

Shoulder to Shoulder, Inc.

Fall 2004 Newsletter

2123 Auburn Avenue, Suite 340

Cincinnati, OH 45219

Note that the address above is changed!



www.shouldertoshoolder.org

Working Hombro a Hombro/Shoulder to Shoulder in Santa Lucia

As mentioned in our last newsletter, Profesora Blanca Miriam Argueta has taken the helm of the Hombro a Hombro Board in Santa Lucia having been elected as President of the Hombro a Hombro Board by her Honduran peers. Blanca is a teacher who has been on the board of Hombro a Hombro for a number of years. She was, for a time, the Board's recording secretary and has supported and initiated many projects in Santa Lucia.

We are excited that Blanca brings to the Honduran board a genuine desire to work with the daily aspects of the functioning of the clinic and with the U.S. brigades. Her enthusiasm and vision are phenomenal assets to the growth of both the clinic and the National Hombro a Hombro organization in Honduras. As well, she has motivated the Board in Santa Lucia who have also expressed interest in more definitive roles within the board and for increased engagement in all activities of the joint project. From the development of job descriptions for the Hombro a Hombro employees in Santa Lucia to making certain the nutrition project is running smoothly to ensuring that brigades are run effectively, U.S.A.-based Shoulder to Shoulder, Inc., looks forward to following the guidance of this board. Bienvenidos, Blanca!

A New Beginning

A great writing has said that "to everything there is a season," and this has become true for the tenure of Miguel A. Coello, M.D., at Clinica Hombro a Hombro. Dr. Coello will be resigning effective November 30, 2004. Miguel has been, and will remain, a great advocate of and friend to Shoulder to Shoulder, Inc. Miguel, as a single, city-born and bred, young primary care physician moved to Santa Lucia in 1993 to become Santa Lucia's only physician. In this very remote area, at the time he arrived there was no electricity, no clinic building, and no dormitory. Miguel lived initially in the local pastor's home and attended to patients from that site as the clinic building was being constructed. Dr. Coello gave up much opportunity for personal and professional advancement in positions in the major cities of Honduras to give himself wholly to the needs of the indigent in Santa Lucia and surrounding communities.

Shoulder to Shoulder, Inc., as well as Hombro a Hombro owes a great debt of gratitude to Dr. Coello for his many years of dedicated service and his unwavering commitment to serving the poorest of the poor in the Intibuca Region. Miguel, now married with two children, will be pursuing other interests in Tegucigalpa. We wish Miguel and his family the best in his/their new endeavors. And we know that we are not really saying "adios," we are simply saying, "hasta luego."



Miguel being paid for his services!

As Miguel leaves (photo on left), we are happy to report that Dr. Marvin Suarez (photo on right) will remain full time at the clinic and we are seeking another primary care physician – Honduran or North American – to staff Clinica Hombro a Hombro. Miguel Cardoza, M.D., who has completed his surgery residency and is working in Tegucigalpa, will attend the October brigades and remains interested in collaborative work when his schedule permits. Medardo Rodriguez continues to coordinate many aspects of the brigades which travel in October, January and April of each year to several regions of Honduras.



October 2004 Brigades

In October 2004, there are 4 brigades to Honduras: one is a Pediatric Ophthalmology at Cincinnati Children's Hospital/Lenscrafters Eye Project for La Esperanza and Santa Lucia; their goal is to see 2,000 patients and outfit those who need them with glasses; Baylor University will provide continued care in

Santa Ana where they are embroiled in a building project for a clinic; the University of Pittsburgh will travel to San Jose (in Yoro) to provide care in their newly constructed medical clinic; and the University of Cincinnati will travel to Santa Lucia (for medical and dental care) and to San Marcos de La Sierra (the University of Rochester will also have several participants in San Marcos). In October 2004 alone, more than 200 participants from the U.S. and Honduras will provide care to a great number of patients in these poor areas of Honduras.

Expanding Shoulder to Shoulder in Honduras

As Shoulder to Shoulder, Inc., continues to reach out to other communities with the commitment of continuity care via scheduled brigades to their sites, the need for a national presence in Honduras has been felt. To this end, the Board of Shoulder to Shoulder, Inc., is seeking individuals for "Organizacion Nacional de Hombro a Hombro, Honduras." Several potential board members from Honduras have surfaced. One in particular is Diane Castellanos who is the wife of Plutarco Castellanos, M.D., the immediate past Minister of Health of Honduras. She is originally from the East Coast and is a bilingual, U.S. educated teacher. She met her husband while in college in the U.S., and they married and moved to Honduras, Dr. Plutarco's native country. She has been to Santa Lucia on several occasions and has great knowledge of the work of Shoulder to Shoulder, Inc., and Hombro a Hombro. She has articulated interest in working more closely with Shoulder to Shoulder. Other Nationals are being considered for this important board.

On the U.S. side, Shoulder to Shoulder, Inc.-Cincinnati, continues to seek to recruit a part time administrative assistant. Sharon Mullen, who has worked with Shoulder to Shoulder for a number of years in tandem with her University of Cincinnati position, remains in this role while we seek the right person. The need to hire is exciting as the project has grown to the point where this is necessary.

Also, volunteers with fundraising ideas are being sought. With the variety of great projects that Shoulder to Shoulder supports comes the need to fund them. If you have expertise or interest in this, please contact Sharon Mullen via e-mail:

mullensf@fammed.uc.edu.

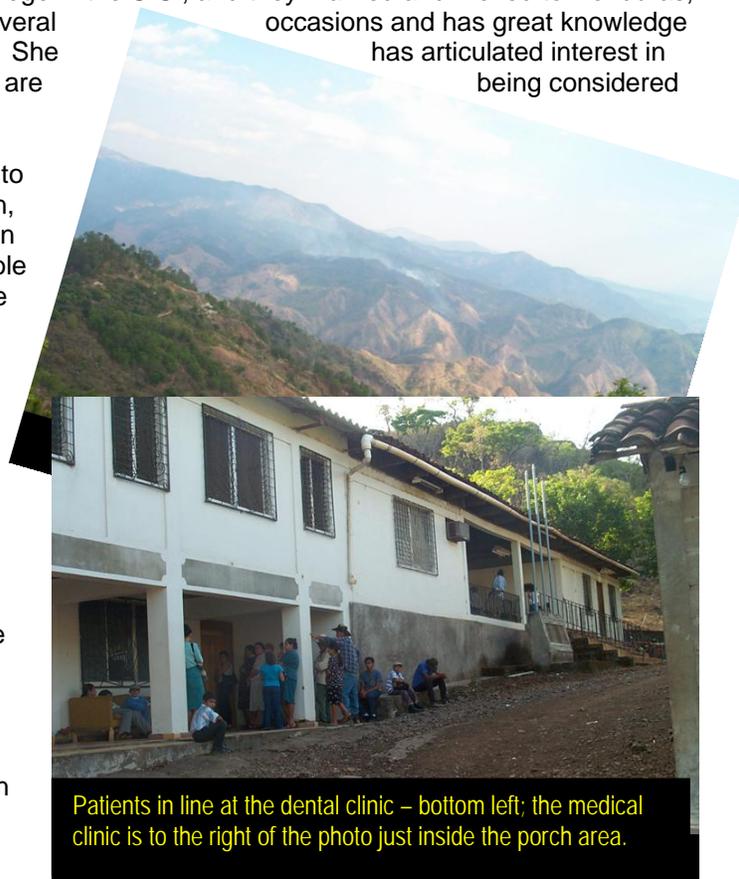
Beca/Scholarship Project

We will continue to offer our Beca/Scholarship Project to underprivileged students who have the academic prowess but not the financial ability to further their education past the 8th grade. Last year, there were 19 students sponsored from donors in the U.S. – 12 of these students were added in the school year 2004. A \$300 donation provides a student with his/her school uniform, books and payment for classes. One of our scholarship students, Blanca, is pictured at left.

The school year begins in February and ends in November in Honduras.

Say "Ahhh"

Dr. Laura Yessenea Lemus Nolasco is the newest addition to the team in Santa Lucia. She is a dentist working with Hombro a Hombro to provide continuity dental care. She has worked with our dental teams previously in Santa Lucia and comes with dental experience gained in other areas of Honduras. We look forward to a longer term relationship with Dr. Nolasco who will provide a much needed service in Intibuca – in our clinic and with our teams in field clinics.



Please take this opportunity to consider a donation for the medical/dental/nutrition/scholarship projects at Clinica Hombro a Hombro, and return a check to the new address above. If you are interested in participating in fundraising or to volunteer in any other capacity, please contact Sharon Mullen.

**You can find more information about Shoulder to Shoulder at:
www.shouldertoshoulder.org.**