

## Health Ministries Loses a Dear Friend

This past summer the Health Ministries Association (HMA) lost a dear friend and benefactor, Joan Pratt. Joan was an RN with a BS in Nursing. She was an instructor for CNAs and CMTs and



administered the state of Missouri certification tests. For over 60 years Joan's huge heart and boundless energy was directed to many charitable organizations often serving in leadership roles. In addition to HMA, some of the many organizations that benefited from her volunteering were the League of Women's Voters, Crossroads Temporary Housing, Governor's Conference on Education, Mid-America Regional Council on Aging, and the Salvation Army.

Joan's passions included education, helping those in need, and providing a path to success for others. In a powerful expression of those passions, Joan gave a

significant donation to HMA to establish a 3rd World Healthcare Education Endowment Fund. Once fully funded the Endowment will provide additional support for the HMA Scholarship Fund for educating nurses and doctors in Central America. This fall the Fund was renamed the Joan Pratt Healthcare Education Endowment.

Because of Joan's and our friends and members generosity the Endowment has reached one-third of its \$100,000 goal. Many thanks for the generous donations given in her name.

## Scholarship Students

Educating healthcare professionals in rural areas makes a tremendous difference in the quality of life for the many receiving medical care who had little or none before and for the one who now has a career. There is very little that returns as much as an investment in education.

HMA currently has two scholarship students, both in Honduras. Alma Mejia is in her third year of medical school. Karen Tinoco is a nurse auxiliary student, who has completed half of her 24-month program. Both students, as their time permits, work under our Professional Nurse Saira Giron in the clinics she holds as part of the Honduras Rural Healthcare Program. The students are pictured here on either side of Saira, Alma on the left and Karen on the right.



## Paul Bennetts Elected HMA President

At the Health Ministries Association Annual Membership meeting this past April, Dr. Paul Bennetts was elected president of the Board of Directors. Paul has been a CRNA (Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist) since 1989. He has an MS and PhD from the University of Kansas and is in his twelfth year as faculty at the University of Kansas Medical Center, where he teaches courses in Advanced Physiology, Cardio-thoracic Anesthesia Theory, Research, Biostatistics, and Evidence-based Practice. He also

supervises nurse anesthesia students during their clinical rotations in the Center for Advanced Heart Care at the University of Kansas Hospital.

Paul is married to a special-education teacher, Nadine, and they have two grown daughters. Besides work and family, Paul finds time for volunteering, saying he has done more volunteer work than he can remember! He especially enjoys going on yearly medical mission teams to Guatemala to provide specialized surgical care for its

poorer citizens. Paul is pictured here on a flight to Guatemala.



## August Mission Team



**A clinic in action**

In early August, a six person medical team traveled to Honduras. Physicians Mike Duke and Erin McGongile were assisted by interpreters, Linda Drown, Esdras Hernandez, and Michael Macias. Team leader, Gary Rummel helped with logistics and arranged transportation.

The team held village clinics organized by our Professional Nurse Saira Giron, who runs our Honduras Rural Health Program. Seventy patients were seen in El Zapotal, eighty-eight patients in San Antonio, and fifty-five patients in Las Crucites. The clinics had a station for each doctor and their interpreter while Saira oversaw the distribution of the prescribed medications, and record keeping. HMA's Auxiliary nursing scholarship student, Karen Tinoco, helped check in the patients and took

and recorded vital signs. The group was pleased to meet the Karen and enjoyed the opportunity to work with her. Saira was again exceptional in her knowledge of the patients in these villages and often recited their medical history from memory. Services were provided to 213 patients over the three days of clinics. New friendships were made and old ones renewed.

Gary and Dr. Duke were able to inspect the truck that was purchased in January from the fundraising campaign last year. They were pleased with the truck but noted that new tires need to be purchased due to the poor road conditions. Dr. Duke even got hands-on experience driving to the villages. He is pictured here, behind the wheel.



**The vehicle purchased by the GoFundMission funds raised last summer**

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# Honduras Rural Healthcare Program

We are nearing the end of our second year of the Honduras Rural Healthcare Program. Our full-time Professional Nurse Saira Giron is doing an outstanding job.



She continues to offer monthly health clinics in four rural villages as well as treat patients in her home clinic in La Boquita. She is also providing camp nurse services to the Church Youth Camps and the Central America Church Leadership meetings that are held at the La Buena Fe campground.

During the first nine months of 2018 she saw 2,430 patients and dispensed over 50,000 ointments, tablets, and milliliters of medications. Some patients are able to pay for the medications and others give a donation for her medical services. From January through September Saira has received 8,776 Lempiras equivalent to \$374. She uses these funds to purchase additional medications.

In April Saira assembled hygiene kits for school children (shown here). We supply the cloth bags, compliments of two congregations who sew them. The contents include: comb, soap, toothbrush, tooth paste, wash cloth, nail clippers and nail brush. Some of the contents are donated the

rest are purchased from the donations HMA receives for the Honduras Rural Healthcare Program. Saira distributes these kits to the school children receiving dental and health exams.

Saira was given nutritional food packages for schools from another in-country organization. Now that she has a truck she is able to ensure the delivery of these supplements to the rural schools.

The medical team that went to Honduras in August took donated supplies, over-the-counter medications, and medical resource books to help Saira in her work. But, perhaps, the greatest gift the team gave to Saira was the knowledge that there are people in the United States who care about her and the amazing work she does every day and are willing to not only donate money and supplies to the program, but are willing to travel to Honduras to support her and the people of the rural villages.

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## ☪ ☪ 2019 Health Ministries Events ☪ ☪

Mark your calendars for the many Health Ministries sponsored events coming next year.

**February 23: Hearts for Health Banquet** at Ophelia's in Independence. This year we will honor the life and legacy of Joan Pratt. (Rescheduled to March 9, 2019)

**April 6: Health Ministries Brunch and Annual Meeting.** Location to be determined.

**April 6 – 12: Health Ministries Booth** at the Community of Christ World Conference in the lower Auditorium. Please stop by to see pictures from our latest mission trip and Honduras clinic.

**August 24: Health & Spirituality Workshop: "Walking with God toward Wholeness"** at the Community of Christ Temple.

**September 28: Benefit Golf Tournament** at WinterStone Golf Course in Independence.

Community of Christ  
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## 2018 Annual Appeal

**Your gifts become improved health, education, and new healthcare professionals where they are needed most.**

Look inside for stories of some of the works of the Health Ministries Association this year.

**HMA's Honduras Rural Healthcare Program will provide healthcare services to over 3,000 villagers this year.**

