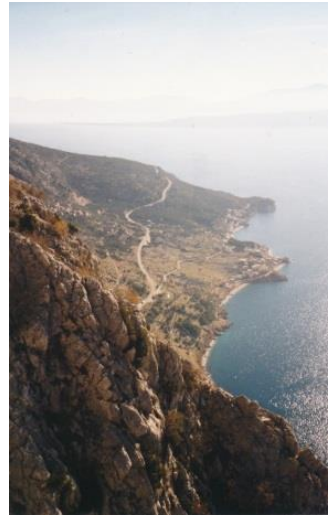


The next day was a whirlwind of activity as we started early and worked late into the night, unloading, organizing deliveries and trucking the donations to the various refugee camps. At 7am the day we were leaving we made one last delivery to a refugee camp in Grude, Bosnia then raced to the airport 4 hours away. It was crazy, hectic and wonderful to be there doing this. We collapsed on the plane thankful that we were able to get everything delivered.

Miracle at the Bridge

On this trip, Mary, Deborah and Brent flew to Rome then rented a car to take to Bosnia. We drove across Italy to a port town called Ancona arriving minutes before our ferry was scheduled to leave. We were the last car on. Had we missed it, we would have had to wait until the next evening for the next ferry. The trip across the Adriatic to Croatia took 12 hours. We slept in a small cabin on bunk beds and got up at 6am as the ship was pulling into the dock at Split.

Getting through customs was quick and soon we were off on our way on the 139km trip to Bosnia. We travelled down the beautiful Croatian coast to a town called Makarska which became a regular place for us to stop, get a bite to eat and stretch our legs. From Makarska we took a road that headed inland through the mountains to a town called Vrgorac. Here we decided to go a different route which looked shorter on our map and would avoid the traffic backed up at the border. We turned left on a two lane road to Vitna. It was actually a pretty drive through rocky farmland past a town called Veljaci. After Veljaci we came to a blind curve to the left. As we made the turn we came upon a one lane bridge over a roaring river. A car was coming toward us at a high rate of speed. We swerved to the right onto gravel, hit the brakes and started sliding right toward the river. As we got close to the river bank, the car passed and in a flash we were on the bridge. We looked at each other and wondered "What just happened?". There's no way to explain it other than we had work to get done in Bosnia and driving into the water wasn't part of the plan.



Going back to Rome was another memorable experience. Deb had purchased some sugar wafers at a store in Bosnia to bring on the early morning ferry back to Italy. As it turned out, there was no food or drinks served on the ferry. We didn't have breakfast so these wafers were all we had for the 12 hour trip. It seemed that others on the ferry were also unaware that there would be no food available. So we found many new friends as we shared our sugar wafers. When we arrived in Ancona, we

found an Italian restaurant that was open late. It served probably the best food we've ever tasted (of course this opinion was influenced by the fact we were starving and sick of sugar wafers!). The restaurant was full of people and many of them stopped by our table to welcome these three Americans who joined them. It was a fun time.

The Elevator



The reason we almost missed the ferry boat in the previous story was because of this elevator. We knew that the ferry left for Croatia at 6pm sharp and trip across Italy to Ancona would take several hours. We didn't know what the traffic getting out of Rome would be like



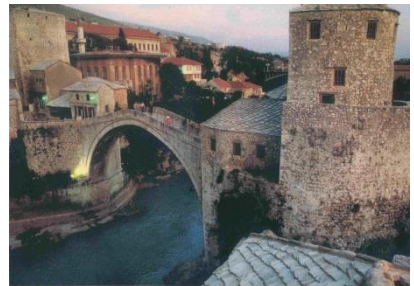
so we planned to leave early. In the morning we stacked our suitcases in this elevator to take them three floors down. It was a pretty good sized pile when it fell over against the door making it impossible to get that door open even the slightest bit. So we called the hotel manager who came up, mumbled something in Italian (it probably had the word "... Americanos" in it somewhere), and then worked to get a hook on the suitcase closest to the door so he could move it just enough to get his hand in. This took what seemed like an eternity since we were anxious to leave but it probably was 45 minutes. Lesson learned! We'll never forget "The Elevator"

The UN Rep

On one of our trips a UNCHR representative named Igor came by and offered to take us on a tour. It was curious that he knew we were there in Bosnia and how to find us. Igor said he wanted to show us some refugee camps near Mostar, the damage inside Mostar and along the road toward Sarajevo. We thought it would be a great opportunity to see this from his perspective. Our first stop was at a camp just outside Mostar. The refugees were being housed in a number of 20 foot shipping containers (pictured) that were modified with windows and doors that could be opened from the inside. Considering that they were all forced from their homes and had no place to stay, the refugees were making the best of it. This became one of the camps that we returned to with toys for the children, clothing and supplies for the families.



Mostar was interesting. The UN Rep knew a lot about the city and the politics. He parked and we walked through the streets observing the incredible damage that was inflicted on this beautiful historic city. We were shocked to see that the famous bridge across the Neretva River Gorge had been destroyed and, in its place there was a temporary foot bridge. This 66 foot bridge (pictured) was included in the United Nations' list of worldwide cultural heritage sites. It was built in 1566 using egg whites for mortar. It was targeted because it was the only remaining path between the East side of Mostar where the Muslim fighters were and the Croatian fighters on the West side.



The UN Rep took us to meet the Mayor of Mostar who was quite interested in One Family and in what we could do for the Muslim people

who lived in his city. He explained that the Croatian West side of his city had control of the sources of water and the university. He asked if we would direct our efforts to assist just the Muslims. We let him know that we are there to help everyone and that we couldn't tell the difference between Croat and Muslim. We just see people in need. That brought our meeting to a quick end.

The road toward Sarajevo wound along the river. As was everywhere else, every home we passed was a pile of rubble. The bridges were temporary floating bridges put in place by the UN. You could only imagine the horror that the war brought to this area.

On our way back, we crossed the river and stopped at the top of a mountain near Citluk to see a machine gun emplacement (pictured). From this vantage point the Croatian fighters fired on the Muslim fighters across the river below. The picture shows the new homes being constructed with the destroyed ones behind them all along the base of the hill.



We've often wondered if this UN Rep's purpose was to find out about us. It wasn't the first time we were followed. We often spotted people watching us and appearing wherever we went. It became like a "Where's Waldo" game to find them watching us from a street corner or in a crowd. So it wouldn't be farfetched to think that the UN Rep and whomever he reports to was curious too.

The UN was deeply involved in settling this war and has been forcefully maintaining peace. When the fighting stopped, the UN gave Bosnia a deadline to decide its currency and the design of its flag. The factions within Bosnia couldn't agree thus missed the deadline prompting the UN to make these decisions for them. Their currency became the Bosnian Mark and is tied to the value of the German Mark. The 3 sides of the triangle on their flag (pictured) represents the 3 ethnic groups within the country: Muslim, Croatian and Serbian. The stars represent the countries in the European Union.



26 Suitcases of Meds

One of the interesting things about the family that made up One Family is that each person had a unique skill to contribute to the effort. Mary was a nurse, our only medically trained person. Whenever we received a donation of medical equipment or medicines, Mary was the one who evaluated them. Often we would receive a request for medicine to fill a specific need. Mary would handle those. She developed a relationship with the World Health Organization that would provide her with the medicines that were needed.

We always travelled with large suitcases filled with clothes, supplies and gifts for the families we stayed with. We intended to leave those suitcases and their contents with the families there when we returned home. On one trip to Bosnia, Mary was taking 26 large suitcases full of medicine for a hospital in Benkovac. Five of us were going on this trip so with our personal suitcases, and those twenty-six we had 31 suitcases when we arrived at the check in counter. Amazingly, and with no comment or question, the lady behind the counter printed out 31 luggage tags, put them on our suitcases and let them through. It certainly surprised us and we joked that she must have been so stunned by the number she just let them pass!



When we got to Rome, where our suitcases were to be transferred to a Croatian Airlines flight, we wondered if we would be called up to the desk to explain this. There wasn't a word. It was like the suitcases weren't even there. When arriving at the Airport in Split Croatia all luggage is removed from the plane and lined up on the tarmac for the passengers to claim and take through customs. We stacked our 31 suitcases on carts and rolled them into the customs area. A customs officer came over and asked Mary's son Scott if one of the suitcases was his. He answered yes and was told to open it. When he did, the medicines and syringes started falling out on the table. Scott was shocked thinking that he was about to be arrested. The customs officer had that "Eureka" look on his face and called over the security guards. Mathilda, who had been waiting for us outside the customs area saw what was going on, stepped in, slammed the suitcase shut, said a few things in Croatian to the customs agent, and we were ushered right through customs and out to the waiting van. This is just another example of how Mathilda (see page 7) seemed to be our guardian angel in Bosnia. Whenever we encountered a problem, she was there.

A Patient at the Citluk Hospital

We usually have medicine or medical supplies in every container or in our suitcases on every trip to Bosnia. On one occasion, Mary had accumulated donations of an EKG Machine, an EEG machine, boxes of dressings, bandages, IV equipment, stethoscopes, blood pressure cuffs and medicine that we delivered to a hospital in Citluk. The administrator there was very appreciative and gave us a wish list for our next shipment. She mentioned that her hospital is one of the forgotten ones when it comes to receiving aid, so they're very much in need.



On this trip Daniel, Mary's son, had been sick with the flu and developed a high fever. Two days after we had made the delivery to the Citluk hospital, we returned with Daniel as a patient. Daniel was very nervous due to the look of the hospital (paint chipped off the walls, etc.) and he also knew that they were very short on supplies. He was dehydrated and in need of IV fluids. When he heard the words IV and, knowing they were short on supplies, he expressed concern about the sterility of the needle they would use. Mary assured him that she would be there to watch over his care. As she watched the doctor, she asked him to check Daniel's ears. He replied that he couldn't because he didn't have an otoscope. It was shocking to hear and made us realize how difficult it is for these hospitals to give proper care without the basic tools. Even though they're doing the best they can, how many patients are being misdiagnosed.



It was experiences like this that provided more motivation for One Family to find more help for the doctors and nurses who are working as hard as they can with their hands tied.

Not just a Sports Store



We were invited to visit a sports store in Split, Croatia. When we arrived it seemed to be just a common store like we seen many times at home. The shelves are full of soccer gear for the many professional teams that compete throughout Croatia. But in this case, looks were deceiving. In the back of the store were 5 rooms that serve as a manufacturing facility for artificial limbs. Here, new arms and legs are designed, made and fitted on patients and they are taught to use them. The store was set up by Medjugorje Mir to help victims of the war. In the three years before we arrived, over 800 people of all ages and ethnic backgrounds from all over



Bosnia and Croatia have received artificial limbs at little or no cost to them. The proceeds from the sale of sports equipment in the front of the store provided the funding for making the prosthetics in the back.

During the war many land mines were laid and booby traps were set in civilian areas to harm as many people as possible. Marijana, a 13 year old girl (pictured) was a victim of this evil. She lost her mother in the war then, 3 months later, she lost her father and her left leg in a land mine explosion. She received her prosthetic leg from the Protetika store. Isn't it amazing that she can even smile for this picture.



Getting involved in providing humanitarian aid has shown us how many good people are all around us in this world. It's easy to develop a negative world view when all you hear in the news is about greed, death and destruction. This is one more example of people stepping up with their time and talents to help others who are in need.

Bringing Back The Music

The evil of this war extended well beyond killing and maiming people and blowing up everything standing. There was a psychological element to the attacks too. All places where people gathered as a community, like churches, and anything that

would bring a sense of peace, like music and art, were destroyed. In Benkovac, Croatia alone, all 27 of their churches were filled with explosives and turned to rubble. In addition, the Tombstones in the grave yard were destroyed. Many of these churches were hundreds of years old and considered cultural monuments. One of the churches was destroyed with such hatred that the building material was removed and a road was built over the church grounds to ensure that the people couldn't rebuild in that spot again. This was the story throughout Croatia and Bosnia as eighty percent of the churches were targeted and destroyed.

The music sung at Croatian masses is beautiful. It's obvious that the Croatian people love to sing. You don't have to understand the words to appreciate the sense of holiness that comes through their music. As the churches were taken away, so too was their music.

When we learned about this, we made an effort to find musical instruments to include in each shipment. As a result we shipped many guitars and a number of electric organs (with power converters) for the church services. We even found a cello to send. Pictured is a priest testing an organ that we delivered to his church.



Computer Classes (Without Computers)

On one of our shipments we brought 11 personal computers, 3 MAC computers, the networking hardware, power converters and long power strips for a technology school in Mostar. The original school was destroyed during the war so these classes were moved to a building in central Mostar that had bullet holes displaying the effects of the war but still had its windows intact and a working furnace for heat.

The students in this school were specially selected from throughout Bosnia for their technical abilities. The equivalent in America would be a technical trade school. One of the classes taught in this school was computer technology including operating systems, connectivity and programming. It was all theory from books because they had no computers for hands on experience.



We scheduled our delivery one evening and were surprised to find a number of the students waiting for us. They wanted to do everything from unloading our truck, unpacking the computers and getting them installed. We just stood back, answered questions and enjoyed

their excitement. It was like Christmas for them to actually have a computer to work with. They stayed late that night long after we left.

Sewing to a new life

Most of the refugees we met had to suddenly flee their homes leaving everything they owned behind. This woman and her family ended up living in an abandoned house in Gradska.

When we first met her, she mentioned that the thing she most missed was her sewing machine. She used to make clothes for her family and earn money sewing for others. On a subsequent shipment, we brought her a new sewing machine that was donated by the Dublin

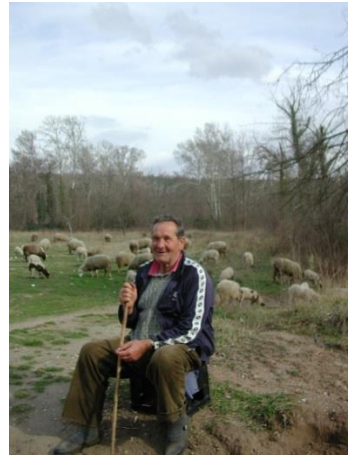


Sewing Center. We also brought her daughter the computer (shown in the background). When we came back the next day, she showed us the curtains she made from some material that she found.

The Shepherd

Mary and Brent had a free day in Medjugorje. We finished our deliveries to the camps and thought it would be fun to explore the back roads to Caplinja and see the countryside. We took off along a very narrow road to Surmanci. We drove about 10 miles when we came to a bluff overlooking a beautiful valley. Down below was the village of Surmanci. We noticed some people parking their cars and walking off to the right of the road. So we did the same and stopped where they did. We asked one person who spoke English, what this place was and learned about the evil that took place there. During the war seven women were thrown off this ridge to their deaths in the valley below. The people were there to honor their memory. This was certainly a sobering start to our “fun” drive.

We looked around Surmanci, spent some time in their church where a relic of a saint was on display, we bought local honey from some children and then headed in the direction of Caplinja. We drove about 2 miles and stopped where the road became a single lane through a narrow tunnel. It was so picturesque that we had to take some pictures. Right there, across the road was a shepherd watching over about 30 sheep. Of course we had to say hello even though we knew he wouldn't speak English. With hand gestures, limited Croatian words and smiles we had a conversation. What a simple life he had. No technology, no mortgage payments, no taxes, no car to break down, just his sheep to watch. He was out there in that field probably every day and living a happy life. Makes you think doesn't it?



It wasn't all work!!!



While most of the days spent in Bosnia and Croatia were busy, it wasn't all work. We usually found



time to get to morning mass, the amazing prayerful evening services and to enjoy some ice cream (a family staple) and pizza.

A Most Memorable Night

Before the war, Croatians, Muslims and Serbian people lived and worked together. In many cases they intermarried. When the war started, these three ethnic groups suddenly became enemies fighting against each other. Almost overnight, friends became enemies! The animosity was so severe that families of one ethnic group would leave their homes to move to an area where they wouldn't feel threatened. As families moved into a safer area, they would find homes that were abandoned by families who moved to other areas as they did. It was estimated that 1.1 million families had fled their homes and were living in homes that weren't theirs. As you can imagine, resolving this became a difficult problem for the government when the war was over. Many who returned found their homes had been destroyed. If the home was occupied, the occupants had to leave. This created a new wave of refugees long after the war was over.

Sister Muriel, a nun from Boston, introduced us to 59 families living in abandoned homes in an area called Gradska near Ljubuski. The homes were owned by Muslim families who quickly left them when the war started. Now Croatian families lived in them. It was a difficult existence since jobs were scarce. We met one young lady who walked an hour to work for an hour cleaning a restaurant each day. Another man cut wood to sell. We made sure to help these families with items from every shipment we brought to Bosnia. We brought a chain saw that was supplied by a hardware store in San Jose, California, a sewing machine that the sewing center in Dublin California donated, toys that were made by a man in Pittsburg California and food from a food drive that was collected and boxed by students in Danville California. We also bought a stove so one of the families could cook their meals and a refrigerator so they could store their food.



On one trip, after delivering clothing to Gradska, we told the people there that we would be back later with another truckload. We went back to the warehouse in Ljubuski and put a tag on each bike assigning it to a child in Gradska based on their gender and size. By the time we were done



labeling and loading seventy-eight bikes into our truck, it was dark. Gradska had no street lights so when we arrived all we could see was what our headlights illuminated. There was no one around so we thought we might have to knock on doors to give the bikes away. As we came around a corner, our lights lit up a crowd of people standing in a field in the dark. The whole town was there waiting for us. We pulled the truck into the field and our car behind it with our lights on the back of the truck. The people crowded around to see what we brought. When the driver lifted the flap on the back of the truck, the car lights lit up those bikes and we heard a roar from the crowd. The driver of the truck got inside, picked up a bike and read the name on the tag that was attached to it. One by one each child came forward when his or her name was called. Their smiles lit up the night. They rode their bikes around in the dark, falling down, laughing and going again. The next day we came back with a basketball backboard and basket balls. When we drove into Gradska there were children on bikes everywhere. It was so gratifying to see and a night that we'll never forget.



After this long day we took the volunteers who helped us out to the best dinner we could find. Words can't describe how grateful we are to these men who provided our delivery truck and worked tirelessly with us each step of the way to every refugee camp. They served as interpreters and managed the crowds. They enjoyed giving out the boxes of food, the bikes and the clothing and they asked for nothing in return. What amazingly generous individuals!



Domanovici

It's fitting that Domanovici followed the story about giving out bicycles in Gradska because it happened the next day. It was almost as if God let us have that wonderful experience and then brought us back down to earth showing us we still had a lot of work to do. The next day we went to Domanovici, a refugee camp at what was an abandoned psychiatric hospital. There were many refugees there (only 11 children) and the need was great. We took food, bikes, toys, knitting needles and yarn and some clothing. It was a good sized truck load. When we arrived, the crowd gathered. It was good that our volunteers were there so they could speak Croatian and help organize the crowd. You could sense the desperation.

We opened the truck and handed out our "Family Food Packs" until we ran out. Brent had fun working with the children assembling their toys and Deb enjoyed dressing Barbie dolls with three girls. Mom visited with some of the elders and gave them the knitting supplies.

You would think that this was a wonderful visit, but we all left with heavy hearts. The need at this camp was way beyond what we could provide. It was very difficult for us to leave some people emptyhanded.

We had to come back, and we did with supplies from our next shipment!



The Train Camp

We visited refugees living in shipping containers, abandoned houses, and a converted psychiatric hospital. One of the most unique shelters was the first refugee camp we visited. We called it the “Train Camp” because it was just that. Train cars were parked in Capljina and used as shelter for refugees. Two families were assigned to each car with a curtain separating them. If more sleeping space was needed, the person would sleep outside underneath their car. This was the camp that started the motivation for One Family. Mom met a refugee lady here that told her she had no hope. That really hit a nerve with mom because no one should feel that there is no hope. We came back to this camp several times with aid from future shipments. Pictured: Deb is handing out Tootsie Rolls that were donated by the Knights of Columbus in Danville.



St. Joseph School – Healing Sarajevo

There are people who, in times of need, step up and provide help for those around them. We learned of a man who made bread, hundreds of loaves each day, and delivered them to people in Sarajevo who were hiding in their basements while the city was being shelled. He could have escaped, but he stayed and probably saved many lives through his efforts.

In another case, Mathilda took us to St. Joseph’s School in Sarajevo. This was the first and only private school in the Sarajevo area. It was founded by a priest to help the children of all ethnic backgrounds heal. The school was in an old 4 story building that was very clean with nice desks and classrooms. Tuition was free as the school was supported by donations. At the time we were there, they had 1,100 students enrolled in their K-12 classes. They managed this with two shifts a day. The enrollment was 50% Catholic, 40% Muslim and 10% Serbian. The children could choose which religion class they wanted to attend. The religion classes were taught by a priest/minister from that religion. The first goal was to teach the children to accept each other through an understanding of each other’s religion. Given the extreme ethnic tensions that existed in this war, this was a significant contribution to the healing that was needed.

In a later shipment, One Family came back to St. Joseph’s School with desks and a large amount of school supplies from St. Catharine’s school in San Jose.

Notes and letters

We received many notes and letters from people expressing their support of our efforts. We've included a few of them in the pages of this booklet.


Dear One Family members .

I learned about your organization from the evening news in Nov. 2 . I really respect what you are doing .

There are a lot a people out there, like me, who felt for those misfortunats but don't know what to do. I'm so glad to find an organization like yours which give me an opportunity to start doing somethings for people in need. Thank you.

Enclosed is my donation to help with purchase of needed items for the Croatia - Bosnia relief effort. Yours is such a commendable undertaking!

Dear "One Family"
Thank you for the "newsway" newsletter - I didn't expect pictures! One Family is doing a wonderful service for the Bosnian people - much more than I thought possible



Dear One Family Member,
Ple use the enclosed money to help a little boy, of about 7yrs. My Grandson, James, died at 6 mos, 7yrs ago. I am sending this to you, instead of buying flowers. I think he would like that.

I salute you for finding a way to respond to often overwhelming world events "one family at a time." Thank you,

In the news...

One Family was the subject of several newspaper and magazine articles. The publicity kept the One Family story alive long after the plight of the refugees in Bosnia was out of the news. We've included excerpts from a few of the articles in the pages that follow.

HOW TO HELP

Visit onefamily.org or call 800-705-5525.

Family's creed to aid those in need

■ Three generations of Danville clan help less fortunate around world

By Linda Davis
TIMES STAFF WRITER

DANVILLE — It's all in the family — three generations of it — when it comes to the Smith-Scurlock clan, which has for a decade been helping the less fortunate around the globe.

Grandmother Helen Scurlock, now 87, started it all more than 10 years ago when visiting Bosnia and Croatia on a pilgrimage with her children. The kindly mother of six couldn't bear to see the plight of refugees and vowed to help them.

A nonprofit foundation was formed, and since 1995, with the help of a corps of volunteers, Danville-based One Family relief organization has shipped more than 100 tons of clothing, medicines, blankets, computers, sports equipment and other items to Afghanistan, Bosnia, Croatia, Peru and now Nicaragua.

Last weekend, another giant cargo container shipped out of the Oakland Army Base, this time bound for Ometepe Island, off the Nicaraguan coast. Volunteers spent several days loading bicycles, tools, sewing machines, clothing and sporting goods to be given to 230 children at an orphanage.

Last weekend, another giant cargo container shipped out of the Oakland Army Base, this time bound for Ometepe Island, off the Nicaraguan coast. Volunteers spent several days loading bicycles, tools, sewing machines, clothing and sporting goods to be given to 230 children at an orphanage.

Danville's Brent Smith, the point person for One Family, said this shipment was a little different from previous ones.

"We're sending bike parts, tools and manuals so the people can learn to repair the bicycles and maybe establish a little business," he said.

All six siblings and their families help in different ways. Brent handles phone calls and shipments from the Port of Oakland. Brothers Chuck Smith of Morgan Hill and Glen Scurlock of Oakland help load containers, sort goods "and fill in wherever they are needed," Brent said.

Sister Deborah Granelli of San Francisco provides the financial brains, keeping the foundation's books and overseeing the governmental paperwork. Another sibling, nurse Mary Franke of Weaverville, oversees all shipments of medical supplies. And Jim Scurlock of Washington state "helps whenever he is down here," Brent Smith said.

Brent Smith has fond memories of the whole family working to load a container, then feasting on their mother's spaghetti. Since then, all their children — who are now themselves grown — have also helped, many since they were school age.

"When we went to Bosnia, we took our kids, working in refugee camps," Brent Smith said. "I think it has had an effect on how they view the world."

The bulk of goods One Family now distributes to needy na-

See FAMILY, Page 4

Family

FROM PAGE 3

tions comes from a creative partnership with Contra Costa's Reuse and Cleanup Days campaign, where useable castoffs such as bicycles, computers, tools and other items are left on curbsides for pickup by Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority, which administers the campaign.

"A used bicycle doesn't mean very much to someone here, but it is welcomed in another country, and doesn't go to landfill," said Linda Levitsky, director of East Bay Depot for Creative Reuse, a repository of recycled items.

Levitsky met Smith, a former IBM executive, about five years ago. Since that time, the supply chain of useable goods has been from the reuse campaign to the depot to One Family. The East Bay Depot also supplies shelters, interfaith coalitions and displaced families with needed furniture.

One Family Foundation usually pays the \$5,000 to \$6,000 shipping costs for each container.

Levitsky said it is admirable

that One Family has survived, with the shriveling of grant money sources and the vagaries of the economy. One Family is a testament to a well-run home-grown organization, she said.

"Brent is a quiet, unassuming man who puts his head down and just goes to work with his whole family," Levitsky said. "He knows what he is doing."

"What works the best is when the small organizations move their goods into partnership with people on the other end," Levitsky said.

For the Nicaragua shipment, Smith worked with the associate pastor at St. Isidore's Church in Danville, who has a ministry in Nicaragua.

These days, grandmother Scurlock is a little frail and lives with her daughter in Weaverville.

"She still has the drive in her," Brent Smith said. "She wants to be a part of it. She got us all going. She is the ultimate giver, she wouldn't stop for anything to help somebody."

Linda Davis covers Danville and Alamo. Reach her at 925-743-2218 or ldavis@cctimes.com.

Waiting for the Government

Yugoslavia was a country with a socialist government. The people were used to their government providing for all of their needs. So it was not unusual to find victims of this war staying with their destroyed homes waiting for the government to come and help them. We left some blankets and food with this gentleman as he was content to just wait.



In Croatia Too!

Another interesting experience! Brent got flagged over by a police officer in Dubrovnik for driving through a crosswalk when a pedestrian stepped off the curb. The officer took great pains to explain the law in detail (Brent thinks he was practicing his English) and how he “must now give Brent a ticket”. Mary thoroughly enjoyed this and snapped the picture. After writing the ticket the officer presented it to Brent and asked that it be paid right then. In Dinar, it was about \$1.70.



On another occasion as we were driving back from Mostar, Brent kept getting stopped by the police. They would step out onto the road with a stop sign and motion to us to pull over then would ask for Brent's papers. After looking at Brent's passport and finding that he didn't speak Croatian, they would let us go. This happened three times in just a few miles on that road. So Brent asked Mathilda (see page 7) if there is a problem causing security to be so tight. She said no. If he didn't want to be stopped, all he had to do was to slow down!!! She wasn't saying a word to the policemen because if they knew that someone in the car spoke Croatian, they would be able to explain the offense and then would issue a ticket.

A Breakdown

For a short time we had a warehouse at the Alameda naval Air Station and at the Army base in San Bruno. When it came time to ship another container, we had the container dropped off in San Bruno and rented a 20 foot truck to haul the contents of our Alameda warehouse to it.



The container arrived on time and the truck was ready to go when we arrived to pick it up. So it looked like this long day was right on schedule. We took the truck to Alameda, filled it completely then headed to San Bruno. We got to the Bay Bridge where the truck stopped. Nothing could encourage it to restart. It had to be towed to the rental company. Their mechanics worked on it for what seemed like hours. They finally decided that we should unload it and they would give us another truck. When they saw how full it was, they went back to working on the problem with renewed vigor. It became an exercise in parts exchanging with another truck to see what would get our truck running. Finally it was the distributor that did the trick. We were off again and were able to offload directly from the truck into the container (picture).



Warehouses

One of the challenges we faced was to find a place to store the donations that continued to pour in and with enough work space for us to sort and pack. We didn't want to use any financial donations for this because that would be taking away from the refugees we were working to help. So the space had to be free. Amazingly we were able to get warehouses donated that varied from 900 square feet to over 10,000 square feet.



When we first started, Channel 7 was showing One Family salutes on TV each week. The donations were pouring in. The owner of Russo Studio in San Francisco offered work space for us to sort and bag everything to get it

ready for shipping. We are so grateful for their generosity.

Skynet provided the heavy plastic bags we used to pack the clothing and sent their trucks to transport them from the Russo Studio to the Skynet warehouse in South San Francisco. There they arranged to have the donations air shipped to Italy and then trucked to Bosnia. We also loaded and sent a 40 foot container two months later from their warehouse.



California Movers Express in San Leandro offered space for us when we left the Skynet

location. Here, our donations were stored in wooden crates. When we wanted to sort and pack, they brought the crates from their warehouse outside to us. We spread a tarp on the ground and checked each item to make sure it was in good condition before packing it for shipping.





For a while we had two warehouses - better described as storage spaces. On the left is a small building at the Alameda Naval Air Station that enabled us to store boxes and bicycles. On the right is an office space that the San Bruno Army Depot let us use. When it came time to ship, we brought everything together here to load on the container.



The only real warehouse that we were able to use was at the Oakland Naval Station. It had a loading dock and we had the use of a forklift. This warehouse was also shared with a charitable medical organization which encouraged us to take whatever medical equipment and supplies we needed for our shipments. We shipped several containers from this warehouse.

When the warehouse at the Oakland Naval Station was scheduled to be torn down, we were offered this 10,000 square foot space at the Oakland Army Base. We were here for 2 years and sent many shipments from this location too.





Medjugorje Mir allowed us to use their warehouse in Ljubuski for the shipments we sent to Bosnia. All of our shipments to Bosnia were distributed from this warehouse. It was an old building but solidly built. Fortunately it had a freight elevator and, for the later



shipments, it came with a forklift for unloading the containers. Once the shipping containers were unloaded, we arranged the items for deliveries to the various refugee locations. This was what we worked for, to get these donations over to Bosnia and into the hands of those who need them. So working late into the night was what we expected and actually looked forward to.



The delivery truck was provided by one of the three volunteers who worked with us from the moment the containers arrived. These generous individuals never asked for anything for themselves. They just wanted to help and were always there to help us. After one shipment, we took them out to the best dinner we could find (picture on page 20) and gave them some money as a thank you.





These are some of the bicycles salvaged last year during Cleanup Days in Central Costa Costa County. Instead of going to a landfill, the bikes are a main form of transportation for someone in Bosnia, where Danville-based charity One Family has been sending goods since 1995.

Recycling agencies benevolent curbside

By Dwight King-Leatham
STAFF WRITER

A group of garbage collectors, recycling companies and charities are finding new homes for bicycles, clothing and sports equipment instead of the landfill.

Organized to handle annual cleanup-days in Central Costa County, the group teamed up two years ago to help the needy inside the county as well as those in parts of Bosnia, South America and elsewhere.

Once a year, curbside pickups are done at some 65,000 homes in Orinda, Danville, Lafayette, Moraga, Orinda, Walnut Creek and nearby areas of Central Contra Costa County.

One Family is run from a Danville home-office, tapping into recycled quantities of bicycles, sports equipment and clothes. Those in turn are sent overseas to refugee camps in Bosnia and to the needy in South American countries like Peru and to the Philippines.

Central Contra Costa County's relatively affluent homeowners are likely to be thinking about

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Old stuff wanted for relief program

One Family seeks castoff items to be fixed, sent to families in need

By Linda Davis
TIMES STAFF WRITER

DANVILLE — Time to hit the garage, the attic or the spare room on a hunt for items that can be restored for someone else to

September brings Danville's "Reuse and Cleanup Days" campaign, in which bicycles, computers, lightweight furniture, common items, hand tools, sporting goods and even musical instruments can be left on the curb to

be listed on fliers mailed to every garbage service customer. But to discourage scavenging, those dates won't be published elsewhere, said Heather Abrams, a specialist with the Central Contra Costa Solid Waste Authority which administers the program.

Similar campaigns have already taken place in Orinda and Moraga in May, in Lafayette in June and in Blackhawk Alamo

them for arts and crafts, Levitsky said.

One Family, begun as a family project in 1995, shipped tons of supplies to war-torn Bosnia and Croatia throughout the 1990s, Smith said.

This year, One Family has turned its sights to Tacna, Peru, a village ravaged by an earthquake earlier this year.

Those cast-off bicycles, clothing, rugs and sporting goods donated by residents may find their way to Peruvian families left homeless by the earthquake, Smith said.

Through a network of friends, Smith learned earlier this year about Father Fred Green, a Catholic priest and former Bay Area resident who has been working in Tacna for 40 years, helping establish a hospital and schools.

With Green as a liaison, One Family sent a huge shipment of medical supplies and hospital equipment, toys, sports equipment, nonperishable food, blankets, clothing and school supplies to Tacna. The container arrived just before the earthquake struck.

Bikes

We view bicycles as being both necessary for transportation and being therapeutic. Over the years One Family has shipped over 1,500 bicycles. The bikes we received were donated by individuals, local bike shops and the Contra Costa County reuse program. Danville Bike provided not only many used bikes, but also the parts to repair them at their cost and often volunteered their expertise to repair them.



One Family sponsored bike repair parties where we bought stacks of pizzas and drinks and had children from the local school come by after school to fix a bike or two. The owner of Danville Bike came to help with the more difficult repairs. These parties were a lot of fun.



Several volunteers from the Knights of Columbus in Danville spent a Saturday morning fixing bikes. They brought their children who tested the bikes before putting them on the truck and trailer.





We had many volunteers stop by our warehouse to fix a few.



We also sent tools and an air compressor to Nicaragua so we could ship unrepaired bikes with parts to them.



This is an ongoing effort. We continue to collect, fix and distribute bicycles to the homeless and poor in Northern California and wherever we find a need.



Afghanistan



Bosnia and Hercegovina



Honduras



California (Migrant Workers)

Teddy Bears



We always had clean, refurbished teddy bears to hand out to refugee children. These children have been through so much. The pictures say all that needs to be said about the importance of having a teddy bear.



They were important to the children who sent the teddy bears too. A child in Livermore, California gave up her treasured teddy bear to help a child in Bosnia after seeing a telecast. We made sure that we took a picture of the child that received her bear and sent it to her.

Goats



When we mentioned that we wanted to start providing goats for the refugee families, we were surprised by the reaction and the outpouring to support this effort. We learned

that goats were instrumental in helping many people survive during WWII. They provided milk, they multiplied and were the source of meat.

We bought goats in Bosnia for \$200 each. They were delivered in the trunk of a car!

We were even offered of a herd of goats. Unfortunately they were in Moraga, California!



More Notes and Letters

Dear "One Family":

Thank you very much for the illuminating and newsworthy "One Family News". The organization is doing so much for the refugees and it is heartwarming to read about it and see the pictures the goat delivery and the stuffed animals for the children. Stuffed animals may not fix everything, but to a small child, ^{it is} a stress reliever. Thank you for being people of great

character and heart to actually do something about the plight of the humans in that part of the world instead of just wishing you could do something - you're DOING it! God made some very special people - people with ♥. I look forward to the next Newsletter.

Dear One Family,
I was both touched and impressed when I learned about your organization from Channel 7's report. I'm so glad someone out there is doing something about Bosnia. It's something I've been thinking about but don't know what I can do to help.

Recently, Channel 7 news did a follow-up of your charity's first trip to Bosnia in late November to deliver the winter clothes, boots, etc. to the refugees in that country. It appeared that a series of miracles enabled you to get the items to the refugee camps in Bosnia. To me that means that your mission is important, and it is meant to be.

One Family

Again congratulations on the refreshingly original & authentic thing you are doing for the people of Bosnia.

Thank you so much for talking to my class and me. Seeing the pictures really gave me a good idea of what Bosnia is like now after the war. I really feel bad for all of those poor women and children that were stuck in the war. I really would like to help out and I'll do the best I can.

I wish every country could be as peaceful and diverse as the United States is now. Maybe some day we could all live in peace.

Teaching Opportunity

Several Bay Area schools volunteered to help One Family. Having seen the newscasts on TV they saw this as a teaching opportunity. They invited the One Family members to come and talk to the students about the events in Bosnia and our experiences. The children were eager to help and we worked with the teachers on their projects. For example:



St. Martin of Tours in San Jose invited Chuck (pictured) to speak to the students. The school conducted a penny drive. They set a large bowl on a table and each class came forward with their pennies. The bowl over flowed, so they added a second bowl, then a third. Finally they let the pennies pile up on the table. The 8th grade counted over \$500 in pennies (that's over 50,000 pennies) to buy goats for the refugee families.



They went so far as to name the goats they were donating. Chuck returned after our trip to Bosnia with pictures of the goats they purchased and presented them to the student council.

St. Catherine's School in Morgan Hill provided a School Supply Catalog to take to Bosnia to have teachers there select the items they need in their schools. One Bosnian teacher told us that "these are the things we just dream about getting." St. Catherine's School also organized a collection to pay for the sizeable supplies order that resulted.

Walnut Creek Middle School students and parents held a car wash which generated \$347 to purchase two goats. After our trip, we returned to the school with pictures of the goats for the students to see.

Students from **St. Mary's Grammar School in Walnut Creek, Holy Angels School in Colma and St. Thomas More in San Francisco** made coloring books for school children in Bosnia. Each student put a personal picture and a message in the cover of the book they were sending and colored the first picture in the book. When the



books and crayons were handed out in Bosnia the owner of Skynet (pictured) translated the messages for the students. It made these books a personal gift creating a special connection between the students there and the students from these schools.

College Preparatory School in Berkeley organized a youth clothing drive. Their students publicized it and, one Saturday, many people came to the school and dropped off donations.

St. Isidore's Grammar School conducted a food drive that filled many family food packs. They also allowed Stephanie to miss 10 days of school so she could travel to Bosnia and help with the distribution of the shipments. They asked Stephanie (pictured writing) to send faxes to the school with updates on her activities that they would read to the St. Isidore students during the morning announcements. When Stephanie returned to school she gave the students a slide presentation on her trip. It was a valuable teaching opportunity for everyone involved.



ST. ISIDORE'S BLUE RIBBON SCHOOL

Our all-school service project for October was to contribute, collect, and box supplies for shipment to Bosnia. The shipment left on Monday, October 26, for arrival in Bosnia on December 4. The Smith family will once again be at Ljubuski to meet the shipment and begin the distribution process. The list of contents is impressive and includes 57 bicycles (28 of which our eighth graders helped to repair), over a thousand ceramic dishes, silverware, toothbrushes, coffee, fabric, toys, sports equipment, baby cribs, strollers, computer systems, blackboards, and medical supplies. CISF students, with the help of additional 7th and 8th graders, worked hard to organize the contents and pack the boxes. The supportive community behind the One Family effort continues its incredible dedication, reaching out with love, care, and rewards for our St. Isidore School students, however, are also tremendous as they learn, by doing, what a positive force is created through service. Our November project



Thank you for telling my class and I what is going on in Bosnia right now. My family and I really want to help the people in Bosnia right now. My classroom wants to put on a car wash to raise enough money to buy a goat, and send it over to Bosnia. From you showing us the slide show I learned that one person can really make a difference.

Riordan High School in San Francisco, the alma mater of Chuck, Brent, Daniel and Scott, became quite involved in the One Family effort. The students provided many boxes of much needed school supplies, backpacks and sports equipment. The school also organized a sports uniform drive collecting many boxes of team uniforms from several other Catholic High Schools in San Francisco and the peninsula.

DC students help refugees

BY VIVA CHAN
Staff Reporter

Students at a local Catholic school are responding to a humanitarian crisis in Bosnia by helping deliver basic necessities to refugees who have lost their homes in a civil war that has spanned five years.

First through eighth-graders at Holy Angels School in Daly City last week heard from volunteers of "One Family," a grass-roots group which so far made three trips to Bosnia Herzegovina, supplying families of the former Yugoslavia with items such as towels, musical instruments and even goats (for a regular supply of milk).

The Danville-based "One Family" emphasizes getting goods directly routed from donor to recipients, which is what Principal Sister Therese Improgo found most appealing about the cause.

Then there's the fact that two of One Family's founders were once students at Holy Angels School.

"The United States sends tons and tons of help overseas, but most of the shipments get caught up in politics," Improgo said, explaining how One Family works closely with Franciscan friars living in regions of southeast Europe, who are familiar with the local indigents and who distribute the goods to those most in need.

The recipients of the agency's efforts include



SUSAN GARRISON/INDEPENDENT

Helping others: Laura Ross, a teacher at Holy Angels School in Daly City, with fourth-graders. Many students at the school are helping a drive to deliver basic necessities to refugees in war-torn Bosnia.

members of all ethnic groups involved in the conflict.

Smith's briefing on the Bosnia situation captured the empathy of Laura Ross' fourth grade class, including 10-year-old Lauren Boudewyn.

"I felt sad for the homeless kids because they probably don't feel safe after the war," Boudewyn said. "They used to have a lot of things we have, but after the war, they don't have them anymore."

In 1991, the major conflict in the former Yugoslavia began with a Serbian militia-led onslaught of "ethnic

cleansing," with an invasion of Croatia, which is 77 percent Roman Catholic, and then later, Muslim-dominated Bosnia.

The civil war forced some three million families from their towns and into dank refugee camps - some in ditches and abandoned hangars.

Most of the evacuees later returned to find their homes had been obliterated by bombings.

Ross stressed the value of participation by her class and others in drives, such as the one sponsored by One Family.

"The [kids] learn how to be

generous to those obviously in need," Ross said. "It's difficult for [adults] to even understand the depth of the war. For [the children], it must have been even more abstract, but [the presentation] gave them a chance to see some of the devastation.

The devastation of the war shook Melanie Baluyut, 9.

"Everything bombed was broken," she said.

Baluyut's classmate, Allison Preza, 9, added, "They didn't have enough time to take

See **BOSNIA**, page 10A

Thank you for the cool slide show. I enjoyed it a lot. I learned what a rough time people are having in Bosnia. You taught me if I want to help something I can achieve it if I just keep trying. Thank again.

Continued from 2A

their things with them when they were [evacuated]."

Preza's mother was deployed to Bosnia as a nurse in 1995.

Abigail Dometita, 10, found a particular image disturbing.

"They showed bullets inside schools where soldiers kept shooting," Dometita said.

The lesson of giving also rang clear for Lester Banatao, 10, Carlo Tagal, 10, and Katrina

Dela Cruz, 9.

"What we're doing is important because, the kids over there need more than we do," Tagal said.

"Yeah, they don't have much anymore," Banatao said.

Dela Cruz said One Family's priority is to help families achieve some degree of self-sufficiency.

For more information about One Family, call (510) 838-2301.

An Amazing Lady

One of the many blessings that comes with doing this charitable work is in meeting other people and organizations who are similarly motivated. This booklet wouldn't be complete without mentioning the East Bay Center for Creative Reuse and its director Linda Levitsky.

She was deeply involved in developing a program in Contra Costa County where local charities could receive reusable items which are picked up from the residents by the Central Contra Costa County Solid Waste Authority. Twice a year, residents can put reusable items out at the curb in front of their houses. The items are picked up, taken to the recycling center, sorted and made available to any charitable organization that can use them. This is a highly successful program which has kept hundreds of tons of discards out of the local landfill and provided local charities, including One Family, with a rich source of donations.

Linda has also directly helped One Family by using her contacts to have a warehouse at the Oakland Army Base donated for us to use. She spent many days helping with sorting and packing shipments to Pakistan and Afghanistan (pictured locking the container destined for Afghanistan), and to the victims of Hurricane Katrina and the migrant workers in Central California.

What she's accomplished for the poor and homeless throughout northern California is immeasurable. She is truly an amazing lady.



An Attempt at Marketing

Progressive Marketing, an advertising company in San Francisco, offered to develop an ad campaign for One Family. This was an interesting experience to observe as they came up with a concept, produced two short videos to show on TV, and designed posters to display inside busses. They also arranged for radio interviews utilizing the time that radio stations are required to provide for charitable causes.

The videos were black and white and unusual enough to catch a viewer's attention. Imagine seeing a black screen then hearing a heartbeat as images and sounds from the war appear on the screen. Then the words "People In Bosnia Deserve Everything They Get". It was intended to shock people, appeal to their compassion and motivate them to help.

The other video, which we called the "Latte Ad" was designed to shame people by asking "Are You Too Busy To Help Children In Bosnia?" with the images of children in the war.

Radio stations are required to donate a small amount of their broadcasting time to promote charitable causes. We were scheduled to be interviewed by two stations, KNBR in San Francisco and KOME in San Jose. The KOME interview was a live interview (not taped) scheduled for 6am on a Saturday. Mary and Brent made it to the station with a plan on how they would deal with the various topics. Brent would lead off talking about how One Family got started. So, when the microphone was turned on, the interviewer turned to Mary and asked: "Mary, How did One Family get started?" Mary looked at Brent, trying not to laugh, and winged an answer. From that point on our best laid plans went out the window. We got a tape of the interview and, listening to it later, we seemed to come up with a reasonably good answer for each question. So we didn't have to go into hiding!!!



PEOPLE IN BOSNIA
DESERVE
EVERYTHING THEY GET.

Food, clothing and medicine

You can help.
1-800-705-5525



One Family

Mud Cookies

How could this not get your attention? People in Haiti were eating MUD COOKIES to satisfy their hunger. We couldn't ignore that article in the local newspaper. The pictures were disgusting and to make it worse, the water being used to make the mud was polluted.

Right away we found and contacted a priest in Haiti who was in the middle of the impoverished area and started gathering the items he needed. We ordered a ton of high quality rice and beans from the Jetro Restaurant Depot in Miami, Florida who arranged to ship it directly from their warehouse in South Florida to Haiti.

We contacted our source of medical supplies and devices and obtained two pallets of their products to ship.

In 2015 Mike and Brent travelled to Haiti to meet **Father Tom Hagen** and see if there's something One Family could do to help. He took us on a tour of Cite Soleil and the northern part of Haiti. We saw awful poverty with people living in enclosures with corrugated metal walls and roofs

and mud floors. We visited an orphanage and also saw hope in the wonderful work that is being done by Father Tom to educate 9,000 children, to provide school lunches for them and fresh water from wells he had dug, to help people start their own small businesses, and to grow their own food.

One Family continues to send two shipments a year to Father Tom to help him with the work he is doing. So the poverty is depressing, but there is hope.



40 Million Street Children!

After five years of shipments to Bosnia and Croatia, we were getting the sense that the need there wasn't as critical as it was in 1995. The new government was getting its act together and people were finding the means of supporting themselves. It wasn't hard to find places closer to home that need help. After all there were people eating mud cookies in Haiti and in Central America there were 40 million homeless orphans called "Street Children". Finding trusted contacts in places we were interested in has always been simple. We just contact the Catholic Diocese in the area to find a priest who is working with the people we want to help. From 2001 through 2007 we sent shipping containers full of school equipment, medical supplies, clothing, bicycles, food, computers and sports equipment to orphanages in Peru, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Honduras.

In Tacna, Peru we found **Father Fred Green** (pictured by the first container), an 80 year old priest who was originally from San Francisco. He went to Peru to work among the poor 40 years earlier. During those years he built schools, an orphanage and a hospital in Tacna, Peru and was still working hard.

We contacted him in 2001, got his list of needs and sent a container to him. While it was on the way there was a very strong earthquake that was centered in Tacna. Many homes were destroyed and countless others were deemed uninhabitable requiring major repairs. Father Green arranged for pre-fab homes from Chile to be trucked to

Tacna. He obtained shipments of used garage doors from the United States which quickly became walls for shelters. Our first shipment had been delayed for 40 days in customs due to paperwork problems, so it arrived just a week before the earthquake. It was perfect timing for the



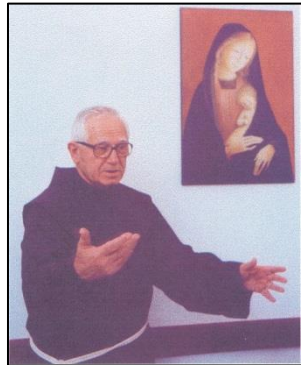
situation, because it contained food, medical equipment and supplies, and clothing. While one container was a “drop-in-the-ocean” when compared to the tremendous need at that time, it’s timing made it very effective.

Our second container to Father Green left San Francisco a few months later full of bicycles, clothing and some computers for the schools. Father let us know that the bikes have become invaluable for the workers who have been spending hours commuting by foot to work in Tacna each day. *One Family* had been repairing each bike before sending them, however in this last shipment we sent a number of bikes that needed repair and we included the parts and the tools to fix them. Father Green was receptive to the idea that he would use local labor to make the repairs. He saw it as a means of developing skills in the community and he paid the workers with a bicycle. A true entrepreneur, Father Green is always alert for opportunities and is quick to develop them for the people he serves. They have been benefiting from his talents for 40 years.



Father Leonard Orec

Father Leonard was a founder of Medjugorje MIR, an organization that has been mentioned several times in this booklet (e.g. Pages 6, 15 and 29). During the war in the Balkans, he stayed in contact with priests throughout Croatia and Bosnia to learn about their needs and to communicate them to the various aid organizations (like *One Family*) who call. Father Orec set up his office in the basement of a monastery in Split, Croatia to be near the shipping ports where he accepted and directed the incoming international aid to where it was most needed.



He helped One Family with every shipment we sent to that area. Each container we sent was a donation to Medjugorje Mir which enabled us to avoid taxes and to pass through customs in each country. Medjugorje Mir would receive our shipments and hold them for us. When we arrived they gave us the paperwork we needed, provided interpreters, found trucks and volunteers to help us, provided a warehouse to unload the containers and sort the contents, and guided us as we made deliveries to the refugee camps.

During the war years, Father Leonard's organization was responsible for delivering over 46,000 tons of humanitarian aid from all over the world to the refugees. In 1997, after the war he was reassigned to the Vatican in Rome. There he was given the responsibility of directing aid to half of the world's poor doing basically for his assigned countries what he did for the countries involved in the Balkin War. He encouraged us to continue helping, to never give up the battle against hunger and poverty. He asked us to expand our efforts to include other parts of the world. From his new perspective, he became particularly concerned about the conditions in Africa where people are starving by the millions.

Father Leonard was passionately trying to leave the world behind him a better place than what he found. For his work, he did not get recognition from the powerful and the rich, but from the hungry, sick, lonely and abandoned. In his eyes they had priority; not their religious, nationality or social status. This was a great man! It was a privilege to work with him and an honor to know him. In July 2001, two months after celebrating the 50th anniversary of his ordination, Father Orec became seriously ill. He went to his heavenly reward on January 21, 2002.



Role Models For Us All!

*You rarely hear of people like **Father Leonard Orec**, **Father Fred Green** and **Father Tom Hagen**, but there are many in our world just like them. They are working every day, unnoticed with no desire for personal recognition. Their every thought is on how to improve the lives of the poor around them. One of the benefits of the work we do at One Family is that we get to meet them and work with them here at home and on our journeys. It is inspiring for us to see their dedication and all that they are accomplishing. Our world is a better place because of them!*

May 24, 2001

Dear One Family,

This morning at 9:00 A.M., after sitting on the dock in Callao for more than 40 days, the valuable cargo arrived by truck at the Center for the Working Child. Father Pedro Barreto, S.J. and I were on hand with camera to record the historic event. It was Christmas in May. We will mail you the pictures tomorrow.

We were very pleased with all of the medical equipment you sent. Our doctors will put it to good use. The computers are a very welcome gift and we immediately began to set up three of them at Colegio Miguel Pro.

And, of course, the clothing, the toys, the food, school supplies, etc. will be welcome gifts for the many poor families we serve.

Needless to say, we are all very delighted with this valuable shipment.

I will be in the San Francisco area to preach in a couple of parishes in early September. I shall give you a call to see if we can get together.

Please give our fond regards and sincere thanks to all who contributed the donations and helped fill the container.

God bless you all!

Gratefully yours in Christ,

Father Fred

Dear _____,
Enclosed please find a donation for "One Family". Your presentation on television was so well done I could feel the love you and your family have for our needy brothers and sisters in Bosnia-Herzegovina. May God bless each of you and grant success to your wonderful project.

ONE FAMILY

I WISH YOU THE BEST
IN THIS ENDEAVOR TO
TOUCH THE LIVES OF THE
CHILDREN WHO ARE
DEPRIVED OF LOVE
AND PEACE.
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
MY PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU!

Surplus Medical Equipment – A Perfect Fit

The medical community in Northern California has been most generous in responding to our calls for equipment, supplies and medicines. We were able to obtain dozens of surplus hospital beds, wheel chairs, walkers, medical examination tables, gurneys, EKG



machines, EEG machines, and thousands of boxes of supplies for our shipments by simply asking. The need for these items was so great that we couldn't get enough. In one instance with a phone call to a hospital in Berkeley, we outfitted a new clinic in a rural part of Honduras with four patient beds



(picture), tables and chairs. Another time, a company in Seattle, Washington provided 4,000 surplus first aid kits for a shipment to Bosnia.

Responding to Katrina

When the hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, we sent two shipments. One was a 53 foot truck filled with 44,000 pounds of supplies that were donated from as far away as Eugene, Oregon. By contacting the Diocese of New Orleans, we found Father Patty Mockler in Biloxi, Mississippi who served in an area that was destroyed by the wind and flooding from the hurricane. By working directly with him we were able to send aid right to the people who needed it without having it delivered and stored in a warehouse for later distribution.



*St. Vincent de Paul Society
Our Lady of Fatima Parish
314 Jim Money Rd.
Biloxi, MS 39531
Phone: 228-388-1837 - Fax: 228-388-7069*

January 16, 2006

Dear One Family,

I apologize for taking so long to acknowledge your organization's incredible shipment of relief supplies to our parish. Unfortunately, the combination of Hurricane Relief, Christmas Toy Distribution, ongoing St. Vincent de Paul Emergency Assistance and my own attempts to have my home repaired have caused me to fall behind, especially in the area of correspondence.

Your shipment of supplies caused quite a stir in our community. Word quickly went out that we not only had relief supplies, but that we had some "really good stuff"! And that's exactly how I would describe your shipment-"REALLY GOOD STUFF". It was so wonderful to have so many linens, towels, diapers, baby supplies, sleeping bags, jackets, etc. to give to people who had lost everything in the storm. EVERYTHING you sent was needed and almost all of it has been distributed.

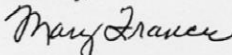
Here in South Mississippi recovery is happening at an excruciatingly slow pace. After the initial stage of racing to see that everyone had food, clothing, medicines and shelter, the recovery seems somewhat stalled. We seem to be dependent upon government grants, insurance settlements and contractors to all come together to make rebuilding possible. Meanwhile, many thousands of people are living in tiny FEMA trailers and some are even still living in tents. It's apparent that it will take us a long time to overcome this disaster.

Hundreds, or maybe even thousands, of volunteers are coming from across the country to help us to clean up and begin to rebuild homes. It has been incredible to watch the generosity of the people of our country towards those who have lost so much.

The wonderful kindness and generosity of your organization has been very heartwarming and healing to our wounded spirits. As you know, sometimes just knowing that others care is the greatest blessing at times like this. Thanks to all of you for caring and for taking concrete steps to address the needs of the people of Biloxi.

God Bless You all for your Goodness.

Sincerely,



Mary Frances Ford

Closer to Home

While One Family has spent its early years responding to the needs of those affected by wars and natural disasters, there are also opportunities to help people in need without travelling around the globe. Wherever we live, right near each of us are people who are seriously struggling to exist. There are those who are homeless and those who are living on the edge such as migrant workers. The migrant workers are people who come with their families to work primarily in central California harvesting crops. Many are here temporarily while there is work available, then move on to other areas. A number of these “migrant” workers stay year around living in tents or shared rooms with their families.



MIGRANT FARM WORKERS

It takes many truck loads to provide enough clothing, bedding and bicycles for a Christmas party for 200 migrant workers and their families. It has become an annual project for One Family to pick up these items from the East Bay Center for Creative Reuse, to repair the bikes and deliver everything to the organization hosting the party.



Since 2011, One Family has been distributing truckloads of clothing, hygiene supplies, toys and bicycles to the organizations that work with the homeless and migrant workers in Northern California. Pictured is Sandy Smith sorting and packing clothing that were delivered on pallets from the county recycling center. She makes sure that the clothes are clean and in good condition before packing them into plastic bags for delivery to several homeless centers in Contra Costa County.



Another ongoing project is repairing bicycles and delivering them to organizations that work with the poor and homeless. One Family is delivering about 100 bikes a year. Pictured are 17 bikes that were donated by the local bicycle store, repaired and being loaded for delivery to Catholic Charities in Oakland.



Afghanistan

As a result of our partnership with the Afghan Center in Fremont and the East Bay Center for Creative Reuse, *One Family* had the opportunity to send a container of relief supplies to Kabul, Afghanistan. The supplies were intended to help set up a school for training job skills, and to provide some basic necessities.

The population in Afghanistan was in dire need of basic education, particularly training in skills that would enable the students to become productive and to support themselves and their families. Representatives



from the Afghan Center traveled to Kabul and presented their plan to members of the interim government including the interim leader Hamid Karzai. They proposed setting up an occupational school in Kabul which would provide short term (6 month) courses in construction, business administration, health care, plumbing, agriculture and other skills. The plan was enthusiastically received, a site was offered and work began to renovate the building so it will accommodate the classes.



The Container traveled by ship to the seaport of Karachi, Pakistan. After clearing customs it traveled by truck across Pakistan, into Afghanistan, through customs again and on to Kabul.

The school is named ARISE for Afghan Retraining Initiative for Self Employment. Donations for this shipment came from as far away as Purdue University which donated 20 computers. The *One Family* shipment arrived October 20, 2003 with school equipment and supplies, bicycles, clothing and medical supplies. The clothing was immediately given out to 260 of the students in the program. Stuffed animals were put in the three day care centers that had been set up to care for the young children while their parents attended school.





The bikes were distributed to selected honor students from the schools including the girls even though they weren't allowed to ride the bikes in public. Over time this had to change!



While this container provided just a small amount of assistance to an area that had been devastated by war and years of stifling oppression, you couldn't help but see hope in these photos. The high school building in the background was severely damaged and is need of renovation, but you can see the future in these faces.

Just a few years before these young ladies wouldn't have been allowed outside with their faces showing and without an escort from their family. They weren't allowed to go to school. They had a strict dress code and would never have been allowed to have a bicycle. Now the majority of the students in the ARISE school were women. It was great to see that in just a few short years there was such progress for women and rewarding to have had the opportunity to contribute in a small way to this transition.

Heart to Hearts



A strong motivation to do something to help the victims of this brutal war came from mom. She was 77 years old at the time, raised six children, ran her own interior decorating business making draperies out of a shop in her basement, and gave everything she could to help the poor wherever she found them. She not only helped sort and pack donations, she travelled to Bosnia with many shipments and helped with the distribution. We'd often catch her carrying something heavy like a 50 pound sack of flour to give to a family. Her drive to

help was so strong that we had to keep an eye on her to make sure she didn't over exert herself. She developed a special bond with the refugees by taking the time to get to know them. She gave knitting supplies to many of the elderly women

and often could be found sitting on a bench having a discussion with some of them. Even though she couldn't speak Croatian, she just radiated love and the refugees who met her felt it. She knew that sometimes just showing concern and interest was more important than delivering material things.





VALLEY TODAY

Families aiding families

One Family reaches out to war-torn Bosnia

By ELVA DIAZ
Staff writer

DANVILLE — The numbers are astounding:

It was only 18 months ago that Helen Scurlock and her husband decided to see what one family could do to help the victims of war in Bosnia.

Since then they've sent \$125,000 worth of medicine and more than 39,000 pounds of relief supplies — including enough shoes, coats and clothes to outfit thousands of refugees.

They call their home-grown relief effort One Family. Since September 1995 they have raised and shipped money to deliver the goods and travel to the former Yugoslavia four times. Their fifth mercy mission to Bosnia and Croatia will be next week.

Scurlock and her children had been visiting the country since 1986, when they made their first religious pilgrimage to a shrine.

But when Scurlock rallied her family to help their

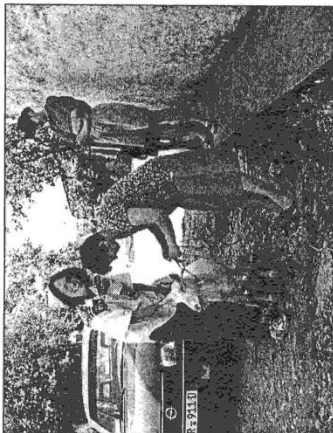
friends, "It broke my heart to see all the refugees, some sleeping under boxes," said Scurlock, 78, who visited their camps in June of 1995. "All the houses were destroyed. The same houses we had stayed in before.

"I thought, 'If I can't help people we had during our visits to Bosnia, we caught in the middle of the war.'"

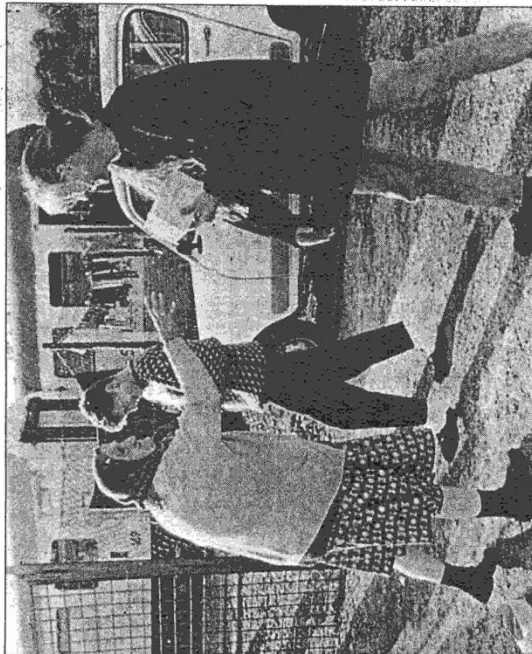
The war left tens of thousands of Muslim and Croat refugees with no homes. And One Family reached out to help.

"The family's original plan was to take a family to Bosnia for a year until they could make it on their own and then pick another family.

"We wrote to a woman we knew there to look for a family that we



One Family photo
A BOSNIA woman, above right, reaches out to Deborah Scurlock, a One Family member visiting a refugee encampment near the town of Capljina. The refugees live in tents and under abandoned rail cars. One Family's Mary Frankie above, delivers a goat to a family in Gradacka, Bosnia. The Danville-based relief group has delivered tons of supplies, and eight goats, to refugee families during the past two years.



around the Bay Area and United States. Each of her children's families are responsible for gathering donations.

Brent Smith, one of Scurlock's sons, offered his house in Danville to set up the group's headquarters.

"We wanted to start small," said Smith, who had computer consent.

"But we quickly expanded to help others," he said.

Smith's garage is filled with boxes of supplies, children's wheechairs and diapers ready to be shipped Tuesday. The group also rents storage space in Hayward, and One Family has dozens of volunteers who help pack the supplies.

One Family kept its original goal, to help one family. Scurlock and her children support two families in Bosnia — a fam-

ily of five and an elderly couple. It costs them about \$600 a month to support the families.

One Family gets discount rates for transportation of supplies, but each shipment still costs \$5,000 — money that mostly comes out of their pockets.

One Family members use donor money only for what the donor wants.

"If someone gives me \$10 and says this is to buy a goat, it buys a goat," said Smith. Donor money is not spent on transporting supplies unless a donor specifies that's how they want it spent.

One Family is now expanding its relief to Bosnia's Muslim, Serb, Croat and Bosnian Muslims. Scurlock's grandson from Mission, Texas,

will send more than \$25,000 worth of medicine and supplies to a Catholic church in Reynosa, Mexico. All family members contributed in collecting the supplies for Mexico.

"This was a big challenge because my wife and I are here by ourselves" in Texas, said Kevin Smith, 72.

"I've been here for 10 years because our original plan was to help individual families."

Although One Family has its hands full with the Bosnia relief, Kevin Smith said his relatives embraced his idea of sending help to Reynosa after he told them children were dying of curable diseases in that city.

"It gives us peace to do this," said Smith. "I don't want to go and we hope others would do it too."

SHIPMENTS

Past shipments to Bosnia have included:			
Blankets	1,075	Boves, medical supplies	67
Blanketing bags	4,375	Hospital beds	4
Coats	2,430	Medical instruments	12
Pairs of shoes	3,722	Medicine	\$125,000
Sweaters	8,433	Medical tents for Tuesday's shipment	
Clothing, pieces	1,244	Medical tents for clothing, school supplies, musical instruments and medical supplies and equipment. For information, call One Family at 888-2501.	
Wheechairs	5		
Preses, medical gear	30		

family to get what they needed.

"People were just so wonderful here," she said. "As soon as they heard we were going to help, they wanted to help."

The Scurlock family is scattered

Our First Newsletter

We sent a newsletter to the One Family supporters at least once a year. Over 900 families stayed in touch with us and this was our way of keeping them up to date with our activities as we delivered their donations.

One Family News

March 26, 1996

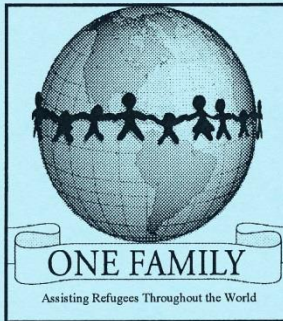
Volume 1 Issue 1

Thank You!!

Channel 7 News
SkyNet WorldWide Express
California Movers Express
Russo Photography Studio

When One Family was suggested as a possible name for our efforts, it was immediately chosen because it represented so many aspects of what we were doing. We were *one family* - a mother, six children and their families all committed to helping refugees in Bosnia-Herzegovina. Also, our original plan was to get *one family* at a time - the most needy that we could find - out of a refugee camp and help them to become self sufficient. But the strongest attraction to this name is our belief that everyone in the world is a member of *one family*. This is the reason for the design of our logo. We are all one and when one member of our family hurts, we should all work to relieve the pain. This is the thought that drives us and, judging by your response to Channel 7 News' call, you feel the same way.

As you read the articles in this news letter, you can see that you did make a difference. The things that you gave us to take for you are in Bosnia and Croatia right now warming the hearts and hands of hundreds of refugees. We want to pass along the many, many *hvalas* (Thank you's) that we received for you. We also want to express our gratitude for your generosity and for enabling us to represent you as we handed out your blankets, sleeping bags, jackets, clothing, toys, school supplies, candy and the medicine that we purchased with your donations.



Our logo represents our belief that everyone in the world is a member of One Family.

inside...

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Medical Assistance

To date we have been able to deliver close to \$55,000 worth of much needed medicines and medical supplies to hospitals and clinics. Three doctors in particular have generously given large amounts of their office medicine supplies to help these hospitals. Thank you Drs. Gross, Chimenti and Wald at Seton Hospital. Dr. Gross spent a lot of

Why Bosnia?

This is a question we are asked often, it is true that there are needy people everywhere. We were particularly attracted to the situation in the former Yugoslavia countries because we had been there several time before the war. We stayed in bed and breakfasts all over the country and got to know many wonderful people there. When the war broke out we were shocked to watch TV reports of bombings in Dubrovnik and Mostar, places we had been, streets we had walked, in beautiful cities with such rich histories.

When we heard of families being attacked and expelled from their homes in towns that we stayed, this became more personal. They had no "safety net" as people do here in America - no welfare, no homeless shelters or food programs. They were on their own. We couldn't just standby and watch

When we heard of families being attacked and expelled from their homes in towns that we stayed, this became more

time researching a particular medicine that was badly needed. Thanks to his efforts we were able to purchase it in Europe. Many people donated medicine and medical supplies. We desperately needed a wheel chair, and thanks to the *Independent Order of Foresters*, we received it. Then TWA Airlines let us take it and our 12 suitcases full of medicine at no charge. Thank you all for your incredible generosity.

One Family News

Looking Back

Reading through the old newsletters brings back some wonderful and also some sad memories. We switched to color print in 1999 when a printer offered to print them for us for free. All of these can be read online on the One Family website: www.onefamily.org



The Founders

Helen (Mom) - *The matriarch of the Smith/Scurlock family. At the age of 77 she helped start One Family and was actively involved in its operation. Reaching out to refugees who had no hope was a labor of love for her. She collected donations, helped sort, pack and load the shipping containers, and kept track of the shipment inventory. She also made many trips to Bosnia and worked hard delivering the contents of the shipments to refugees in the various refugee camps. While she couldn't speak the Croatian language, she took the time to communicate with the refugees and became well known for her kindness and generosity. Her love for all people in need was definitely a driving force behind One Family. Mom passed away in 2009 leaving a large void in our hearts.*

Deborah Granelli - *She is a real organizer. She worked to get our 501(3)(c) approval, managed the One Family finances and worked with accountants for our income tax submissions. Utilizing her many contacts, she also worked on fund raising and publicity for One Family. Deborah accompanied every shipment and especially enjoyed making the deliveries. She always found a way to connect with the refugee children whether handing out Tootsie Rolls at the Train Camp in Capljina (page 22) or dressing Barbie Dolls with girls at Domanovici (page 21). Deborah worked for IBM Corporation in San Francisco.*

Jim & Dawn Scurlock - *As a founding director, Jim provided invaluable advice and support to help One Family get started. He would often travel from his home near Seattle, Washington to California to help load containers. He worked to get One Family registered with United Way so companies can match employee contributions. Jim and Dawn provided monthly financial support which was matched by Jim's employer to help purchase needed material goods for shipments as well as helping to pay for the shipping expense. Jim passed away in 2011. He was only 52 years old. He is sorely missed. Dawn continues to provide support for One Family.*

Glenn Scurlock & Tim Johnson - *Glenn's wonderful personality and his ability to produce amazing meals has lightened the load for everyone as the containers were being filled. He is always ready to help and has spent many hours at the warehouses working to get shipments on the way.*

Mary & Jim Franke - *Mary is a registered nurse (RN) thus our expert in medical supply matters. She developed contacts for getting medical supplies donated to One Family. Her husband Jim Franke had two jobs and yet spent an enormous amount of time helping One Family by picking up donations on the peninsula, sorting, transporting, and so much more. Jim seems to make the impossible happen. If you want to get a wheel chair or a cello on a plane to Bosnia, just ask Jim. Mary is not really a travel agent, however she is ours. She has also organized several pilgrimages for groups to visit Medjugorje, Bosnia.*

Brent & Sandy Smith - *Brent arranged for the One Family 800 number, took all of the incoming phone calls, dealt them out to his brothers and sisters (by area code), and tracked them all in the One Family data base. He also kept detailed inventories and shipping lists of everything that One Family shipped, arranged shipping and prepared the shipping documents to satisfy each country's unique requirements. Brent and Sandy handled the ABC-TV news coverage that gave One Family wide exposure and resulted in a barrage of phone calls and donations that all of us family members responded to. They are both retirees of IBM Corporation.*

Chuck & Barbara Smith - *One of the original founders of One Family, Chuck visited schools, called hospitals, responded to myriad phone calls, picked up donations in the South Bay Area, gave presentations, hauled, sorted, bagged, prayed, and hoped. He retired from IBM Corporation and spent a few years working for Lockheed Martin. Chuck's sons Chuck and Francis journeyed to Bosnia in 1989.*

Kevin & Maria Smith - *Kevin, was responsible for making KGO TV aware of One Family by setting up the initial "Salute" (see page 5). He also designed the One Family logo. Before moving to Texas with his wife Maria, Kevin did a tremendous amount of work for One Family driving all over Northern California, sometimes in rental trucks, picking up donations and delivering them to our warehouse for sorting, bagging and shipping. Now he and Maria and their daughters, Tatiana and Isabella, have taken One Family to South Texas developing programs that help those who are in need. Kevin is currently a District Manager for Party City.*

One Family Shipments*

10 Container Shipments to Bosnia Hercegovina

11/19/1995	Bosnia-Hercegovina
02/02/1996	Bosnia-Hercegovina
02/06/1996	Bosnia-Hercegovina
06/20/1996	Bosnia-Hercegovina
10/23/1996	Bosnia-Hercegovina
03/25/1997	Bosnia-Hercegovina
12/15/1997	Bosnia-Hercegovina
09/14/1998	Bosnia-Hercegovina
10/26/1998	Bosnia-Hercegovina
05/08/2000	Bosnia-Hercegovina



6 Container Shipments to South America

02/28/2001	Peru
10/04/2001	Peru
02/04/2002	El Salvador
08/22/2005	Nicaragua
11/08/2006	Honduras
05/15/2007	El Salvador



6 Shipments to Other Places

10/18/1996	Estonia
03/14/1997	Mexico
06/30/2003	Afghanistan
09/26/2005	Mississippi (Katrina Relief)
11/20/2005	Pakistan (Earthquake Relief)
12/09/2005	Mississippi (Katrina Relief)



Total **22 Shipments**
Total Weight **103 Tons**

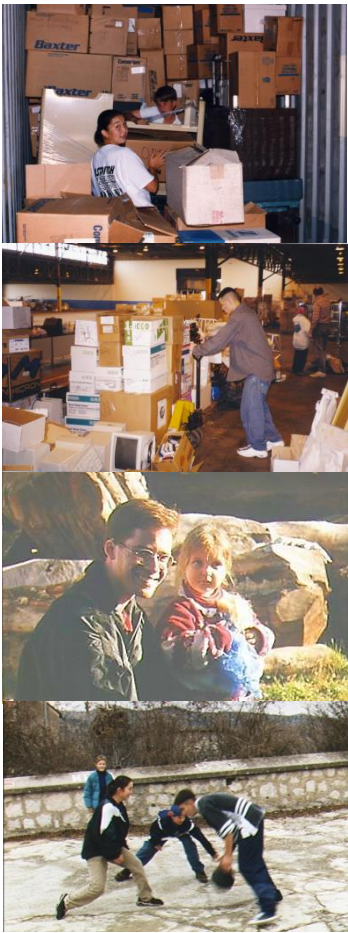


**Excludes ongoing less than container size Shipments to Haiti, to orphanages in South America, to Migrant Workers in Central California and assistance to the poor and homeless in Bay Area communities and Northern California*

Under New Management

Since One Family started, our children (pictured) were deeply involved in the efforts to collect, sort and pack the donations, load containers and distribute items to the refugees. They made many trips to Bosnia and Croatia and developed friendships with the refugee children as they played soccer, basketball and other games with them. Language was never an issue in fact it seemed they enjoyed the challenge in communication. So it seemed a natural progression to give them the opportunity to take over the management of One Family, develop their own contacts and create their own responses to the world events they are interested in as the founders step back into a supportive role.

As the new directors find their footing, One Family will benefit from the new thinking that will come with this new generation of leaders. We're happy for them and looking forward to the future of One Family in their hands.



One Family Directors



Daniel Franke



David Scurlock



Jacquie Scurlock



Jim Scurlock II



Justin Spencer



Kevin Smith



Mark Franke



Michael Smith



Scott Franke



Stephanie Smith

Daniel Franke

Daniel was 2 years old when he made his first trip to Bosnia. From an early age he helped collect donations at his school, pack boxes and load containers. Daniel has made many trips to help to deliver container loads of humanitarian aid. He recently graduated from Dominican University and is currently employed at Wells Fargo Bank.

David, Jacquie & Jim Scurlock

David, Jacquie and Jim have been indirectly associated with One Family through their dad since One Family was started. They certainly share in the kindness and generosity that their father was so well known for.

Jim is responsible for the One Family finances. He graduated from the University of Washington and is currently employed at Microsoft Corporation.

Justin Spencer

Justin has traveled to Bosnia several times helping deliver humanitarian aid to refugees. He enjoyed playing soccer with some of the children over there. While none of us know the language in Bosnia, Justin's soccer ball certainly found no language barriers. Justin is fluent in French which has come in handy in our travels.

Kevin & Maria Smith

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Mark Franke

Always ready to help, Mark has spent many hours sorting, packing and loading the humanitarian aid in the One Family warehouses and has travelled to Bosnia several times to help with the distribution. He graduated from San Francisco State University and currently works for Kaiser Foundation.

Mike Smith

Mike has been surrounded by One Family projects since its inception. With his parents, aunts and uncles and cousins all involved, it would have been hard not to be. Mike has put in many hours working in the One Family warehouses, sorting, packing and loading many shipments and has travelled to Bosnia and to Haiti for One Family. Mike graduated from UCLA and is currently employed by Salesforce.com

Scott Franke

From our very first shipment, Scott has been invaluable in loading the shipping containers. He seems to be able to do everything, from driving a forklift, arranging cartons to best fill tight spaces, and finding a way to get the last pieces into the container. He is always ready to help and a joy to work with.

Stephanie Smith

Stephanie has travelled to Bosnia many times. Her first trip was when she was three years old. She has helped sort, pack and load containers and distribute the contents in the refugee camps. She has also given presentations to her school to teach her fellow students about the situation in the former Yugoslavia countries and had an article published in Venture Magazine, a national youth magazine which described her work with One Family. Stephanie graduated from the University of Oregon and is currently employed as a police officer.

For more information about One Family:

Web Site: www.onefamily.org

Facebook: [@OneFamily](https://www.facebook.com/OneFamily)

Phone (recorder): (800) 705-5525