

Community of Christ  
**HEALTH**  
**MINISTRIES**  
ASSOCIATION

**HEALING HEARTS HERALD**

SUMMER 2008

## Guatemala Village Builds New Houses

*Ken and Lois Werner are an answer to Nurse Ruth Humbert's prayer. They crossed Ruth's path in January 2008 as she was trying to finish the construction on a model house. Little did Ruth know that Ken would not only finish building that house but he would return to Guatemala from Atlanta, GA several times over the next few months. In January after returning home, he made contact with a Family Foundation that is now providing funding for 10 houses. Each house costs approximately \$1600 and the first two houses were constructed in July 2008.*



*Ken Werner, Josepha, and Ruth Humbert outside Josepha's new home.*

## Josepha's Casa- House #2

*By Ginelle Sakima Roberts, DDS*

Josepha's husband was killed during the war over 20 years ago. She has not remarried and cares for her daughter who has special needs which include never being able to walk. Her daughter is 21 years old.



Josepha life has been difficult due to her laborious work cutting wood on the mountain-side to sell, doing laundry for other families, and selling tortillas. Her previous home had a dirt floor, was made from wood and mud and was literally falling apart.

Due to the organization of the women's group in her Caquixajay village, Josepha now has a brand new home she can call her own and a cement floor for her daughter.

## Julio's Casa- House #1



Julio, Gloria and their children by their new house. Their previous home had been washed away in Hurricane Stan.

# Beacon Heights Congregational Partnering Project

Diane Rogers accepted this handmade decorative Guatemalan cross from Ruth Humbert in behalf of the Beacon Heights congregation. HMA was invited to provide a presentation at the Independence, MO congregation and donations were collected for this joint HMA/Outreach International Guatemala Program. Donations from the congregation were enough to cover the cost of a new house. Contact the HMA office at 816-833-1000 ext 1262 if your congregation would be interested in a video presentation.



Diane Rogers and Ruth Humbert

## New HMA Employee Diane Rogers

HMA newest employee, Diane Rogers, began June 1, 2008 as a part-time Executive Assistant. She will help expand communications to donors and members as well as other administrative responsibilities. Diane comes with an extensive background volunteering in the congregation as a former pastor of Beacon Heights; in the community with the Independence, MO Community Services League; and organizing programs and events for the World Church during conference and International Youth Forum.

## “Tooth-Brushing 101”

Ginelle Sakima Roberts, a pediatric dentist, recently spent two weeks with Ruth Humbert in Guatemala. Most days were spent in Caquixajay building houses, however, one afternoon Ginelle noticed quite a few children hanging out at the construction site.

After speaking with the local women, she learned that they would like to have a Tooth-Brushing class for the children. A morning time was arranged for the children to come back the following day with all of their friends.

From the cornfields the children ran to the construction site and slowly gathered into a group of about 20. Then, a Tooth-Brushing class began on the patio of a nearby home. When asked, “Who has a toothbrush at home?” Not one child raised their hand. Ginelle began her first ever class in Guatemala with “This is a toothbrush...”

During the rest of her time in Caquixajay, Ginelle searched for children who had no visible decay, and she didn’t meet one child with a visibly healthy smile. “There is much

need for oral health care and prevention in this community and surrounding Guatemalan communities.”

Hopefully this is a start to future training and education for the Guatemalan nurses and communities like Caquixajay. Future plans for a dental team are in the process. Please contact Ginelle you are interested in more information. [ginelledds@gmail.com](mailto:ginelledds@gmail.com)



# Health Classes at Reunions and Retreats

By Diane Rogers

Sharing with the Saints in the Field is always a delight. I find the same fellowship and common threads everywhere in the Community of Christ that gives me a sense of "family". Brush Creek Reunion was just such an experience for me.

Paula Rummel was invited to teach a Health class as one of the adult class offerings at Brush Creek Reunion #1 in early June. She asked me to assist her with the class as the new Executive Assistant at Community of Christ Health Ministries Association. Together we planned the topics for the classes and divided the responsibilities. The topics covered were: depression; nutrition; relationships; and updates on diet plans and health issues such as cancer, heart, stroke, and diabetes,

We started each class with a 15 minutes Yoga session which turned out to be a highlight for some. Each day we used music, video, PowerPoint, and multiple handouts loaded with current health information. The people who attended the class were very willing to participate in each aspect of the class. We shared viewpoints, challenges, laughter, and friendship.

HMA seeks to help people increase their knowledge and encourage them in their efforts to take charge of their health making it part of their stewardship of "wholeness". Getting to know "church folk" and letting them get to know us is also part of the purpose of HMA.

Because I have been involved in a Health class like this, now I better understand the kinds of services that HMA offers. You may decide you would like to take advantage of the expertise that is available through HMA for a retreat or reunion in

the future. Topics are tailored to the needs and interests of the audience



"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."

**If you want to assist the work in Guatemala-  
Please contact Paula or Diane at  
816/833-1000 ext 1262 or  
Outreach International at 816/833-0883  
Check out our Website at  
[www.HMACofChrist.org](http://www.HMACofChrist.org)**

## 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 \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Guatemala Village Health Program  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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 \_\_\_\_\_

# **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Health & Spirituality Workshop Nov. 7-8, 2008**

The program this year has expanded to include Friday afternoon with three experiential sessions. These will include drama, guided imagery, and energy therapies.

The keynote Friday evening by Rev. Dr Helen Appelberg "Called to Serve: Becoming Community" will share the inspiring vision for a common bond of oneness among the ecumenically diverse care-givers in the health-care ministries. There will be no charge for the keynote this year.

Eight Saturday skill-building sessions include: Ministry of Presence to a Broken World; Sharing the Community of Hope With You!; Stabilizing and Treating the American Family; Healing in the Face of Grief; Coherence: Emerging Research on the Inter-connections of Head, Heart, Lungs, and Spirit; Calling All Angels: Reaching Out to People With Depression; Thank My Lucky Scars; and The Mediterranean Diet- A Flavorful Route to Improving Health for Americans.

Enclosed is a brochure for more information or call the HMA office at 816-833-1000 ext 1262. CEU's are pending from Missouri Nurses' Association.

## **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.

## **UP-COMING EVENTS**

**Health Team to Honduras** – Oct. 2008 led by Ron Edwards, MD [edwardsronaldj@gmail.com](mailto:edwardsronaldj@gmail.com)

**HMA Board of Director's Meeting-** Nov. 9, 2008 9 AM at Auditorium Independence, MO