

Dr. Blumenschein's Dream 50 yrs Later

"If you stay, others will come", Dr John Blumenschein told his wife as he faced terminal cancer. Marian did stay for several years after John's death in 1958 and the doctors, nurses, and other "help" continues to come to the Lake Yojoa area of Honduras.

Over the last 50 years, many programs have brought medicine, food, education, stoves, and advancements to make the body, mind, and spirit healthier for Hondurans. This is not intended to be an all-inclusive list but just a sampling of good resulting from one individual's desire to make a difference in the world.

- Estimated 100 medical and dental teams providing health care to tens of thousands
- World Accord PRR (Program for Rural Reconstruction) assisting villages with silos, agriculture, health clinics, and goats
- Numerous youth brought to USA for education and job skills. Other youth brought for advanced medical care
- Lorena stoves providing safer, healthier, and more efficient household cooking
- Friends United educating teachers to provide better quality education
- PNA scholarships for nursing education to Veronica and Marlena Hernandez
- Four Friends United resource centers for Honduran teachers across Honduras
- Operation Smile repairing cleft lips and cleft palates arrive through a MDA invitation
- Project Happy Teeth donating 4.6 million in preventative dental services

- Al Wygood and Canadian building teams constructing numerous homes and schools
- Biblioteca de Leonardo providing box libraries at 32 schools to 4000 students
- George Robb Jr. High and High School constructed in the village of Horconcos next to La Buena Fe Clinic
- Guatemala "Shifting Realities" OI/HMA program educating Guatemalan nurses and providing village health clinics
- Medical and dental care provided at El Refugio Children's Home in San Pedro Sula



Blumenschein Center at La Buena Fe Clinic Honduras

- Honduran doctors working side-by-side with MDA/HMA physicians
- Community of Christ faith was planted and now has the strongest Central American membership base and a conference center.
- 75 students receiving Jr. High and High School education in the Futures Program
- Numerous college students receiving first-hand education in a developing nation
- The first Central American Community of Christ Apostle is Honduran
- Hope and Health to countless Hondurans
- The list continues in the vision and dreams of other committed people.

HMA Affiliate Programs

Outreach International/ HMA Shifting Realities Grant

Ruth continues to work directly with two villages utilizing the Participatory Human Development Process (PHDP) to assist the villagers to identify issues and problems and develop unique solutions.

In September 2007 Ruth traveled to Nicaragua with 8 nurses to see first hand the PHDP. This was the nurses first exposure to the process and for almost all of them, this was their first time to a large city and traveling to another country. The experience was quite educational and enlightening to community possibilities.

Funds are needed for this program. Designate "Guatemala" on donations to HMA or OI.

El Refugio Children's Home

El Refugio Children's Home continues to house, educate, and vocationally train abandoned and needy children in Honduras. The compound has a nurse with a first aid room, library, game room, covered outdoor athletic area, bakery, welding shop, sewing center, computer room, classrooms, dormitories, and cafeteria. The compound was clean and adorned with pretty plants and flowers.

The children are friendly and seem very well adjusted for some of their life experiences. As we drove up a young boy was brushing his teeth at the water spigot so our health teaching is implemented.

Health teams usually visit once a year to do physical and dental exams on all the children. Additional teams may stop by for one day to follow-up on any specific needs.



Lottie Brown, Teacher, and Gloria with her family at home.

Future's Program

For most children in Honduras schooling ends at 6th grade. If a family can afford Jr. High or High School, the sons will continue their education. Young girls, although equally as bright, will stay at home and learn "home-making" from their mothers.

Lottie and Leonard Brown and their extended family 7 years ago decided to give scholarships instead of Christmas presents to each other. They chose to purchase the uniform, shoes, school supplies, and cover the fees for a young girl to attend Jr. High in Honduras. Now more than 75 girls and young women have continued their education with scholarship donations. This year 16 graduated from Jr. High and High School of the 56 currently in the program.

The initial group of 8 girls graduated this year from high school with only 1 having chosen another path. When 4 were asked where they saw themselves in 5 years, the answers were book-keeping at a bank, executive director of a business, executive director of a children's home like El Refugio, and maybe a teacher. Several plan to continue their education at University next year.

Biblioteca de Leonardo

Leonard and Lottie Brown began a library in their home on La Buena Fe property in 1995. The library has expanded to 3 additional sites and 74 boxes (Rubbermaid totes) that travel to 32 schools. Over 4000 children now have access to books to read. An adult library of Spanish books and magazines are also being distributed to the teachers of the village schools so they can read more advanced literature to the students. Donations of Spanish children's books like: El Gato En El Sombrero (The Cat in the Hat) would be greatly appreciated.

After School Health Education Continues

This year HMA is providing health education to the ACECC elementary charter school at 6400 Swope Parkway. HMA was invited to continue the education program to these new students when Kansas City School District did not renew the LINC (Local Investment Commission) contract for after school care. The program is from 3:45-5:45 pm Thursday afternoons. Usually 2 groups of students have classes designed for their educational level.

The program teaches students about many aspects of health and a healthy lifestyle. Volunteers instruct children on proper tooth-brushing, physical activity, and good nutrition.

Last year quantitative results were measured by pre and post tests given to all 2nd graders in the school by measuring the amount of test score improvement with the students who participated in the after school health program. While the average score improved at the end of the school year, those in the program improved more. Pre tests have been

administered this year to again access knowledge levels and program effectiveness.

Several students from last year's program attend the new school and were excited that the health education would be continued. A Health Fair is planned in May for the parents and students with health screenings, hand-outs, and fun activities.

Volunteers are needed to assist in teaching the prepared lesson plans and helping to play Food Pyramid Bingo!

Health & Spirituality Workshop 2008

Planning has begun for the 6th annual workshop after evaluating the comments and suggestions received. Committee members this year include: Alice Sims (chair), Howard Braby, Don Compier, Ed Dowell, Helen Nelson, Ken Robinson, Paula Rummel, and Joy Weydert.

CONTRIBUTION AND/ OR MEMBERSHIP FORM

Information may be taken over the phone by calling 1-816-833-1000 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 \$ _____ Ruth Humbert work in Guatemala
\$ _____ Onil Stoves @ \$100 each \$ _____ Mission Health Teams \$ _____ Domestic Health Programs

Payment Method: _____ Check _____ 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: _____

HMA MISSION

To promote health care to the underserved and those in need.
To advance health education enabling self directed care.
To promote wellness of body, mind, and spirit.
To network with others to advance health care.

HMA VISION

To increase sustainable health and wellness by providing services and ministries that express our Christian commitment and promote peace.

If you want to assist the work in Guatemala- Please contact Paula at 816/833-1000 ext 1262 or Outreach International at 816/833-0883

Check out our Website at www.HMACofChrist.org

"Health Ministries Association of Community of Christ (HMA) is a Good Samaritan health professional organization. Our projects increase the quality of life for individuals and families locally and internationally by encouraging a healthy body, mind and spirit."

UP-COMING EVENTS

Graceland Winter Term to Guatemala- Jan. 3-23, 2008 led by Mark Dixon, MD mdixon1@tampabay.rr.com

Heath Team to Honduras- Jan. 11-20, 2008 led by Pamela Stewart, MD drpes@mac.com

HMA Board of Directors Meeting – Jan. 19, 2008 **Sat.** 2-4 PM Aud. North Conference Room 5th floor

Health Team to Honduras – March 2008 led by Ron Edwards, MD EdwardsRonaldJ@gmail.com

Project Happy Teeth uses trained Hondurans to place dental sealants on permanent molars/ bicuspid of elementary students near La Buena Fe Clinic, Honduras. In 2008, two hygienists/ dentists will supervise this team each week from Feb 9th until March 8th. One dentist or hygienist and one (Spanish) interpreter are needed for the Mar. 1-8 workweek.

If available to serve: Contact David Mehlich, DDS, DrPH @ 816-645-3705, 239-415-0495 or davidmdrph@earthlink.net