



City of the Children

A Project of  Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos™ International

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Friends of the Orphans and Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos International
Partner With Former Big Ten Football Star John Shinsky
To Open Orphanage in Mexico**

*Philanthropist and ex-defensive tackle from Michigan State University
realizes his college dream about giving back*

CHICAGO—July 30, 2009—Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for “Our Little Brothers and Sisters”) and its American fundraising arm, Friends of the Orphans, have teamed up with former Michigan State University football star John Shinsky to open and operate a new orphanage in Matamoros, Mexico, called Ciudad De Los Niños (“City of the Children”).

The partnership, based on an initial three-year agreement and expected to evolve into a permanent relationship, allows each organization to combine their unique resources and strengths for the shared mission of transforming the lives of orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children in need.

As part of the collaboration, Ciudad De Los Niños founders Shinsky and his wife Cindy are constructing the 12-building, 33,000 square foot orphanage, designed to serve 140 orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children from Matamoros and the surrounding areas. NPH will operate the facility, and Friends of the Orphans will help provide financial support to run the home. The orphanage is scheduled to open on Aug. 2 with approximately 12 children being served in six buildings, with a maximum capacity of 40 children. An additional six buildings will be added as funds are generated through various upcoming fundraising activities.

“We are extremely excited about our tremendous partnership with Friends of the Orphans and NPH and what it will mean for the children,” said Shinsky, a former orphan, Academic All-American College football player and Associate Professor at Grand Valley State University in Lansing, Michigan.

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“It’s very difficult to speak about the terrible conditions children face in the streets of Matamoros, but we’re really encouraged that the opening of the home will make an immediate difference in the community, and especially in providing hope to and improving the lives of the children.”

Thousands of children and families in Matamoros live on \$1 per day for food. Large numbers of children live in cardboard houses and call the garbage dump their neighborhood. As a result, the town suffers terrible poverty, disease, lack of education, and abandonment of children.

“Immediately upon meeting John and hearing about his vision for transforming the lives of children in need, Friends of the Orphans knew we were united in our goals,” said Sharon Saxelby, President and CEO of Friends of the Orphans. “There is unmatched enthusiasm, dedication and passion for this project on both sides, and we are excited about directing that energy to benefit the children. We welcome the Shinskys and their many supporters to the greater NPH family.”

Founded in 1954 by Father William B. Wasson, NPH is a network of nine homes in Latin America and the Caribbean that raises orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children. The organization provides children with a unique home environment where they are not available for adoption, but are instead welcomed with their brothers and sisters into the larger NPH family. Operating under the support of its American fundraising arm, Friends of the Orphans, the children are accepted unconditionally and raised under the five guiding principles of security, love, sharing, work and responsibility.

As the newest addition to the Friends of the Orphans and NPH family, Ciudad De Los Niños will operate under the same unique model as the other nine homes. The healthcare and educational needs of each child will be ensured, including the opportunity to complete technical courses or earn a university degree. When the children leave the home, they are prepared to be productive and caring members of their communities and are encouraged to give back to the community in adulthood.

“From the very start this orphanage has been about the children,” said Shinsky. “Decades in the making, we built it \$1 at a time to make it a reality.”

He continued, “Under the guidance and support of Friends of the Orphans and NPH, we know our presence will provide hope for many bright futures.”

Currently, Shinsky has completed six of the twelve buildings at Ciudad De Los Niños, and he is thrilled to welcome the first children. The timing is particularly special for NPH as the City of Children opening coincides with the 55th anniversary of NPH Mexico on Aug. 2. Since its inception, NPH has assisted nearly 16,000 children and currently serves more than 3,300.

On Sept. 5, Ciudad De Los Niños will hold its Grand Opening ceremony, and Shinsky, along with Friends of the Orphans and NPH, invite all interested participants and members of the media to save the date. Additional information about the event is forthcoming.

For more information about Ciudad De Los Niños, visit Shinsky's Web site at www.shinskyorphanage.com. For more information about Friends of the Orphans and NPH, visit www.friendsoftheorphans.org or call 888-201-8880.

About Friends of the Orphans

A 40-year-old nonprofit organization with six regional offices in the United States, Friends of the Orphans supports a network of nine Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for "Our Little Brothers and Sisters") homes and their outreach programs in Latin America and the Caribbean. Together, Friends of the Orphans and NPH transform the lives of orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children by creating families for life through values of unconditional love, shared responsibility and education. This enables children to transcend poverty and grow into caring and productive members of their communities.

Since its founding in 1954, NPH has assisted nearly 16,000 children and currently cares for more than 3,300 in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. NPH outreach programs, including the only free pediatric hospital in Haiti, serve more than 30,000 adults and children each year. By making a difference in the lives of the children through volunteer and donation opportunities, our supporters' lives are enhanced as well. For more information about Friends of the Orphans, please visit www.friendsoftheorphans.org.

About Ciudad De Los Niños

Ciudad De Los Niños ("City of the Children") of Matamoros A.C. is a very special project designed to enhance the lives of abandoned children in Matamoros, Mexico. It

began with a dream 30 years ago after John Shinsky, a former orphan, visited Parmadale in Parma, Ohio—the orphanage from his childhood. Based on the positive experiences he had there and the blessings he received throughout his life, he committed to giving back to children in need. On September 28, 2005, the first phase of Shinsky’s dream became a reality after 17 acres of land were donated to him by a wealthy businessman in Matamoros, Mexico. On that day, a groundbreaking ceremony was conducted to build the 33,000 square-foot, 12-building orphanage, and at present, six of the buildings are complete and scheduled to open on August 2, 2009.

The mission of Ciudad De Los Niños is to provide a safe, secure, healthy, and nurturing environment for children in Matamoros who have been abandoned, abused, and/or neglected and do not have adequate food, shelter, or support to survive within their community. It is our mission to provide educational, bilingual, character building, and vocational training opportunities, which will afford these children a chance to become independent and productive citizens, who will eventually give back and support other children in need in the future. For more information about Ciudad De Los Niños, please visit www.shinskyorphanage.com.

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