

We Exist to Serve the Poor

Our goal is to improve health outcomes in poor communities through primary healthcare, nursing services, public health, dental care, nutrition and education.



Shoulder to Shoulder

UPDATE

Volume 2 / Issue 2 / February 2008

THE SHOULDER TO SHOULDER BOARD SETS A BROAD VISION FOR THE FUTURE

The Shoulder to Shoulder Board met in Tegucigalpa, Honduras on January 19th setting a broad vision for the future of the organization.

Over the next three years Shoulder to Shoulder will develop a large health center in Concepcion Intibuca which lies in the middle of one of the poorest parts of Honduras. In addition, we will add five new academic partners to work "Shoulder to Shoulder" with each of five smaller surrounding villages to build community health centers and contribute to the hub and spoke system that will be created to serve the Concepcion area. Already under the leadership of board member Dr. Emily Harrison, Brown University will take on Guachinpilincito and the University of Wyoming at Casper's Family Medicine Residency program will partner with Agua Salada and will be led by Dr. Michael Miller, Dr. Zach Diess and Marty Mittelstadt. Above is a picture of the contractors and principal funders Dr. ROy and Melanie Sanders and Dr. Susan Kaye, Director of the Benjamin Josephson Foundation. (for more details of the Concepcion Project see the January Newsletter.)



Shoulder to Shoulder also expects to sign an agreement with the Ministry of Health of Honduras next month that would pay Shoulder to Shoulder to provide all of the primary care and public health services for the communities of Santa Lucia and Magdalena.

Four positive outcomes for poor people will result from this decision:

1. The cost for services for all patients will be reduced to less than 50c per visit,
2. We will have the resources to hire a professional nurse administrator, 8 lower level nurses (4 to work in rural areas) and 4 community based health promoters and
3. These additions will enable us to raise the quality of care we provide to an even higher level and
4. The support will free up some money to provide more social services (eg Scholarships, Yo Puedo programs and feeding programs. Consequently, Shoulder to Shoulder hired this week our new professional nurse, Claudia Argentina Lopez Velasquez. Claudia worked previously in La Mosquitia, another remote part of the country. She is excited about working for poor people in a rural area and leading our efforts in Santa Lucia. She will work closely with Dr. Christy O’Dea to develop a comprehensive Maternal Child Health Program. Claudia will begin immediately working to plan for the implementation of the government contract responsibilities.



*Claudia Argentina Lopez Velasquez
Professional Nurse .*



*Olvin Milla Martinez
Scholarship Student*

The Scholarship Program seeks out the most promising students:

The scholarship program continues to enlist the help of community mentors and tutors and find ways to recruit the best students into the program. Take for example **Olvin Milla Martinez**, a 13 year old boy from Guajinaquil, Concepcion. Olvin comes from a poor rural area and lives with his parents and 5 brothers. Even with this background he is one of the top students of this group, especially in math. He is motivated and ambitious to become a professional. Olvin is also blind. He will receive support to go to the School for the Blind in Tegucigalpa. Olvin’s community of Guajinaquil still needs a partner U.S. academic health center.



John Jaeger and Luis Arriaga

And the water project headed by John Jaeger continues to move at a rapid pace. John has received a grant from the International Rotary Fund and will place 1000 home based water filters in homes in the region over the next two years. Luis Arriaga has been hired to head up the project in Honduras. He will be starting in the Santa Lucia area and Pinares.



Zabdy Sucelinda Marquez Aguiriano

Newly hired, Zabdy Sucelinda Marquez Aguiriano, has been coordinating the scholarship program in Santa Lucia as well as serving as the librarian. Her husband of 4 years, Nicondra, has owned and operated a store in Magdalena for the past 7 years. They have a daughter, Stacey, who is 2 years old. With her love of working with children and helping people, Zabdy has enthusiastically taken on the job of selecting scholarship students and plans to work closely with them in the life skills class and tutoring them when necessary. She has initiated a summer reading program with small incentives but says that it is not difficult to motivate the children to read as they are thrilled to actually be able to handle and even 'check out' books for the first time. She is grateful for the books that have been donated but says most of the children have read all of the books many times and are begging for more. To easily donate books to the library simply go to our web site, click on the library option, then click on the link to Amazon.com which contains a current wish list.

***Remember: If it was easy, someone else would have done it a long time ago.
Shoulder to Shoulder can only be successful with courage,
boldness and persistence in its advocacy for the poor.***

Medical and Dental Services

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