

## Escort Story

Anne Tepe, a Chicago based AA flight attendant, accompanied Isaias home from CVG to San Pedro Sula after a long stay at Cincinnati Shriners. This precious boy comes from a very large and poor family who live far into the country. His mom had to take an all day bus ride to get to the airport to meet him. Then, with his new bike and all his new “stuff” loaded on the bus, they left for home.

Anne Reports:

*Using a metal clothes hanger to get better TV reception was a costly mistake for Isaias and his aunt. The TV exploded and caught he and his aunt on fire. He survived, she didn't. With burns so severe, he was air evacuated to Cincinnati Shriners Hospital. Three years and countless surgeries later, it was now time for Isaias to go home to Honduras.*

*During his stay in Cincinnati, Isaias became everyone's favorite with his happy personality and positive attitude. Kathy Wical, his “Mom”, was continuously amazed by him. “We never had a bad day with Isaias. In all his pain, he was still happy and making us laugh.”*

*Isaias had a lot of stuff after 3 years....all important for his new life back in Honduras....his prized bike, a fishing rod (“So I can eat!”), lotions to protect his sensitive skin and a box of mayonnaise packets (“My favorite food...you can't get it in Honduras”). Luckily Sue Albers, of AA Flight Service, was able to get all his bags AND his bike checked free of charge.*

*The flights with Isaias were a delight. Through his eyes, everything was new, exciting and full of possibilities. He talked about how excited he was to see his mom and family, how fortunate he was to still have a few fingers and toes, and most amazingly, he talked about his bright future. I asked him if he had always been a happy and positive person. He looked at me confused as if to say, “What other way is there?” and then he responded with a simple “Yes”. I had a glimpse of life through his bright eyes and pray that I can see my fortunate life with such gratefulness.*