

NUESTROS PEQUEÑOS HERMANOS

Mission

Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos (NPH, Spanish for “Our Little Brothers and Sisters”) is a charitable organization serving orphaned and abandoned children in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its mission is to provide shelter, food, clothing, healthcare and education in a Christian family environment based on unconditional acceptance and love, sharing, working and responsibility.

A worldwide community of donors, staff and volunteers enables NPH to help the children become caring and productive citizens in their countries.

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. One week later, the judge sent Father Wasson eight more homeless boys. He gave them a safe home and a chance to turn their lives around. By year’s end, 32 boys were in his care, and NPH was born.

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 orphans to the homes. With NPH graduates and volunteers helping to manage their many needs, NPH was caring for 1,000 children by 1970. NPH is currently supporting more than 7,600 children in Bolivia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru.



Did You Know?

- NPH has been supported by NPH USA since 1965.
- NPH operates a hospital in Haiti and community outreach programs at all of the homes. More than 88,000 services were provided in 2022.
- Most of the homes operate their own primary and secondary schools for children from NPH and the surrounding community.
- NPH provides scholarships, meals, health care and other support to more than 3,900 community children.
- Every child has a daily chore, such as farming or cleaning.
- NPH asks their children to give back a year of service to the family, called *Año Familiar*. Positions include child care, medical assistants, office staff and craft apprentices.
- Each home has an annual Visitors’ Day. Relatives of the children spend the day at NPH with them.
- Tens of thousands of children have been assisted by NPH.

Father William B. Wasson

December 21, 1923 - August, 16, 2006



I grew up in Phoenix, Arizona, where I attended St. Mary's High School and parish. My parents also had a home in Yarnell, Arizona, which is about 1.5 hours outside of Phoenix. We would spend our summers in Yarnell, a quiet, peaceful, retirement town.

When I was 30 years old, after I graduated from university, I traveled to Mexico where I was ordained as a priest. I was assigned to a small parish in the market district of Cuernavaca, Mexico. I saw the immediate need for a daycare for poor market children, who would spend all day helping their parents sell goods. Then my first son arrived at our chapel. Hungry with nowhere to turn, he stole money from the poor box. After visiting him in jail, and discussing options with the local judge, I won custody of him and eight other boys.

I try my best to do things according to the scriptures. That is how I founded and named NPH, from Matthew 25:40, "Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me." Hence the name, "Our Little Brothers and Sisters," Nuestros Pequeños Hermanos, was born in 1954.

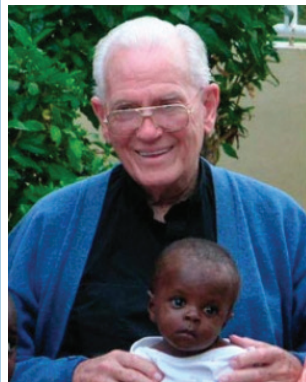
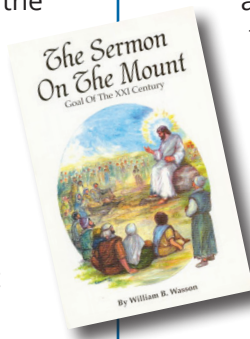
What I enjoy most is spending time with my children. It is important to listen with your whole heart and being. It is also important to smile and be joyful.

When I see a child or someone with a serious or sad expression, I try to lighten their mood by smiling. I also believe in only saying positive words. It doesn't matter whether someone is rich, poor, young, old, educated, uneducated, good or bad, you can have something in common with every single person. Having a wit and a sense of humor is also helpful in being a father to so many children. Some of my proudest moments are seeing when older youths take on the role of being the older brother or sister to the younger ones.

I love the scripture and study it with a passion. I also learned Arabic and Hebrew and wrote three books based on the scripture. Other interests I have are psychology, theology, geography, history, and cowboy movies, which I love watching with the children. I also enjoy traveling and taking the children with me so that they can experience new cultures which can open their eyes to the outside world.

My motto has always been, a child is only good because of somebody. You can teach him all of the religion in the world but he is not going to be good unless it is because of somebody in his life that he wants to copy who is good. That is the only way to lead a child to goodness, because of somebody.

Every night and every morning I pray for the children. I pray that God will bless them and keep them close and lead them into a life of mercy rather than justice and teach them how to be merciful to one another.



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. All donated funds are diligently appropriated and an audited financial statement is available upon request.