

Wednesday, January 31, 1968

Happiness For A Child Need Cost Only Fifty Cents A Day

Republican Senator John G. Tower and Democratic Senator William Proxmire are at opposite poles politically but they have something in common—both are Foster Parents.

Little Filipina Elisa M. Triaca also has something in common—both are Foster Children and both were hungry and homeless until they were "adopted" financially through Foster Parents Plan.

Foster Parents are generous people in the U.S. and Canada, who contribute 50 cents a day so that a destitute child in a war ravaged or underdeveloped country may eat nourishing

food...see a doctor when something hurts...sleep on a mattress instead of a dirt floor...and go to school.

IN EACH of the countries where Foster Parents Plan maintains offices, there is a North American Director with a large staff of trained local social workers who investigate, enroll, guide and counsel the Foster Child and his entire family.

Because the aim is more than to rescue a single child from despair the plan rehabilitates the entire family.

The monthly cash grant is used for the benefit of the entire

family and there are regular distributions of household equipment, blankets and other necessities such as medical care and education that are looked on as luxuries in the countries where Foster Parents Plan operates.

FOSTER PARENTS Plan has been caring for children in need for thirty years. It all began with the Civil War in Spain in 1937. Bombed wreckage, debris, disease and the stench of death were everywhere. Hordes of children roamed the streets searching for a scrap of food and shelter against the cold and the ceaseless bombardment.

John Langdon-Davies, an English correspondent, was there on assignment. He found little Jose wandering aimlessly in the streets. In the child's pocket was a pencilled note reading:

"This is Jose. I am his father. When Santander falls I shall be shot. Whoever finds my son I beg him to care for him for my sake."

The reporter teamed up with another compassionate Englishman, Eric Muggeridge, a travel agent, and Foster Parents Plan was born.

AT FIRST they sheltered children in castles in the north

of Spain. But the war spread ever northward. Eric Muggeridge led a band of terrified children across the freezing, snowbound passes of the Pyrenees to France. Cold, snow, and incessant bombing ended the flight for many children. This was January 1937. Plan children were given shelter in chateaux in the South of France.

The final refuge was England where emergency shelters were set up. Now the children were no longer numbered in the hundreds—there were thousands.

After the United States entered the war in 1941 Plan colonies in England cared for

children from warring Europe. When peace came headquarters were opened in the war ravaged countries. Today Plan is supporting 45,000 children in nine countries. People from every state in the union are Foster Parents. Canada cares for more than 9,000 Foster Children.

THE PEOPLE who become Foster Parents are as varied as the places where they live. The inmates of San Quentin prison adopted a Greek girl; Chief Petty Officer Norman Weiss supports 10 Foster Children as a living memorial to his 21-year-old brother who

was killed in the Korean War. Chief Weiss, who has managed to visit every one of his children, insists that a Foster Parent receives more than he gives. A Foster Parent gives \$15 a month. He receives a letter every month from his child describing what the money is doing for the family.

In turn he writes to his child. Original and translation are sent both child and Foster Parent. Chief Weiss found that his letters were sometimes bound into an album, always read and reread until they were tattered. His photograph occupied the place of honor in every home that he visited.

now has an enrollment of over 47,800 in nine countries. More than 66,000 former Foster Children have been graduated as independent adults, good citizens of their country, loyal friends of the U.S. and Canada. Some are doctors and lawyers, others are housewives and farmers.

A Foster Parent may choose a child according to age, sex and nationality in Greece, Hong Kong, Korea, The Philippines, Vietnam, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru.

Foster Parents Plan cannot promise that a child will turn out to be a professional or a scholar. But it can guarantee the feeling of warm, personal satisfaction that comes from helping a hungry child exchange a life of destitution and despair for one of decency and hope.

For information write to Foster Parents Plan, 352 Park Avenue South, New York, New York 10010.

IN ADDITION to individuals and schools many business firms "adopt" children instead of giving Christmas presents to clients, or office parties for staff.

The organization that started in 1937 with one small boy



VICENTE CAMACHO, age 7. South American. Mother abandoned by husband tries to support 6 children as laundress. All live in one room of cane shack. Children have parasites. Through Foster Parents Plan entire family will receive medical care as well as other benefits.

'Straw Hat' At U. Of D.

The delightful comedy with songs, "Italian Straw Hat," will be offered for a second weekend, Feb. 9-11, in the Library Theatre on the University of Detroit's McNichols campus. The play by Eugene Ionesco, has been written original songs sung by the bridesmaids with guitar accompaniment.

The cast includes Nancy Ann Brown, 1967 Patton, Redford, as a member of the wedding party, and James McGrath, 1964 Lamar, Farmington, who portrays the Duc de Chateau Gullard.

Both Miss Brown and McGrath are freshmen in the College of Arts and Sciences. The play also will run Friday through Sunday the weekend of Feb. 16-18.

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