



July 25, 2015

Update from CEO Wayne and Christina Waite

Dear Friend of Shoulder to Shoulder:

I strive to keep my good friends up to date with what is going on in my life. Usually, if you do not hear from me, nothing is new! Well this time, there is a little news. I have just been released from Miami Valley Hospital where I spent nine days on several types of IV antibiotics. I think they have found a good mix to kill the bugs which have caused the cellulitis in my lower leg. Many years ago, I had an injury that did not help my circulation one bit. The cellulitis is painful. I have many people praying for me and I have much faith that I will be experiencing God's favor of healing soon. While in the hospital, I had extra time to focus on what is new and thought this would be a good time to provide an update about STS and many of its board members who continue to advocate tirelessly sustaining and extending our mission.

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER STILL NEEDS YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS AND SUPPORT



LATEST NEWS

AGRICULTURAL PROGRAM

Dwight Armstrong, CEO of Future Farmers of America, most recently met with USDA Deputy Secretary Krysta Hardin in Washington, DC. We are planning a follow-up visit with her later this year. Dwight is also forging relationships that will benefit Hombro a Hombro with Zamorano University in San Antonio de Oriente, Honduras, the leading agricultural university in Central America.

NUTRITION PROGRAM

Greg Reinhart, Vice President of Mathile Institute, recently introduced me to Clay Mathile. Mr. Mathile is very supportive of Shoulder to Shoulder's accomplishments. Greg and I are working together to seek multiyear funding for a nutrition program that will provide nutritional supplements to over 4000 children under 6 who are at risk for severe malnutrition that often causes impaired neurological development and/or stunting. This program will save lives and extend the mission of Shoulder to Shoulder.

KAHN ACADEMY CURRICULUM AT BILINGUAL SCHOOL AND FINANCIAL FUTURE

Dick Buten, our COO, will be traveling to Honduras to meet with our Honduran leadership team on August 1. He will provide an updated assessment for the Shoulder to Shoulder Board regarding the monthly remittance from Shoulder to Shoulder to Hombro a Hombro in order to satisfy operation costs and current debt obligations. The assessment will build capacity for future sustainability. Dick will also be rolling out a world class education system with Kahn Academy curriculum at our bilingual school. Dick has downloaded the curriculum and will set up a server so that each student will access the electronic curricula via hand held computer tablets. This will provide our students access to world class education.

DENTAL PROGRAM

Larry and Jan Tepe, DDSs, have created and sustained the innovative model for our dental program. Jan will also travel to Honduras on August 1. Jan will be assessing the model and advancing it toward greater financial independence. She will also be advocating for the expansion of the school based dental hygiene program.



SCHOLARSHIPS

Fide Gehner just returned from Honduras where she visited and evaluated the bilingual school. She has developed a new plan for our Scholarship program that will be presented in the fall.

SURGICAL MISSIONS

Susan Kaye, MD is traveling to Honduras in August to collaborate with Dr. Rolando Rolandelli, Chair of Surgery at Morristown Medical Center, in Morristown, New Jersey. Dr. Rolandelli has

just established a surgical missionary outreach program. He has been working in Guatemala and is interested in bringing teams to perform general surgical procedures in our service area. Initially surgeries will be performed in La Esperanza as we explore the path forward to establish an operating room, with proper equipment, at the Roy and Melanie Sanders Regional Medical Center in Concepcion. He is interested in starting in February.

STS KEY LEADERS AND ADVISORS

Roy and Melanie Sanders continue to provide key directional advice and support. They graciously hosted our last board meeting in Tampa. In addition to our board, the following persons were in attendance: **Plutarco Rivera** (Hombro a Hombro Executive Director), **Patti Rivera** (Hombro a Hombro Treasurer), **Janell McBride** (Honduran General Director) and **Kate Clitheroe** (Program Manager).

STS FOUNDER SUPPORT

Jeff Heck, MD, our STS founder, continues to provide our executive group with directional advice and has agreed to join us at the next board meeting of Shoulder to Shoulder.

DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNICATIONS

Paul and Laura Manship, MSWs, our Communications and Development Directors, provide invaluable support and leadership from Honduras. They publish our newsletters and blogs on our website at www.shouldertoshoulder.com. If you have not read them, you are missing out. Take a moment now to see the great things Paul and Laura are reporting on in Honduras. Paul also serves as **Headmaster** for the Good Shepherd Bilingual School.



US CONGRESSIONAL SUPPORT

I recently had a great meeting with **Congressman Mike Turner**. Congressman Turner agreed to set up a conference call with his office, Dick and I, and the Deputy Chief of the Embassy Mission in Tegucigalpa. We are in excellent alignment in light of our formal agreements with both the Honduran Ministry of Health and Honduran Ministry of Education. I am hopeful the Congressman will request that USAID give due consideration to our proposals to serve as

implementers of aid designated for the *Dry Corridor of Honduras*. This program supports infrastructure for Healthy Households. Second, we will seek USAID support for operational and construction funds for The Good Shepherd Bilingual school.

PLANNING RECRUITMENT AND FUND RASING MEETING

Soon, I will schedule a date for an open meeting of Shoulder to Shoulder supporters with our board. Following the open meeting, our board will meet to set the course for next year's key priorities. Please accept this as your invitation to attend our open meeting. I want this meeting to include our broad base of supporters. Paul and Laura will be emailing and reaching out to you soon with details regarding the meeting.



POVERTY IS URGENT

This is a critical time for Shoulder to Shoulder. We have created a sustainable system of providing health care to 69,000 persons living in Southern Intibucá where, twenty-five years ago, health care was virtually non-existent. I believe this has been possible by the grace of God and your committed generosity.

YOUR DONATION IS URGENTLY NEEDED TO SUSTAIN SHOULDER TO SHOULDER

STS receives support from the Honduran government, but now is a critical time where private donations need to fill the gap. If our operations suffer now, we may lose a great opportunity to get more funding in the future. No other NGO can boast of the accomplishments of Shoulder to Shoulder: ongoing health care for 69,000 persons; a model, bilingual, publicly accessible school providing quality education; a scholarship program supporting over 100 children to continue their education; the Yo Puedo girls' empowerment program; medical, dental and service brigades; and general community enrichment. We have become a collaborative, sustainable force for empowerment and well-being. In three years, Shoulder to Shoulder's core medical programs will be 100% sustainable from funds generated in Honduras. We will no longer feel the burden of personally contributing or raising funds to keep the core medical operation afloat. I trust we will continue to donate to STS, but our contributions will not be necessary to sustain the organization's core, but rather, will be targeted for those special areas of need that

we feel most passionate about. This is the clear vision on the horizon, but we still have a ways to travel.



PLEASE MAKE A CONTRIBUTION TO SHOULDER TO SHOULDER TODAY

Presently, we desperately need operational support over the next three years for expenses that are not covered under the government contract. If you are considering a donation to Shoulder to Shoulder this year, and are able to do so, please consider making a generous donation at this time.

We desperately need to cover our operational expenses now so that our three year plan for sustainability becomes a reality. You have always been there for us, and we are confident that you will be there now.

Following my trip in April to Honduras, I was so moved about the worthiness of our service and mission that Christina and I felt called to make a substantial, sacrificial gift. It was around three times more than what we had ever given over the last 25 years. We feel our contribution was the right thing to do. Shoulder to Shoulder's current need is at least three times greater than it has been in the last 25 years. I hope you, as our faithful, long-time friend of STS, will join us.

DO NOT WAIT

Please, do not wait. Now is the critical time. Please look into your heart, take comfort in the meaningful work Shoulder to Shoulder has accomplished because of your commitment, and make a contribution. It will be an act of compassion and justice. It will inspire our employees and partners, sustain our journey, and empower the people we serve. Indeed, it will further us along the path from poverty to dignity. Please, click the donate button below and make your contribution today.

Looking forward, and on behalf of Shoulder to Shoulder,

Wayne and Christina Waite