When American Airlines flight attendant Linda Feeney met Caroline Boudreaux on a flight from Delhi, India, to Chicago in 2004, she had no idea how much it would affect her life. Six years earlier, Boudreaux had created The Miracle Foundation following a trip to India, after having seen children living in terrible conditions at a rural orphanage. TMF, with the help of volunteers like Feeney, is dedicated to raising funds and increasing awareness to build villages where the children are fed, clothed, educated, and loved. Today, the nonprofit organization has seven orphanages and cares for more than 600 children.

“It’s difficult to fly into a city like Delhi and witness the poverty all around you only to get on a flight to go back to your comfortable life,” says Feeney, who felt compelled to act after hearing Boudreaux’s story. “I knew that if I was going to make a difference in the world, I needed to visit one of these orphanages and spend some quality time with the children.” Feeney had the opportunity to do that this past March when she visited the Bhawani orphanage in eastern India and attended the opening of Sooch Village, the foundation’s newest orphanage.

Feeney’s two-week trip to India is prompting her to reach out to coworkers, business travelers, and her family about the importance of becoming a global citizen by sponsoring a child or visiting the orphanages. “People like Linda truly epitomize the American Airlines spirit,” says Sam Santiago, American’s Director of Workforce Giving and Volunteerism. “We not only fly around the world, we also care about the places we go.”

Feeney’s trip was an inspiration to others as well. Through her work, she is reaching out to other American Airlines employees and individuals in the American community to make a difference in the world.

Feeney’s story is just one example of how American Airlines and its employees are making a difference in the world. American Airlines is dedicated to making a positive impact through its corporate social responsibility initiatives and by inspiring its employees to give back to the communities where they live and work.

Noteworthy News

AA and Facebook Link Up

If you’re one of the more than 67 million people who use Facebook, American Airlines invites you to take a look at “Travel Bag,” an exciting new application on the popular social-networking site. American recently launched Travel Bag on Facebook, making it easy for users to share travel experiences and photos; to offer and read reviews on restaurants, museums, gyms, shops, and the like; and to even create countdowns for upcoming events such as graduations and weddings to let friends know what’s going on in your life.

In addition, Travel Bag offers a convenient link to American’s website, AA.com, where Facebook users can check for low fares, make reservations, view their AAdvantage miles, check flight information, and much more, all within their unique profile page.

American is the first major airline to offer an application on Facebook for users to contribute and access travel-related content. It’s fast, easy, and free to download the new American Airlines application on your Facebook page. Simply visit www.facebook.com and search for “Travel Bag” in the Application directory.

Around Our Community

Living Your Dream with American Airlines

American Airlines is placing a spotlight on entrepreneurs with a new series of radio profiles called “American Airlines Living Your Dream.” The series airs on The Michael Baisden Show on the ABC Radio Network.

Each month, host Michael Baisden (above) interviews guests chosen by American Airlines for their outstanding achievements, often in the face of overwhelming challenges. The series debuted earlier this year with a profile of Gail Warrior Lawrence, president and CEO of the Warrior Group, the largest female-owned provider of modular buildings in the United States.

“Our show is about promoting positive, active change by discussing real topics that resonate with our listeners and their communities,” says Baisden. “This new feature with American Airlines allows us to build on our message of hope and inspiration by telling the stories of individuals who have achieved personal success and who motivate others to conquer their challenges.”