



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
Celebrate Grand Opening of “City of the Children”**

*Supporters invited to attend and help fulfill orphanage’s mission to provide bright futures
for children in one of Mexico’s poorest cities*

CHICAGO—August 26, 2009—A new orphanage located across the Texas border in Matamoros, Mexico named Ciudad De Los Niños (Spanish for “City of the Children”) will celebrate its grand opening on Saturday, Sept. 5 between 9:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.

The special day, which will include professional photographers, government officials, staff, and the general public, will welcome the orphanage’s first children and celebrate the completion of the first six buildings in what will become a 12-building, 33,000 square foot facility.

Founded by philanthropist and ex-defensive tackle from Michigan State University, John Shinsky, and operated in partnership with Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for “Our Little Brothers and Sisters”) and its American fundraising arm Friends of the Orphans, Ciudad De Los Niños is designed to serve 140 orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children from Matamoros and the surrounding areas.

“I vowed long ago to give back to children in need, regardless of boundaries,” said Shinsky, a former orphan, Academic All-American College football player and Associate Professor at Grand Valley State University in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

“I started building the orphanage about four years ago, and although it has been a very rewarding journey, this is only the beginning. As the children move in and call the orphanage home, my commitment to them is stronger than ever. I’m thrilled to make a difference in their lives and break the brutal cycle of poverty in Matamoros.”

Ciudad De Los Niños is the newest addition to the Friends of the Orphans and the NPH family. A network of homes in nine Latin American and the Caribbean countries that raises orphaned, abandoned and disadvantaged children, NPH will operate Ciudad De Los Niños under the same unique model as its other homes. With Friends of the Orphans

raising funds and volunteer support in the U.S., NPH will ensure the daily needs of the children are met, including regular healthcare, educational opportunities through the university level, and a loving, secure environment they can call home.

“We are delighted to support John and NPH in operating this facility,” said Sharon Saxelby, President and CEO of Friends of the Orphans. “The grand opening celebration promises an inspiring day, and we’re looking forward to sharing it with the children and our supporters.”

Please see the attached agenda for a full schedule of events.

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 celebrate their grand opening on Sept. 5, 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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