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Summer 2003

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## Community Health Education Grant Received from Tangible Love

MMA received Tangible Love funding for a community health education program for Pilgrims of Peace; Grandview, KS; Norton Heights, MO; and Outreach congregations of northeast Kansas City, MO and Kansas City, KS. The grant provides funding for supplies, instructors, and facility costs for classroom instruction on topics of particular interest to the residents of these ethnic and inner-city communities,

A Health Fair will kick-off the program in both areas of the city in August, Scarritt Elementary in NE KCMO will have a Health Fair Aug. 21 from 5-7:30 PM on the playground where anyone in the neighborhood can participate. Booths will provide information about Medicaid+, cleaning products and tips, nutrition, community services, and literature from many agencies as well as do dental screening. Children will receive stickers from each booth to place in their "Passport to Health". A full passport allows them to receive school supplies and make a craft, August 23 will be the Health Fair at the Community Diversity Center in KCK from 10 AM-2 PM. This fair will focus on health issues of the adult. Booths will provide water bottles, screen glucose levels, BP checks, weight and body mass index values, and provide literature in Spanish and English for diabetes, hypertension, and other medical problems in the community.

This is the second year HMA has assisted with the Scarritt Elementary Health Fair, Last year members assisted with eye screening, nutritious snacks, and lung and asthma education. This year the school PTA, the Before and After school program, and the Hispanic parents association are interested in continuing health education as part of their activities. Bilingual health education classes will also be offered at the local Norton Heights church building.

Community health education is only one part of the ministry offered at the Community Diversity Center, Pilgrims of Peace meet there on Sunday mornings, civic organizations meet there, and a food pantry and clothes closet are in a nearby old firehouse. CDC is also looking for used computers with at least Office 97 so they will be able to allow the community to develop or increase computer skills. Please contact Mike Nave at: [cedric@crn.org](mailto:cedric@crn.org) if you have any contributions.

Tangible Love grants from Stewardship Ministries are renewable for up to 3 years.



## EL REFUGIO CHILDREN'S HOME

I suppose when sleep doesn't come quickly for you, like me, you watch and listen to the pleas on late night TV to send a check or VISA card number to "sponsor" a poor child somewhere in the world. The sight of a child in tattered clothing, matted hair, malnourished, and clinging to the spokesperson tugs at our hearts and perhaps you have responded. Watching these images I have wondered whether or not the money I would send actually benefits that child or any child and what portion of donated money actually makes its way to the point of need? Perhaps my concern is just an excuse not to get up off the couch and call in my VISA card number or mail a check. Quickly, feelings of guilt about not sending money dissipates, and sleep finally ensues. I have no reason to suspect money sent to these organizations will not benefit the children shown or others like them.

One of Health Ministries Associations projects is providing medical and dental support to a non-government funded childrens home in Honduras called El Refugio just outside of San Pedro Sula. [www.refugio.ch/english/intro\\_e.htm](http://www.refugio.ch/english/intro_e.htm). The founder Christof Wittwer a native of Switzerland., along with his brother started a small home for orphaned children in Honduras in the 1980s. El Refugio has grown from 6 children to 76 children, from one building to five, and from three staff members to 12 full time staff and 3 volunteers All the financial support comes from individuals in the U.S.A. and a small fundraising foundation in Switzerland, It takes only **\$160/year** to sponsor a child at the orphanage which includes food, housing, clothes, staff and medical-dental care Sponsorship money can now be channeled through Health Ministries Association. Every time one of our teams goes to the orphanage the mission coordinator will carry a cashiers check containing yours and hopefully many other people's sponsorship personally delivering the check to Christof. In return you will receive a note of acknowledgement from the child. Please join me in helping support one or more children each year at the El Refugio Children s Home. I still watch the pleas on late night TV. The difference is now I go on to bed with the assurance that the money I send will benefit children at El Refugio because I know everyone along the way responsible for managing the money

Sincerely,  
Robert Paschall  
Community of Christ Health Ministries Association  
Mission Coordinator, El Refugio Children's Home Project

Make checks to; Health Ministries Association and designate for El Refugio Children's Home Sponsorship. Send to; Community of Christ Health Ministries Association, c/o Paula Rummel, 1001 West Walnut, Independence, MO 64050-3562

**Please consider giving this LASTING gift of education, hope, and health now and as you prepare for your holiday season gift giving. This is one gift that "fits", wont get broken or tossed aside, and will be remembered for a lifetime - THEIRS!!!**

# PFIZER CORPORATION GRANT RECEIVED

Pfizer Corporation awarded HMA a \$4500 grant at the end of May to conduct a workshop on health literacy. The workshop will be held Feb. 7, 2004 at the Temple featuring Fran Atkins, RN, PhD. CNS and will discuss "Low Literacy; The Hidden Obstacle of Health Promotion", The program is designed for congregational and parish nurses who frequently are the first contact in the health care system and is often the "interpreter" of medical information. The workshop is designed to effectively educate nurses and health professionals who want to teach health promotion in their faith community. Understanding how low-level literacy is an obstacle in the path of health promotion and prevention is a key component to the nurse's success. The workshop seeks to 1) assist nurses to understand the scope of low-literacy within the congregation and 2) teach ways to identify, assess, and effectively serve persons with low-literacy needs. The workshop will immediately follow Winter Field School where HMA is planning a course for congregational nurses.

September 18, 2003 an HMA representative will accept the grant award at the annual conference on Health Literacy sponsored by Pfizer Corporation in Washington, DC. In addition to the grant, Pfizer is covering the cost of transportation, accommodations, and conference registration for the award recipient.

## RN GOING TO LIVE IN GUATEMALA

Ruth Humbert, RN and HMA board member from Topeka, KS, will be remaining in Guatemala after the mission team returns home in October. She will be working with the non-governmental organization- Mujeres en Action (Women in Action) in Chimaltanango to identify health needs, train health workers, educate, and promote health in the villages served by MEA.

HMA board has authorized some financial support of Ruth in addition to funding from Topeka congregation and other sources. Financial donations are welcome to support Ruth and her ministry and can be sent to: Community of Christ Health Ministries Association, 1001 W. Walnut, Independence, MO 64050. More information and details will be provided in upcoming newsletters. Prayers are always appreciated!!!

## CONTRIBUTION AND / OR MEMBERSHIP FORM

Information may be taken over the phone by calling 800.825.2806 ext 1262 Mon., Thurs., or Friday

Name.....Phone.....Occupation.....

Address.....

E-Mail.....Signature.....

Level of Membership: \$.....Member (\$25-\$99) \$.....Sponsor (\$100-\$249) \$.....Patron (\$250 & up)

Additional Contributions: \$.....Onil Stoves/ Ruth Humbert support in Guatemala @ \$100 each

\$.....General Fund, \$.....Missions Fund, \$.....Chaplain Ministries, \$.....Cong. Health Ministries

Payment Method: .....Check

*Please mail to:* Health Ministries Assoc. 1001 W. Walnut Independence, Mo 64050

.....VISA.....MasterCard #.....Exp. Date.....Amt.....

Pledge amount: \$.....monthly, \$.....quarterly. Will make by check....., Make by credit card.....

Ministry and Committee interests: .....

# "MISSIONS" TAKE MANY FORMS

Richard A. Guthrie, M.D. recently was the recipient of the Outstanding Physician Clinician for 2003 for the American Diabetes Association. This award was presented to him on June 16th at the national meeting w New Orleans. LA, He has been a leader in the field of diabetes for many years after receiving his fellowship in Pediatric Endocrinology in the 1960's. He found that the diabetes management program that worked for children also worked quite well for adults. His practice now includes patients of all ages. He is quite grateful for this recognition and quite humbled for receiving the award, Richard and his wife Diana attend the Wichita, KS congregation where he is an Evangelist. There was a time in their lives that they thought their "mission" would be overseas working with the church. However, they have realized that their "mission" is working with adults and children who have diabetes,

## UP-COMING EVENTS

**HEALTH and SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOP-** Sept. 12-13, 2003 @ Temple Independence, Mo

**CONGREGATIONAL NURSE GET-TOGETHER-** Sept 12, 2003 Temple Continents Rm 4 PM  
(Prior to Health and Spirituality Workshop)

**OPEN BOARD MEETING-** October 19, 2003 9 AM @ Temple Independence, MO

**HEALTH LITERACY WORKSHOP-** Feb. 7, 2004 8 AM-5 PM Temple Continents Rm  
Fran Atkins, RN, PhD guest speaker, financial support by Pfizer

<b>HEALTH MISSIONS-</b>	Oct. 22 30, 2003	Leader Ron Edwards <a href="mailto:Redwards@aol.com">Redwards@aol.com</a>
	Jan. 2004	El Refugio Orphanage Honduras
		Leader- Bob Paschall <a href="mailto:Paschall@kids.wustl.edu">Paschall@kids.wustl.edu</a>
	Jan. 2004	Leader-Shannon Hattey <a href="mailto:Shattey@aol.com">Shattey@aol.com</a>
	March 2004	Leader- Ron Edwards <a href="mailto:Redwards@aol.com">Redwards@aol.com</a>