



## Press Release

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### **FRIENDS OF THE ORPHANS NAMES SHARON T. SAXELBY PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

Bolivia

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL: Friends of the Orphans announced today that the Board of Directors has named Sharon T. Saxelby to serve as the nonprofit organization's President and Chief Executive Officer.

Dominican Republic

El Salvador

Saxelby comes to Friends of the Orphans with more than 20 years of experience in top-tier positions in both the corporate and nonprofit sector, including most recently as Chief Development Officer for the Make-A-Wish Foundation of Illinois.

Guatemala

Haiti

Honduras

"Friends needs a CEO with proven fundraising experience, leadership skills, and entrepreneurial spirit. Sharon is the perfect fit – and she had found Friends and joined our mission even before we interviewed her. We are very excited to have Sharon's leadership, and expect strong growth in our organization and fundraising" said Board of Directors member Michael Gibbs, who headed the search team.

Mexico

Nicaragua

Peru

Saxelby said, "Friends of the Orphans is truly one of the most special organizations I have ever encountered. Their mission—helping orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children through a unique

program focusing on education, responsibility and unconditional love—has been making dramatic changes in the lives of needy children in some of the most impoverished places on Earth for over 40 years. It is a great honor to join the leadership team and all of the dedicated staff and volunteers of such a wonderful organization.”

Saxelby will begin her new duties effective immediately. “The Board of Directors has completed a very vigorous and ambitious strategic planning process, and the organization is, I believe, truly poised to move to a place where it can really build on its past successes and help many, many more children,” she said.

Friends of the Orphans is dedicated to improving the lives of orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children through the support of the Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (Spanish for “Our Little Brothers and Sisters”) network of orphanages in Latin America and the Caribbean. Currently, Friends supports over 3,500 children in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru. An additional 30,000 children and adults are served each year through outreach programs, including hospitals and clinics. For more information, visit [www.FriendsoftheOrphans.org](http://www.FriendsoftheOrphans.org).

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