

A Letter from HMA's President, Dr. Kathryn Minton, DDS

There is no doubt about it. This year has been eventful for each and every one of us. With the Covid-19 pandemic and its restrictions, all of our lives have been changed, especially how we interact with our families, coworkers and friends. Some of us have been affected by the Covid-19 virus directly, others of us know people who have been affected dramatically.



Covid has affected HMA in that all of our 2020 fundraisers had to be canceled, both the Hearts to Health Banquet and the Golf Tournament.

Fund raising for our Honduran Rural Health Program is ongoing. The program costs approximately \$2000 per month which provides the salary for our Professional Nurse Saira Giron, medications, supplies, gasoline for traveling to the remote villages, and any needed truck repairs. So far we have donations covering the first three months of 2021. We need to raise the funds for the remaining 9 months, \$18,000. Saira continues to see patients in her home clinic in La Boquita, Honduras. Roads were closed to travelers due to the Covid 19 quarantine, but she has been able to provide supplies and medicines by meeting residents halfway or asking police to deliver supplies for her. Recently, torrential rains in Honduras affected Saira's home of 26 years in that the retaining wall on the back of her home was damaged. HMA was able to provide an emergency loan to assist with replacing the dirt wall with sturdy materials before the devastation of Hurricane Eta. Thankfully, Saira's home and the HMA clinic remain intact and Saira continues to see patients in the HMA clinic.

Currently, HMA is supporting Alma Mejia, a student in Honduras, with scholarship money so that she can continue her medical degree. She is currently in her fourth year of studies.

Additionally, the HMA Board of Directors approved the release of funds to the Central America Mission Center in order to help with supplies and food for church members and others in the area of San Pedro Sula where the devastation Hurricane Eta was profound.

Our annual HMA Workshop on Domestic Violence had over 75 people in attendance via Zoom Teleconference with participants from both the United States and Canada. I would like to acknowledge Allison Norwood and Kathy Robinson as Co-chairs of the workshop. Also, Becky Savage, chair of the Community of Christ Health and Wholeness Team, also assisted with the workshop. Stay tuned for information for the 2021 workshop which is already in the planning stages.

I appreciate the help of the HMA Board of Directors for their continued support of the Honduran Rural Healthcare program. They have conducted HMA business all throughout the year and their experience and expertise has been a Godsend. Also, a shout out goes to our Executive Director, Kathleen Shockley, and our Administrative Assistant, Sue Barclay. Without the two of them, the work of HMA could not go forward.

Most of all, I would like to thank each and every one of you, our Members, Supporters and Friends, for uplifting HMA in your prayers and your hearts, and by providing the financial means for HMA to continue our programs. Our need for your financial contributions has never been greater as we look for ways to reach out to others both in the US and internationally.

Blessings and regards to all,  
Dr. Kathryn Minton  
President, HMA Board of Directors