



## Plight of Nicaraguan Children Strikes a Chord with Local 5<sup>th</sup> Graders

Pete Ferryman with KPTV in Portland, Oregon recently produced an Emmy nominated segment called "Escaping the Landfill". The piece outlined the plight of those living in La Chureca, the dump in Managua, Nicaragua. He also discussed how Forward Edge International (FEI), a Vancouver based organization, was rescuing girls from the dump and caring for them in a place called *Villa Esperanza* (Village of Hope).

A group of 5<sup>th</sup> graders at Orchards Elementary in Vancouver, Washington discovered the KPTV segment while researching global poverty for their reading class. The plight of the children in La Chureca really struck a chord with this group of children. They wanted to DO something so they wrote Joseph Anfuso (FEI President) to ask how they could help. Lilly, one of the 5<sup>th</sup> graders, summed up their feelings when she wrote, "When I look at the people in La Chureca, my heart breaks into a million pieces."

Mr. Anfuso visited the class, suggesting different ways they could get involved. And the class responded. They each wrote to the girls living at *Villa Esperanza*. They also began telling others about the situation in Nicaragua through school newsletters and school news programs.

Finally, through a number of fundraising projects, the class mobilized the entire school to raise \$3,124.86. They have determined to use the money to send their teacher to Nicaragua and to help support the mission of *Villa Esperanza*.

These children remind us just how much God can do with a willing heart! As Courtney stated, "I know I am only a fifth grader, but I think anyone, at any age, can help."

For more information visit [www.forwardedge.org](http://www.forwardedge.org) or contact us at [fei@forwardedge.org](mailto:fei@forwardedge.org) or 360.574.3343.