



## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the last century, two individuals captured the public eye with their commitment to the ideals that:

- Every kind deed benefits the common good
- By observing we learn from others

Through her selfless outreach work Nobel Peace Prize Recipient, Mother Teresa, taught love, determination and compassion. On the other side of the spectrum and capitalizing on her charisma, Princess Diana crossed social barriers to also do her share in helping humanity. The ideals and devotion to aid people in need, as it was for these two women, is at the heart of **Volunteers on Call, Inc.**

If these individuals are at the heart of **VOC, Inc.** then the lifeblood of this organization is service. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight, lift-up and thank our countless volunteers who, in our short history, have donated thousands of man-hours to serve in many of our projects both at home and abroad. Leaving behind families and the comforts of home to help those in need, they have made possible many miracles.

Our work is also possible thanks to our local and global partners. They are large and small institutions, groups and individuals whose expertise “in the field” have allowed VOC to participate in work projects that would have otherwise taken many years of infrastructure for us to develop.

I would most especially like thank our donors and contributors. These are individuals, churches, foundations and corporations who have “taken a chance” on a small agency with a short history. Your financial donations have allowed VOC to build many houses for the poor, afforded micro-enterprise assistance to widows and orphans, purchased building materials, clothing, school and educational supplies to impoverished communities, provided education for the academic school year of several children, sponsored families to provide food, clothing and medical needs, refurbished homes of the elderly poor, fed and clothed hundreds of homeless friends, granted scholarships and brought love, hope and compassion to many.

Thanking each and every one of you isn't enough. My comfort rests in knowing that your generosity will be rewarded by Providence.



Not the least of which to thank, is our Board of Directors, whose love and commitment to live out the word of God is alive and thriving. Their dedication is evident in their willingness to:

- Advance the causes of others before themselves
- Volunteer their time
- Listen to diverse perspectives
- Offer insightful guidance
- Roll up their sleeves and go to work wherever they are needed

Remembering our purpose, let us also remember that while the tasks and goals of any local or international service project are important, our vision is to achieve mutual respect, learn from each other, explore human potential, and develop long lasting relationships.

Our belief has always been that by connecting people around the world, we can break the cycle of prejudice, misunderstanding and disagreements. Wars will not end by military force nor by political agreements. Peace will prevail first of all by love, by cross-cultural understanding and acceptance. Building bridges of philo, connecting different peoples and working together for a common goal is what drives the spirit of **Volunteers on Call, Inc.**

Volunteering is not about distributing the food, nor giving out clothing, nor finishing the building project on time. While these are important, volunteering is about building relationships. I'd like to share with you an entry that I wrote in my daily log years ago while I was serving as a volunteer in Bolivia:

“Working side by side, we learn from each other. The time spent together mixing sand and cement by hand in the pit affords us the opportunity to reach deep into their souls. They are a proud people, yet humble—a people looking for a better world and better times. Their dreams are no different than ours. They want roofs over their heads, food, clothing and a better life for their children. They want an opportunity to work and be productive. We share life experiences. We talk about our homes and families. I realize then that nothing separates us-- not skin color, not our birth place, not our social standing, nor our political views or religious beliefs. Even in this corner of the world, people want to be loved and accepted. They want peace, they want joy, they want to dream.”

We have accomplished much in little time. Yet, there is much more to do and many more people to awaken to the needs of the poor and homeless.

We look forward to growing by leaps and bounds and have representation in every corner of the globe in the next few years. Our hope is that future generations will hold on to and expand on the ideal of advocating volunteerism. We look to today's youth and already



see promise that they will effect positive change, bring hope and leave marks of love for others to follow.

I would like to thank everyone who has, in one way or another, contributed to our organization. I pray that you be blessed. It is an honor and a privilege to lead **Volunteers on Call, Inc.**

With warmest wishes,

Roxana Bowgen,  
President and Founder