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Visiting Children is "Simply Awesome" for ChildFund Sponsor

- Arlington, Texas, resident Phil Harrell has traveled on four Study Tours, including a recent trip to Brazil.
- Study Tours allows sponsors to see ChildFund's work in person.
- Harrell wants to set a record by going on more Study Tours.

Richmond, Va. – Tuesday, August 11, 2009 – It's the smiles; it's the joy on a child's face; it's seeing first-hand the work ChildFund International does for children. All these things and more is why Arlington, Texas, resident Phil Harrell has gone on four Study Tours with ChildFund International.

Recently Harrell traveled to Brazil to visit two of his sponsored children – Camila and Leandro – and to see the work ChildFund International, formerly Christian Children's Fund, is doing there.

"Meeting with my sponsored children is the best of the best," he said, "but meeting all the children is simply awesome. It is always such a delight to see the faces of the kids when they meet their sponsors, whether it is the first time or the 10th time."

Study Tours take ChildFund International sponsors or people interested in ChildFund's programs straight to the countries where ChildFund International works with deprived, excluded and vulnerable children.

"We've had hundreds of people participate in Study Tours to every continent in the world," said ChildFund International's Assistant Director of Marketing Gary Duncan. ChildFund currently assists 15.2 million children and their family members in 31 countries.

Many sponsors have gone on multiple tours, Duncan said, including Harrell.

"I think that the Study Tour program is absolutely fantastic," said Harrell, who is retired from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and now works on a horse ranch that provides physical therapy to mentally and physically challenged children through horseback riding. "It allows one to see up close and personal how the donated funds are used to help the children. I have always been very impressed with the programs ChildFund provides."

Harrell said he talked with his sponsored children about the issues that impact them the most – health and education.

"It is important to me to be assured that they are healthy and doing well," Harrell said. "I always stress the need for them to stay in school and get a good education."



Harrell's recent Study Tour to Brazil – his second there and fourth overall – certainly won't be his last.

"I plan on going on as many Study Tours as I can. I hope to set the record for the most Study Tours done by a sponsor, even though I have no idea how many that is."

He's halfway there – the current "record" is seven.

For more information on ChildFund International's Study Tours, visit http://www.ChildFund.org/study_tours.

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ChildFund International is a global child development and protection agency, helping the world's deprived, excluded and vulnerable children survive and thrive in order to reach their full potential. Serving children since 1938, ChildFund International works in 31 countries and helps more than 15.2 million children and family members worldwide, regardless of race, creed or origin. ChildFund International is a member of the ChildFund Alliance. It has earned 4 stars from Charity Navigator.