

Community of Christ
HEALTH
MINISTRIES
ASSOCIATION

HEALING HEARTS HERALD

Summer 2009

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT

It is a pleasure to report to you the progress HMA has made these last few years. Our health and community development program in Guatemala is an outstanding success. When I was there in January, I was able to observe the dedication and hard work of our 7 staff making such a difference in the lives of the villagers. HMA volunteer friends, Ken and Lois Werner, are also a tremendous blessing to the village work. Staff see patients in clinics and motivate villagers to address their needs- housing, clean water, stoves which use significantly less fuel and pipe smoke out of the house, tire gardens for vegetables and spices, latrines, health education, and fund raising for projects.



Through organizing, researching, evaluating, and acting these villagers are being prepared for sustainable change in their lives, homes, and villages. Partnering with Outreach International has been a great help to teach the techniques of participatory process.

These successes don't happen just by chance. Our HMA staff, Paula Rummel, Executive Director, and Diane Rogers, Executive Assistant, do an excellent job in organization, networking, teaching health classes in 2 schools, developing healthy living bulletin inserts for congregations, working with board members and volunteers for health fairs, and Health & Spirituality workshops.

To give an update on Honduras - La Buena Fe Clinic, begun by Dr. John Blumenschein, recently closed for lack of funding from the Canadian government. HMA and Community Partners in Progress for International Development led by Hazel McDonald are providing funds to keep the clinic open until more permanent funding is found.

There is a constant concern for our fundraising committee to keep up with the expending needs HMA tries to meet. It is people like you who keep our programs going through your generosity. Together **WE ARE MAKING A DIFFERENCE**. Please continue your support!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Howard Braby".

President
Howard Braby, MD

FIESTA FUN AND FUNDING

Health Ministries Association's Fiesta which took place on April 25 was the first of what may become an annual event. This celebration, attended by more than 100 people, focused on the successes of the HMA Village Health program in Guatemala. With dinner, silent auction, and presentation by HMA's Guatemala staff, the Fiesta was designed to be a fun way for HMA members and friends to share together while raising funds to support the ministries HMA provides both domestically and internationally.

Guatemala program directors Ruth Humbert, RN and Amilcar Vielman shared wonderful stories and pictures of their work among the poorest of the poor in Guatemala. They showed homes being built, gardens planted, stoves and water filters installed, and an entire tilapia fish farm being created. All of these projects were an outgrowth of the village health clinics that Ruth has been conducting for the past five years in a partnership between HMA and Outreach International. Together they have been training village nurses in human and community development along with health care. All of these are interrelated and have a great impact on the health and well-being of any community.

Before, during, and after dinner, participants had the opportunity and the fun of bidding on donated items from around the globe, including hand-made goods from Guatemala. The majority of the money raised has been donated to the Guatemala project. The response to this first-ever HMA Fiesta fundraiser was very positive. Another event is being planned for Saturday, April 10, 2010, at the beginning of the next World Conference.

GUATEMALA HEALTH PROGRESS AND SUCCESS

HMA President-Elect Dr. Joy Weydert along with HMA staff Paula Rummel and Diane Rogers, traveled to Guatemala at the end of May to observe, evaluate, and support the work of Health Ministries. Kathleen Cadman, RN arrived the same week to begin a summer internship. Health Program Director Ruth Humbert and Amilcar Vielman, HMA's Community Development director took them to



Amilcar and Ruth share a proud moment at Fiesta

meet the people and see the projects in four of the nine communities where they are working. Doris and Bob Cadman joined them on their visits to communities. They saw first-hand the progress that has been made since Ruth began her work more than five years ago.

What started as health clinics for poor mountain people has grown into people being empowered to take initiative to find a way to make a better life. In every community the visitors were greeted warmly by the people HMA is helping to a better way of life. Along with three of the local nurses trained by Ruth, they conducted a village health clinic, one of several that happen every month.

Joy, Paula, and Diane want to testify to HMA members and donors that contributions made to the Guatemala program are being used wisely and making a difference in the lives of many people. Everyone who contributes to HMA can feel gratified to know that their support is desperately needed and greatly appreciated.

GIFTS IN MEMORIAM AND TRIBUTE

Give a contribution in memory of a loved one or in tribute to an honored friend. Any occasion is a good time to recognize someone who is important in your life. Make a donation to Health Ministries Association. Your gifts are used to promote health, wellness, and wholeness in congregations and communities in the United States and Central America.

Contact HMA@CofChrist.org to make your gift.

WEBSITE UPDATE

Exciting changes and additions are coming to the Health Ministries website. Utilizing **YouTube, PayPal, LinkedIn, and Facebook** you can now watch a Youtube video on our home page, you can join the HMA Facebook or LinkedIn group, and very soon you will be able to use PayPal to register for events, make donations, and pay membership dues.

Webmaster Dan Wheeler continually updates the website whenever he receives new information from the staff. Currently on the Home page at www.HMACofChrist.org you will find a **video about the Health and Spirituality Workshop** coming up August 21 & 22, 2009. Registration forms and information can be accessed from the Home page as well. Under "Who We Are" you can read the new mission and vision statements adopted at the Open Board meeting in April. **Healthy Living Bulletin Inserts** are available under "How We Serve"/ Congregational Health Ministry. Inserts with 40 different topics can be downloaded and printed for your congregation's use whenever needed. Examples of these topics are:

- Alzheimer's
- Anti-Cancer Lifestyle
- Blood and Organ Donation
- Breast Cancer
- Carbon Dioxide Danger
- Depression Screening
- Depression in Youth
- Diabetes
- Disaster Preparation
- Environmental Health
- First Aid
- Food-Borne Pathogens
- Grief Takes no Holiday
- Halloween Treats
- Head Lice
- Heart Health
- Herbs and Anesthesia
- High Blood Pressure
- Methcillin Resistance
- New Year Healthy Choices
- Oral Health
- Osteoporosis
- Poison Control Game
- Shingles
- Stroke- "Brain Attack"
- Walking Benefits
- Water for Health

The HMA website is becoming an integral part of how we want to communicate with our members, donors, volunteers, and friends. Please help us by sending your email address to HMA@CofChrist.org.

Health Ministries Association MISSION

Wholeness- To be an organization that builds on our faith heritage, staying in the forefront in promoting wholeness of body, mind, and spirit.

Health- To provide health and wellness for the underserved and those in need, both domestically and internationally, through partnering to identify health needs and to empower self-directed care.

Education- To provide education and services with individuals, families, congregations, and communities which encourage the stewardship of healthy living.

Networking- To develop a network of health care practitioners and health promoters, working together and with other service organizations, in the advancement of health education, and wholeness.

CONTRIBUTION AND/ OR MEMBERSHIP FORM

Information may be taken over the phone by calling 816.833.1000 ext 1262 Mon., Thurs., or Friday

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

Address.....

Email..... Signature.....

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

Additional Contributions: \$.....Where most needed \$.....Guatemala Village Health Program
\$.....Mission Health Teams \$.....Domestic Health Programs

Payment Method: Chec Mail to: Health Ministries Assoc. 1001 W. Walnut Independence, Mo 64050-3562
.....VISA.....MasterCard #.....Exp. Date..... Amt.....

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

Health Ministries Association VISION

We provide servant ministry with others through programs which are inspired by Christ's Love and way of life, in order to promote peaceful living and sustainable health and wellness for all individuals, families, and communities.

7th Annual Health & Spirituality Workshop Brochure Enclosed

The 7th Annual Health & Spirituality Workshop will be held August 21-22, 2009 at the Temple in Independence, MO. This year's workshop theme is "**In Times of Pain, Where is God?**" The keynote Friday evening will be by Ward Foley, aka Scarman. Ward presented a session at the 2008 workshop and from the evaluations was requested to present again. A promotional video can be seen at www.HMACofChrist.org. Contact the HMA office at 816-833-1000 ext 1262 or HMA@CofChrist.org.

Upcoming Events

HMA Board of Director's Meeting- July 18,
2009 12 Noon at Auditorium Indep., MO

HMA Benefit Horse Show- August 15, 2009
Lone Star Ranch Kansas City, MO

7th Annual Health & Spirituality Workshop-
August 21-22, 2009 at Temple in Indep., MO

Health Team to Honduras – October 2009 led
by Ron Edwards, edwardsronaldj@gmail.com

HMA Board of Director's Meeting- October 17,
2009 12 Noon at Auditorium Indep., MO



HMA Benefit Horse Show at Kansas City, MO
Lone Star Ranch Aug. 15, 2009. Sponsorship and
participant forms at www.HMACofChrist.org.