Honduran Children’s Rescue Fund

Benefit 2019

Sociedad Amigos de los Niños

Tegucigalpa, Honduras

Central America

Friday, September 20th

DR. Michael E. Skerl, DDS

Providing dental care on

HCRF Medical Brigade to mountain villages in Honduras
A SPECIAL MESSAGE FROM
SISTER MARIA ROSA

May God bless each and every one of you for all your help and for so many
years of a wonderful friendship.

My special thanks to the Honduran Children’s Rescue Fund and Mr. Umberto
Fedeli for organizing this Benefit year after year.

Peace and love,

Sister Maria Rosa Leggo, O.S.F
Sociedad Amigos de los Ninos

Honduran Children’s
Rescue Fund
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Anne Markowski
found a new friend on Medical Brigade
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With your support we can continue to provide valuable healthcare and educational opportunities for the children of Honduras!
Heartfelt Thanks!
To Maryellen & Umberto Fedeli and Family for once again Hosting this Benefit!

The Honduran Children’s Rescue Fund gratefully acknowledges the valuable support of the

Cleveland Clinic

Honduran Children’s Rescue Fund
Join Us on a Mission Trip!

Interested in joining us on a medical mission trip to Honduras in February of 2020? Email us. Medical and Non Medical volunteers welcome!

HCRFund@gmail.com
www.honduranchildrensrescuefund.org

Honduran Children’s Rescue Fund
SANTA ROSA DE LIMA MEDICAL CLINIC

This Clinic, located in rural Nuevo Paraiso, is one of two ministries targeted for funding by the Honduran Children’s Rescue Fund. It serves both the Village of Nuevo Paraiso and the surrounding rural population that has no other medical facility. In the United States, it would be considered sort of a combination Urgent Care Center and an Emergency Room. One common situation is birthing.

A few women select delivery at the Clinic but the most common practice is via mid-wife. Complications at delivery sometimes end up at the Clinic but the General Practice Doctor cannot perform surgery and some women must be sent to hospitals in Tegucigalpa, about 50 minutes away.

Each year, the Honduran Children’s Rescue Fund gives a grant that includes salaries for the Medical Director, an OB/GYN and a pediatrician. With the addition of Dr. Shirley Merlo OB/GYN, the Clinic started a program of pre-natal education and encouraged delivery of babies at their facility. The Clinic also started Medical Brigades, where teams of medical personal go to rural areas to diagnose and treat people who would not come to the Clinic. With portable ultra-sound equipment pregnant women are examined and normal conditions can be confirmed. Given their programs and capabilities the Santa Rosa Clinic has now been designated as a Regional Birthing Center by the Ministry of Health. In 2018 there were 283 babies delivered and in the first six months of 2019 there were another 205 deliveries. The birthing and educational programs at Santa Rosa Clinic are successful as indicated by these numbers of new babies coming into the world in a safe professional environment.

The Santa Rosa de Lima Medical Clinic is growing in prestige. They continue to treat all kinds of conditions but still must refer complicated cases to the major hospitals in Tegucigalpa. Our goal is to work with them for accreditation as a Regional Medical Center.

Your donations will help us strengthen the staff and facilities of this Medical Clinic that is making such impressive progress in bringing medical care to the poor.
REYES IRENE VALENZUELA
SCHOOL FOR GIRLS

This school is a target ministry for funding by the Honduran Children’s Rescue Fund. Schools, in a normal situation, start on Monday and end on Friday. However, in Honduras, there is a situation that voids this simple criterion. Many young girls in the rural areas, and some in the cities, leave their homes because their families can no longer support them, the family has disintegrated or there is no opportunity. They come to large cities like Tegucigalpa and work as domestics or street vendors. They work long hours for little money, often just for room and board. As a group, they are being exploited. They do not go to school because they have to work to live.

In the early ‘90’s, Sr. Rosa, Reyes Irene Valenzuela and others recognized this situation and founded this unique school. They take these girls in evenings, weekends or whenever the girls were available and give them the gift of education that they knew was the only solution to their situation. In many cases it had to be very fundamental. New girls learned about personal hygiene, things that their mothers should have taught them about sexuality, their rights under law and academic subjects tailored to their level. Their goal was to earn a high school diploma. The school is accredited by the Honduran Ministry of Education.

As the girls advance they can receive vocational instruction in elective subjects such as cosmetology, computers, handicrafts, tailoring, computer repair, pharmacy assistant and community health. They also participate in workshops on subjects like HIV-AIDS prevention, self-esteem, leadership and labor law.

Each year The Honduran Children’s Rescue Fund awards a grant to pay salaries of the on-site professional staff. From its modest beginnings, Reyes Irene School has grown to an enrollment of 248 girls in 2019.
LOVE ALL THE CHILDREN GOD HAS SENT TO US -Sr Rosa Leggol, O.S.F.

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Megan Smith, from Pepper Pike, was 6 years old when Hurricane Mitch devastated Honduras and helped establish the **Honduran Children’s Rescue Fund**. Traveling with her family on an early mission trip, Meg recalls her first memories of Honduras being construction projects, playing with kids, beautiful countryside and a scorpion! On later trips, Meg started helping on HCRF medical brigades where she found “beautiful people so happy with so little.”

Eager to help, Meg concentrated on her Spanish classes at Gesu and Regina High School and managed to keep returning to Honduras on both primary care and surgical mission trips. “I found helping on the medical brigades more fulfilling for me than working on our construction projects,” says Meg. “Hondurans would travel so far to see our doctors because there are no other healthcare options available”

It was easy for Meg to fall in love with the Honduran children & she loved being a member of the team.

In high school Meg decided that she wanted to make medicine her vocation & studied Audiology at Cleveland State, she knew Medicine was in her future and it was. Currently a 4th year Medical Student at Wright State University, Boonshoft School of Medicine, Meg has already earned her Master of Public Health Degree. And Honduras? It has always been with Meg. In February of 2020, Meg will again travel to **Nuevo Paraiso, Honduras** to join the staff of the **Santa Rosa Lima Medical Center** for a 1-month Student Initiated Clinical Rotation Elective. Meg expects to be challenged with primary care duties, helping deliver babies, assisting the Emergency Department and as she always says “… help out wherever I can.”

In May of 2020, Meg will be in her residency as an M.D. She doesn’t know where that may take her, but she knows that the people of Honduras will always be in her heart. Meg says, “I like to help people and Honduras, it’s been a big part of my life.”

*(Megan C. Smith the daughter of Brian and Karen Smith and Granddaughter of David and Rita Smith)*
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Joint Task Force Bravo

For their valuable assistance in making Medical Equipment Military Air Shipments to Honduras a reality!
Dr. Michael E. Skerl DDS
“GUARDIAN ANGEL OF THE CHILDREN OF HONDURAS”

Since the early days of HCRF medical and dental brigades in Honduras, Dr Mike Skerl has led our dental teams providing care that is otherwise unavailable for people in remote villages in Honduras. In the U.S. dental pain is consistently a leading reason for emergency room visits. In Honduras, unfortunately, dental pain is a reality of daily life for many Hondurans.

Lack of fluoridated water and no access to preventative care result in many tooth extractions which, fortunately alleviate much pain. It is common that Mike and the dental team will end up extracting 100s of teeth during a week of medical brigades. Whenever possible the kids are provided with fluoride treatments. At the end of a brigade day it is common for there to still be long lines of patients hoping to see the dentists.

Mike and team are always working to do all that they can!

Back home in Cleveland, Mike regularly donates care to Hondurans who are visiting Cleveland for medical care or are now living in the area.

In recognition of Mike’s years of service, Sociedad Amigos de los Niños & Honduran Children’s Rescue Fund officially recognize Mike as a Guardian of the Children of Honduras. We appreciate all the accomplishments and hard work of Mike and his wife Kathleen over these many years.