



NPH USA
Raising Children. Transforming Lives.



GET CLOSER

Host Family Handbook



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Chicago, IL 60602-1036
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Fax 312.658.0040
nphusa.org

Dear Host Families,

Thank you for caring for our children while they are in your home. We are deeply grateful for your generosity.

We have a challenge and need your help! Imagine your child being sent away from home to visit Grandma and coming home with heaps of gifts... and the dismay of his/her siblings upon that child's arrival. This is the exact problem we face when gifts are given to the Pequeños staying in your home. They have worked hard to earn the privilege of representing their orphanage; however, they must be treated as any other member of their family back home at NPH. Please understand and help us by following these guidelines:

- **Each child is allowed only one small, inexpensive gift from a host family. One of the best gifts you can give is spending time with them and taking care of them while they are here on their mission.**
- **The group already has costume trunks, instruments and other baggage and cannot possibly carry more. Extra gifts mean extra baggage; and with the 25 people traveling together that adds up quickly! On a past trip, the group from Mexico went to the U.S. with 30 pieces of luggage and came back with 90—the airline was not happy and the cost to transport the extra luggage was astronomical! Add to this, we now have extra security precautions that complicate baggage and airline travel.**

Thank you for caring, cooperating and understanding! I hope you enjoy the experience of hosting the children from NPH.

Best regards,

Reinhart Koehler
Interim President
Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos International

NPH USA Staff – Midwest Region

Chuck Allworth
Regional Director

Melissa Hoyt
Development Manager

Katie Sommer
*Development
Coordinator*

CONTENTS

About NPH..... 4
 History.....4
 Our Children.....5
 Our Homes.....5
 Outreach Programs6

About NPH USA 7
 What We Aspire To.....7
 What Makes Us Unique7
 Our Organization.....7
 Accountability.....7
 Pequeño Tour7

Host Family Information 8
 Hints8

Spanish Phrase 10
 General..... 10
 Food..... 11
 Numbers..... 11
 Days..... 11



About NPH

Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for “Our Little Brothers and Sisters”) strives to provide a permanent family and home for orphaned, abandoned and other at-risk children who live in conditions of extreme poverty programs in Latin American and the Caribbean.

History

In 1954, a hungry, homeless boy was arrested for stealing from the poor box of a small church in Cuernavaca, Mexico. The church’s priest, Father William B. Wasson of Phoenix, Arizona, refused to press charges and asked for custody of the boy. Within a few days, eight more boys found a home with Father Wasson, and Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH) was born. He gave them a safe home and a chance for a brighter future. By year’s end, 32 boys were in his care.

With unwavering faith and deep compassion, Father Wasson set up beds in an abandoned warehouse and continued accepting more children even though financial resources were meager and uncertain. Girls joined the NPH family in 1959, and by 1963 nearly 400 children called NPH home. As the NPH model demonstrated success and gained respect, social service agencies and advocates for children referred more and more children to the homes. With NPH graduates and volunteers helping to manage their many needs, NPH was caring for 1,000 children by 1970.

Father Wasson’s philosophy was based on a balance of love and security, combined with work, a spirit of sharing, and responsibility. Because of his ministry and vision, NPH is currently raising more than 3,400 children in nine countries: Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. They receive food, clothing, health care and an education in a loving home. Most importantly, they are raised with unconditional love and respect. An additional 1,600 students who live outside the homes receive scholarships, meals and health care. NPH outreach programs provide more than 90,000 services each year.

Since its founding, NPH has assisted more than 20,000 children.



“The love we give our children is unconditional, and they know it. Each day we thank the Lord for allowing us to keep our hearts and our doors open for these little ones. I invite you to join us and together give them a life with dignity.”

*Father William B. Wasson
Founder, NPH
December 21, 1923 -
August 16, 2006*

Our Children

The boys and girls at NPH range in age from newborn to young adult and are orphaned, abandoned or disadvantaged. Many have suffered physical and/or verbal abuse, have lived in horrible conditions, and have been shuffled from one family member to another. Like all children, they are seeking love and security, a place they can call home. They are referred to NPH by family members, neighbors or government agencies. When they come to NPH, they range in age from newborn to teenager and are told they will never be asked to leave.

Children at NPH homes are not available for adoption. Instead they are welcomed with their brothers and sisters and become a part of the larger, stable NPH family environment that gives them a chance to focus on education and personal growth, knowing that a loving support system will always be in place for them. The children grow and learn in their culture and language and become contributing citizens in their own countries.

Most of the children have contact with their extended families. There are scheduled "Visitors Days" during the year in which children receive family members. Older siblings, uncles, aunts, cousins, and sometimes a parent or grandparent, arrive and spend the day on the NPH grounds usually bringing food and beverages. Older teens usually have a free day in which they are able to visit their family if they choose.

There is no fixed age at which the children leave NPH. They stay until they feel prepared to live independently. Some children may leave NPH and start working after finishing secondary school. Others may stay and attend high school, take vocational training or study at a university. Additionally, when a child has completed his or her education, or perhaps before going on to higher academics, they are expected to give back to their family by completing a year of service (*año de servicio* or *año familiar*). In almost all cases, they gladly return to work with younger children, serve in the kitchen, offices, school or farm. During their Family Service, they continue to be supported by NPH.

Thousands of *pequeños* are now self-sufficient adults with families of their own. Many are educators, doctors, accountants, carpenters, farmers, mechanics, artists, administrators and social workers. Some work for NPH in one of the nine countries where they have homes. Having learned the NPH philosophies of sharing and giving back, others support NPH USA and NPH by sponsoring children, organizing fundraisers, or attending special events and serving as ambassadors for the organization.

Our Homes

All of the NPH homes are located near cities, making services and supplies easily accessible. At the same time, they are relatively isolated and have extensive grounds. This provides our children with safety and security, which they may not have experienced before joining the NPH family.

All of the homes strive to be self-sustaining and have:

- Living spaces
- Kitchens and dining halls
- Chapels
- Clinics
- Schools
- Workshops where children can learn trades such as carpentry and welding
- Farms/gardens to produce food for the children, staff and volunteers

While all NPH homes are guided by the same principles and philosophies, features vary from site to site. Learn more at www.nphusa.org.

Outreach Programs

Father Wasson believed in raising children to be responsible and share with others. As a result, all of the NPH homes assist people in their communities in a variety of ways. For example, the homes with their own schools offer scholarships to local children and those with clinics provide health care services to thousands of children and adults each year. In addition:

All homes

- Collect and distribute supplies to people in need after emergencies and natural disasters, such as floods and earthquakes.

Dominican Republic

- Builds latrines in nearby residential areas.
- Provides food, shoes and other supplies to the poor.
- Offers vocational education to unemployed adults.

Haiti

- St. Damien Pediatric Hospital – Chateaublond in Port-au-Prince is the premier pediatric hospital in all of Haiti, providing more than 80,000 services each year.
 - The 250-bed hospital provides long-term care for critically ill children.
 - There is an illness prevention and curative program as well as HIV counseling and testing for expectant mothers.
- A clinic and school offers health care and education to children from the slums.

Honduras

- *Casa de Los Angeles* provides a home for children with disabilities.
- *Casa Eva* welcomes elderly adults who have no family to care for them.
- *Casa Pasionista* is a home for adults living with HIV/AIDS. It is located on the Ranch property and is supported by NPH.
- The Holy Family Surgery Center was established in 2005 by Dr. Peter Daly, an orthopedic surgeon from the United States, his wife LuLu Daly, and Reinhart Koehler, Interim President of NPH, to improve the quality of health care and serve the underprivileged who otherwise could not afford surgery in Honduras. It provides outpatient services for NPH children and the rural poor as well as medical training.
- The Little Steps Daycare Center in Tegucigalpa supports single mothers with low economic resources, allowing them to pursue a higher education or have a job.

NPH outreach programs provide more than 90,000 services each year.

About NPH USA

NPH USA, formerly Friends of the Orphans, transforms the lives of orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children with homes, healthcare and educational programs, making a positive impact in Latin America and the Caribbean.

We support Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters"), which is currently raising more than 3,400 boys and girls in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. An additional 1,600 students who live outside the homes receive scholarships, meals and health care. NPH outreach programs provided more than 95,000 services in 2014. Together, we create families for life and teach children the values of unconditional love, shared responsibility and helping others. Our donors help children overcome poverty and become leaders in their own communities.

What We Aspire to:

- Creating families for life through values of unconditional love, shared responsibility and helping others.
- Enabling children to grow into caring and productive members of their communities – to multiply the change that you, as supporters, are helping to make.
- Enhancing our supporters' lives by helping them make a difference in the lives of our children.

What Makes Us Unique

- Our children receive direct physical, emotional and spiritual support on a long-term basis.
- Our children are not available for adoption – they find security and a sense of belonging as they are being welcomed into a family for life.
- Our children have daily chores, such as dusting, mopping, cooking or farming. This teaches them responsibility and they find pride in helping their family in this way.
- Our children are given a quality education and have the opportunity to pursue a trade or university degree.
- Our children give back a year or more of service to their brothers and sisters, to share the responsibility of raising the family.
- Our donors have the opportunity to visit our homes and meet the children whose lives they are helping to transform.
- Our donors help children overcome poverty and become leaders in their own communities.

Our Organization

NPH USA supports NPH through fundraising and volunteer efforts. The organization is governed by a volunteer Board of Directors. In addition to our national office located in Illinois, we have six regional offices, each of which has its own volunteer Board of Directors. The members of our boards have diverse professional backgrounds and expertise, but each actively works to raise funds for and awareness of NPH USA and our mission.

Accountability

NPH USA is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation, Federal Tax ID# 65-1229309. Donations are tax deductible to the extent provided by law.

Pequeño Tour

Each year the Music and Dance group from one of the NPH homes visits the United States to perform in schools, churches and to other interested audiences. Even though the members of the group change from year to year, the mission in coming here is the same. They are emissaries and representatives of their brothers and sisters in all nine countries where NPH has homes. The *pequeños* share some of the traditions and culture of their country through music and dance. They sincerely thank you for the opportunity to participate in this valuable intercultural experience.

Host Family Information

HERE ARE A FEW HINTS THAT WE HOPE WILL BE HELPFUL:

INTRODUCTIONS: Please tell the children (*pequeños*) what you would like to be called: Ms. Smith, Jane, etc.

WELCOME GIFT: Please do not feel it is necessary to give the children gifts. The best gift you can give them is spending time with them and taking care of them while they are here. Reinhart Koehler, Interim President of NPH, has stipulated a gift giving policy which allows only one small, inexpensive gift from a host family. See his letter on page 2 for more detail.

HOME TOUR: Please show the children your home, including the bedroom, closets, and bathroom they should use. Show them how to turn on your tub and shower and be sure to explain how to use the hot and cold water faucets; in Spanish, "c" indicates hot water.

MEALS: The *pequeños* like to experience new types of food so please be comfortable serving whatever food that you normally prepare. They may be shy about taking a second helping, so you may want to ask them a second time.

ATTENDING CHURCH: As noted on their itinerary, the children will be attending several masses throughout the week. You are welcome to attend any or all of the masses, but the children must stay with the group.

GOING TO BED: Let your guests know that it is okay to go to bed when he or she is tired. Some children think they have to stay up until the family retires. Discuss with them the time they should get up in the morning based on the itinerary—use your judgment about the time they need to get up to allow enough time to dress and eat prior to leaving (usually 1-1/2 hours). If you set an alarm for them, please show them how to turn it off in the mornings, or wake them up. Leaving an extra blanket for them is also a good idea. Finally, the children are accustomed to living in a dorm and are more comfortable sharing a bedroom rather than being placed in separate rooms.

PARTICIPATION: Encourage the children to participate in your activities. Some activities that do not require a great deal of language include sports, jigsaw puzzles, card games, music, looking at family albums, etc. Usually they are receptive to anything and everything! And, they are used to helping and will be glad to help you with daily chores of clearing the table, doing the dishes, etc.

LANGUAGE: The *pequeños* have limited English and are usually not accustomed to conversational English. Try to speak to them slowly and simply while using gestures. Use your Spanish, however limited. When in doubt, use a Spanish-English, English-Spanish dictionary and point to words. Please feel free to call Melissa Hoyt at (480) 861-0883 if a communication problem occurs.

MEDICAL SITUATIONS: Please call Melissa Hoyt (480) 861-0883 immediately if a medical emergency occurs. Treat children as if they are your own: if they need to go see a doctor, take them. If they need an emergency room, take them.

LAUNDRY: The *pequeños* will probably need to wash some laundry. It would be helpful if you would offer to do it as they probably do not know how to operate a washer or dryer.

TRANSPORTATION: The children will be totally dependent on you for transportation. Please ensure the times on the itinerary are met. Allow ample time to get ready and to drive to the appointed meeting place. If one person is late, it delays the whole group. Therefore, it is imperative to the overall program that everyone is on time! The *pequeños* are teenagers and you may have to “get them moving” on occasion. Also, they have many parts, pieces, buttons etc. to their costumes and some may fall off or be left behind as they get ready each day. Please help us by checking their rooms one more time before leaving the house and asking them to re-check for all their costume parts they need for each day. If any buttons etc. come loose while they are with you, we would very much appreciate you helping to reattach them to their costumes.

If you are unable to deliver or pick up your guests, please arrange for another host family to drive them. If unable to reach another host family, call Melissa Hoyt at (480) 861-0883 or Katie Sommer (219) 241-7222.

E-MAIL: Please do NOT share your family e-mail address with the children. NPH is not set up at this time to monitor the use of e-mail from the homes. We would love for you to write the children after they return home. We ask that all correspondence be sent through our national office for your privacy and the safety of the children.

Place your letter in an envelope (do not seal so that the text can be translated) and write the *pequeño's* full name and your name on the front of the envelope. Place the unsealed envelope into another envelope and send to:

NPH USA
Sponsorship Operations
134 North LaSalle Street #500
Chicago, IL 60602

Thank you so much for playing such an important role in the children’s trip to the United States!

Spanish Phrases – General

Yes / Si - **No** / No - **Please** / Por favor
Thank you / Muchas Gracias - **You're welcome** / De nada
Hello / Hola - **Good morning** / Buenos días
Good afternoon or Good evening - Buenas tardes – **Good night** – Buenas Noches
How are you? / ¿Cómo está usted?
Fine, thank you. And you? / Muy bien, gracias. ¿Y usted?
Good bye / Hasta luego - **Very good** / Muy bien
My name is... / Mi nombre es... - **What is your name?** / ¿Cuál es su nombre?
This is Mr... / Este es el Señor - **This is Mrs...** / Esta es la Señora...
Nice to meet you / Mucho gusto
Do you know Mr....? / ¿Conoce usted al Señor...?
Do you know Mrs...? / ¿Conoce usted a la Señora...?
Speak slower / Hable más despacio - **Please repeat** / Repita, por favor
I don't understand / No comprendo
I don't speak Spanish very well. / No hablo muy bien español.
Please tell me... / Dígame, por favor...
What is (this street) called? / ¿Cómo se llama (esta calle)?
Where is (the pharmacy)? / ¿Dónde está la farmacia)? -
It's over there. / Está allí - **I don't know.** / No sé
To the (Acapulco) Hotel, please. / Al hotel (Acapulco), por favor
Does this bus go to the airport? / ¿Va este autobús al aeropuerto?
Is it far from here? / ¿Está lejos de aquí?
Hurry, please / Dese prisa, por favor
Good morning / Buenos días
Good evening / Buenas noches
Good bye / Adiós
Please / Por favor - **Thank you** / Gracias
Thank you very much / Muchas gracias - **You're welcome** / De nada
How are you? / ¿Cómo están? - **Very well thank you** / Muy bien gracias
I'm sorry / Lo siento - **Excuse me** / Con permiso - **With pleasure** / Con gusto
Just a minute / Espere un minuto
Maybe / Quizá
Sir / Señor - **Mrs. or Madame** / Señora - **Miss** / Señorita
Do you speak English? / ¿Habla usted Inglés?
Do you understand? / ¿Entiende usted?
I'm looking for / Estoy buscando
I'm lost / Estoy perdido
Could you repeat that? / ¿Podría repetir eso?
Behind / Detrás - **In front of** / Enfrente de - **Across from** / Al otro lado de
Before / - Antes - **After** / Después
Near / Cerca - **Far** / Lejos
Perhaps / Quizá
I can't / No puedo
Why? / ¿Porqué? - **What?** /- ¿Qué? - **How?** / ¿Cómo? - **Who?** / ¿Quién?
Can you help me? / ¿Me podría ayudar?
Could you tell...? / ¿Me podría decir...?
What do you want? / ¿Que quiere usted?
Here they are / Aquí están
Never mind / No se preocupe
What a shame / Qué lástima

FOOD

Beans - Frijoles (fri-hol-es)
Rice - Arroz (a-rros)
Bread - Pan (pahn)
Meat - Carne (kar-neh)
Beef - Carne de Res (kar-neh)(de)(res)
Chicken - Pollo (poh-yoh)
Turkey - Pavo (pa bo)
Ham - Jamón (ja-mon)
Vegetable - Verduras (ver-duh-ras)
Peas - Guisotes (gi-soh-tes)
Cookie - Galleta (ga-yeh-ta)
Cake - Torta (tor-ta)
Pie - Pastel (pahs-tel)
Beverage - Bebida (beh-bee-dah)
Milk - Leche (leh-cheh)
Water - Agua (ah-gwah)
Soda pop - Refresco (reh-fres-koh)
Juice - Jugo (hoo-goh)
Chocolate - Chocolate (choh-koh-lah-teh)
Corn - Maíz (mai-is)
Tomato - Tomate (toh-mah-teh)
Onion - Cebolla (se-boh-yah)
Carrot - Zanahoria (se-na-o-rja)
Fruit - Fruta (froo-tah)

Apple - Manzana (mahn-zah-nah)
Orange - Naranja (nah-rahn-hah)
Banana - Plátano (pla-ta-noh)
Strawberry - Fresa (fre-sa)
Grape - Uva (u-ba)

Oatmeal - Avena (a-be-nah)
Dessert - Postre (pohs-tre)
Ice Cream - Helado (e-lah-doh)
Fish - Pescado (pes-kah-doh)
Eggs - Huevos (hoo-eh-vohs)
Cheese - Queso (keh-soh)
Sandwiches - Bocadillos
(boh-kah-dee-yohs)

NUMBERS

0 - zero (seh-roh)
1 - uno (oon-oh)
2 - dos (dohs)
3 - tres (trehs)
4 - cuatro (kwah-troh)
5 - cinco (seen-koh)
6 - seis (sehs)
7 - siete (see-eh-teh)
8 - ocho (oh-choh)
9 - nueve (nweh-veh)
10 - diez (dee-es)
11 - once (ohn-seh)
12 - doce (doh-seh)
13 - trece (treh-seh)
14 - catorce (kah-tor-seh)
15 - quince (keen-seh)
16 - dieciséis (dee-eh-see-sehs)
17 - diecisiete (dee-eh-see-eh-teh)
18 - dieciocho (dee-eh-see-oh-choh)
19 - diecinueve (dee-eh-see-nweh-veh)
20 - veinte (bain-teh)

DAYS OF THE WEEK

Monday - Lunes (loo-nes)
Tuesday - Martes (mar-tes)
Wednesday - Miercoles (mee-air-koh-les)
Thursday - Jueves (hoo-eh-ves)
Friday - Viernes (vee-air-nes)
Saturday - Sabado (sah-bah-doh)
Sunday - Domingo (doh-meen-goh)

Morning - la Mañana (mahn-yah-nah)
Afternoon - la Tarde (tar-deh)
Evening - la Noche (noh-cheh)