



HEALING HEARTS HERALD

“Promoting Health with a Heart”

For Fifteen Years!

October 2016

www.HMACofChrist.org

816-833-1000 ext 1262

Scholarship Recipient Graduates!

Congratulations to our scholarship student Maria Lares, who graduated from Landivar University in Guatemala City, Guatemala, as a professional nurse at the end of August. We are so proud of Maria and her commitment to her education. To everyone who contributed to our scholarship fund, I share Maria’s words from her thank you letter to HMA: “I am very happy because my dream is a reality. I know I will help a lot of people in the communities to improve their health. I don’t know how to pay you for all that you gave me, but I am sure God will give you a huge blessing.”

Maria has worked in the health clinics of our Guatemalan

partner, Hombres y Mujeres en Accion, for the past 9 years. She will continue working in their health programs, now as a Professional Nurse.

HMA scholarships support indigenous young people pursuing careers in health-related fields at a University. Nursing, Medicine, Pharmacy and other allied healthcare students are able to apply for these funds. There is a tremendous return on investing in the training of healthcare professionals in rural areas where healthcare and a basic understanding of factors contributing to disease is scarce.



Maria in her graduation robe

It is the best of times...it is the worst of times

Kathy Robinson HMA Board of Directors

You’ve probably heard the saying “It is the best of times...it is the worst of times.” Well as a long-time Health Ministries Association Board member, I am finding that phrase to be very fitting right now for HMA. First, I am so excited about several things currently going on in the

organization. One of our most exciting is the restarting of Health Mission Teams to Honduras and Guatemala. We are also starting an Endowment Fund, which will allow us to expand our scholarship program. Look inside this newsletter for more details on these and other life-changing programs.

But at this same time, HMA

is in financial jeopardy. As with many non-profit organizations, memberships and donations are down and we fear we may not be able to support the staff we need to coordinate our programs.

We are coming to you to share our good news and our bad, and to ask you to help.

Scholarships for Indigenous Healthcare Education



HMA scholarship student doing her maternity rotation in a Guatemalan Hospital.

We have students, in both Honduras and Guatemala, who are graduating soon after completing their education with assistance from HMA scholarship funds. They are so proud that they will soon be healthcare professionals in their own countries – and we are proud too! Our goal has been two-fold, to help them become health professionals and to

strengthen healthcare in their countries.

Healthcare professionals in rural areas of Honduras and Guatemala (our current focus areas) are the gift that keeps on giving. Providing scholarships makes this happen.

A year's tuition at a university averages \$3000. Any help you can provide is greatly appreciated and makes a world of difference in so many lives.

This is our 15th year as HMA, following the coming together of the former RLDS Medical Dental Association and the RLDS Professional Nurses' Association in 2001. During that time our members and donors have provided healthcare in Guatemala and Honduras, funded scholarships, held health fairs, and many more projects **providing healthcare and promoting health. Let's keep the work going for another fifteen years.**

NEW! Healthcare Education Endowment Fund

HMA is committed to training the next generation of healthcare professionals in parts of the world with little or no access to healthcare. Our new Healthcare Education Endowment Fund is intended to guarantee that many scholarships will be given for years to come. We have a goal of

\$100,000 which would allow us to always be able to offer two to three scholarships every year, in addition to the scholarships funded by donations to our Indigenous Healthcare Education Scholarship Fund. We are very grateful to a generous benefactor, who has started the

endowment with a \$10,000 donation.

Please help us build up this fund so an uninterrupted flow of trained healthcare professionals can improve an increasing number of lives in some of the poorest parts of the world.

Domestic Health and Wholeness Ministries

HEALTH BRIEFS are periodic publications that highlight health topics. They are designed as half-page two-sided documents to make it easy to insert them in Sunday bulletins, but are also sent as emails to our subscribers and are posted on our website.

The annual **HEALTH & SPIRITUALITY WORKSHOPS** offer a keynote speaker and skill

building sessions on a health and wholeness topic.

CONGREGATIONAL HEALTH MINISTRY (CHM) is about helping a congregation meet the physical, mental, social, and emotional needs of those hurting or in crisis. CHM also encourages congregations to move out into their community with ministries of health and wholeness.

HMA is actively involved on the **Community of Christ Health and Wholeness Team**. Your support of HMA assists in creating the resources needed for promoting health and well-being.

Did you know HMA has material for health classes and health fairs? For a list of topics refer to the resources section of our website: www.hmacofchrist.org.

Health Mission Teams Have Started Again!

We are restarting health mission teams to both Honduras and Guatemala! Two teams went to Honduras in June 2015. The first was led by Dr. Ron Edwards and the second by HMA President Dr. Chris Stone. The teams worked in partnership with the Central American field Apostle, Carlos Mejia, and the Mission Center president, Gonzalo Mejia, and traveled into the mountainous area of Copan, Honduras. Dr. Chris Stone also worked at that time with two World Service Corps volunteers to

provide a clinic at a Honduran orphanage.

The next HMA mission team returned to Honduras in March of this year led by Dr. Ron Edwards and Dr. Howard Braby assisted by local Honduran nurse Saira Giron visiting three remote villages.

A mission trip is planned for Guatemala in February 2017 led by HMA Board of Directors members Paula & Gary Rummel. They will lead two teams of six. One team will be involved in healthcare clinics. The other team will be helping to build vented

stoves to replace smoky open fires used for cooking. This means cleaner air and far fewer respiratory illnesses for those living in the home.

We are very excited to provide this health and wholeness ministry opportunity again! SO, if you're interested in joining a team, please let us know!



Dr. Edwards with a young patient

NEW! Honduras Rural Healthcare Program

Dr. Braby was deeply touched by the poverty and the lack of healthcare and nutrition he saw in the villages he and Dr. Edwards visited on their March 2016 Health Mission trip. He returned from that trip with an inspired idea for how a life-changing difference could be made in this impoverished part of the world: Fund a local professional nurse to regularly visit these and other nearby villages. And he had identified the nurse, Saira Giron.

Saira impressed Dr. Braby with her work ethic, initiative, and dedication to serving those in need. She opened her home as a clinic as soon as she received her Auxiliary Nurse Certificate in 2010. In 2012 you may have made a contribution to help build an additional room onto Saira's house for her clinic. Since then she has continued her clinic and her education and will graduate

from the Honduras National University as a Professional Nurse in December this year. Your donations to the HMA scholarship fund have helped support Saira throughout her education. Now we wish to hire her full-time to create the Honduras Rural Healthcare Program.

The program will support Saira working with five to six villages that have been identified as having great need and very limited access to health care. The villages currently being looked at have a combined population of approximately 2000 total persons spread across three government jurisdictions.

The program will provide regular health clinics in each of the selected villages, conduct well-child exams for the school students, teach educational classes on pregnancy, child health, nutrition, and other

pertinent topics. In the first year an assessment of the families of each village will identify specific health and public health needs. This assessment will be used to begin addressing the issues identified.

Community of Christ Central American Mission Center leadership may also identify nearby congregations where Saira can offer health services and educational classes.

Please help make this program a reality!