

Escort Story: Haiti 2010



Just before boarding



Haiti Escort, by Nancy Rivard

Francesca (12) and Shesby (9) were all smiles when I met them at the airport with orphanage director Chris Nunster. It had been arranged for the girls to fly to Ohio for donated surgeries and they were flying on miles from American Airlines Miles for Kids in Need.



Ruth Matranga meets our flight in Miami

Francesca was having hand surgery, (my heart melted when she put her little hand in mine), and Shesby needed her hip repaired, but, aside from a lift from Captain Ken up the airplane boarding stairs, that little thing got around just fine - as she says "I have attitude!" The girls were thrilled when Captain Ken invited them to the cockpit, and we were so lucky to be upgraded to First Class. We had a lovely lunch onboard and were surprised at the gate in Miami by Ruth Matranga who helped escort the girls to their connecting flight to Ohio.



We packed sandwiches in their little backpacks so they would have a snack on the second leg of their journey, and as we waved goodbye, I wiped away a tear. What a joy it was to spend time with them, and be a small cog in the wheel of their precious lives.

Airline Ambassadors Children's Escort program is one of the most rewarding ways for airline crews to help. As a member of Airline Ambassadors, and an active flight attendant you are eligible for this program and we need volunteers each week. If you haven't already, complete an [Escort Application](#) form and keep Margaret Whitehead apprised of your schedule at mmwhitehead@aol.com.