

Loose Coins Help Guatemalans

Bay Minette, Alabama Community of Christ is a small congregation on the gulf coast choosing to "make a difference". Under the direction of Pastor and RN Sharon Clark, the congregation of 30-40 people started a "Bucket Drive". She contacted Health Ministries Association so her congregation could partner with the program in Guatemala to provide support for healthcare, smokeless stoves, clean water and a better life for the children.



For a month each family in the congregation collected daily their loose change in a bucket. "It was wonderful to see the money in the bucket grow" stated a congregant. The children reminded the family to empty their pockets, add some change, or make a contribution while other families supported the drive with a single donation.

Bay Minette congregation is already supporting local agencies but Sharon wanted the congregation to "connect" to the needs in other parts of the world.

The congregation looks like many in the United States with a lot of retired or semi-retired teachers and health professionals who bring their grandchildren. Sharon says this project is something that engages all ages and careers.

As they count the money in the buckets, some have \$50 of coins. Sharon states, "The bucket drive has been very successful and we plan to provide ongoing support for the Guatemala Health Program".

Families and other congregations may also choose to "make a difference" outside their community by becoming a "partner". Additional ideas for personal or congregational activities are:

- Movie Night with popcorn and a family movie charging a small admission fee
- Collect a dime for each person eating at the dinner table each meal
- Donate proceeds from a Yard Sale
- Set aside a percentage of each meal eaten out to add to the "bucket"
- Donate proceeds from recycling cans, paper, or glass (That also helps our local community and the environment.)
- Choose not to purchase an item, like a latte, but donate the amount it costs
- Collect coins in a "fishbowl" on Sunday

Support for Honduran Children

For many years Salem and Mt Vernon, Illinois congregations have collected coins each Sunday morning for Honduran children. Their support helps feed, house, clothe, educate, and provide medical care for 5-18 year olds at Honduran Children's Foundation, Inc. outside San Pedro Sula.

More Patients Served in Guatemala Village Health Clinics

Increasingly villagers are being diagnosed with hypertension and diabetes so the monthly clinics now are more important than ever. The nurses, being supported by HMA, have taught the people how important it is to come and be weighed monthly, have their blood sugar checked and take their medicines. These patients are returning as directed each month for follow-up medical care.

A crowd gathers at the clinic site before the nurses arrive with the tables and totes of medications and supplies. They patiently wait to be checked in by Marlon, Assistant Community Director, who locates or creates their medical record, weighs them, and collects their 5 quetzals or 60 cents.



Although mothers frequently bring their children to be seen, at the June 2010 clinic in



El Tejar adults were also seen for such problems as prostate problems, possible inguinal hernia and a fractured clavicle.

Often referrals are made to doctors and hospitals for follow-up care. Because patients have no funds for transportation, part of the clinic budget includes that expense.

The nurses are investigating other health delivery resources by visiting more government-run clinics and locations where other services are provided. This will ensure referrals can be made to the closest facility and the one best able to meet the need.



The intense look on the patient's face reveals the concern they carry about their health problem. Appreciation is also evident of the opportunity to share with a nurse their health concerns and their desire for quality care and medications.

Mothers in Guatemala, like mothers around the world, worry about their children's health and well-being when the sparkle is not present in the eyes.



The nurses alternate who sees patients and who runs the pharmacy. After counting out the medications and labeling them, the nurse provides instructions then the patient is asked to repeat the instructions back for confirmation of understanding. Low literacy medication bags are also being used because patients may speak a Mayan dialect and not read Spanish.



Nurses Jose Trinis, Pedro Pineda, and Jose Lopez

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Ana Bojorquez Joins Guatemala Staff



Pedro Pineda, Ana Bojorquez, Maria Lares, Jose Trinis and Jose Lopez (kneeling)

Guatemalan professional nurse Ana Bojorquez has recently joined the staff of Hombres y Mujeres en Accion (Men and Women in Action). She has worked at the National Hospital in Antigua and provides a wide-range of medical knowledge beneficial to the program.

She supervises the auxiliary nurses during village health clinics, provides education on medical topics, and will begin having community education classes in the nurses' villages. June educational topics for the nurses were malnutrition, hypertension, hypotension, and diabetes.

"Last Call" for HMA Travel Opportunity "IRELAND in DEPTH"

Date: October 20-Nov. 1, 2010 (13 days)

Cost: \$2195 plus airfare to Chicago, Boston, or NYC (JFK)

Opt. 6 day pre-trip to Northern Ireland \$895

Optional 4 day post-trip to Dublin \$496

Details of Trip: www.GCT.com

Where to Travel? *Europe*

Country? *Ireland*

Type of travel? *Escorted Trips*

Departure Date? *October 2010*

Search *Ireland in Depth*

To register or for more info contact: Ken or Jean Brookens
816-350-3386 or 816-686-8222

A group of 15 creates a donation for HMA.

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.*

Upcoming Events

8th Annual Health & Spirituality Workshop- Sept. 24-25, 2010 at Temple in Independence, MO

HMA Board of Director's Meeting- October 16, 2010 @ 2 PM Auditorium Independence, MO

Health Team to Honduras – October 17-24, 2010 led by Ron Edwards, edwardsronaldj@gmail.com

HMA Board of Director's Meeting- January 15, 2011 @ 2 pm Auditorium Independence, MO

Health Team to Honduras- January 2011 led by Pamela Stewart, drpes@mac.com

HMA Board of Director's Meeting- April 16, 2011 @ 2 pm at Auditorium Independence, MO

Donation and/or Membership Response

Name

Address

Phone

E-Mail

Occupation Congregation

Donation:

Health Ministries \$

Health Promotion & Education \$

Guatemala Health Program \$

Guatemala Community Projects \$

Honduran Medical Clinics \$

Honduran Education Programs \$

Membership Dues:

Student \$10 \$

Basic Member \$50 - \$99 (April 1, 2011) \$

Sponsor \$100 - \$249 \$

Patron \$250 - up \$

Payment Method:

Check: (payable to HMA, 1001 W. Walnut, Indep., MO 64050)

Credit Card: Mastercard Visa Exp. Date -

Card # - -

Or Online at www.HMACofChrist.org