



OCIMA

Overseas and Continental Independent Mercy Association

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November 2011

Dear Friends of O.C.I.M.A.,

A heartfelt greeting to each of you as another year comes to a close. We have some very exciting news to share with you.

They Say A Picture is Worth 1,000 Words...

Our Spring 2011 trip to Guatemala served as the basis for a documentary-style video. You can now see for yourselves how your generosity translates into the very precious gifts of education, healthcare and nutritious food for the poor. You can view the video on our website (OCIMAYA.ORG), or on YouTube. There's a 4-minute, 10-minute and 18-minute version. Please help us by sharing the video with your friends and colleagues.

The Nursing School Is Under Construction...

Progress demands change, and education is key. In the rural areas of northern Guatemala, affordable medical care is sparse. People travel hours to see a doctor at the clinic. But many choose not to travel – only to experience deteriorating health, and in all too many cases, death.

In 2008, the idea of starting a nursing school was brought to OCIMA's founder, Father Nick. At that time, there was no business plan for the school, but the idea was/is a good one. The school is now becoming a reality through the aid of a French architectural firm that is donating the design/construction of the building. But the building is only the first step. It needs furniture, microscopes, hospital beds, etc. Please consider a special gift toward the nursing school.

From the Day Care Center...

To make room for the nursing school, the kindergarten/elementary school was moved to the Day Care Center. This year, 30 children from the ages of 4 months to 5 years will be attending the Day Care Center while the older children attend kindergarten and elementary school. An update is necessary to improve the crib room so that each age group will have an appropriate space to develop and grow.

Food Program

Thankfully, we were able to send our regular shipment of food to Santa Elena and Morales – as many as 216,000 meals! This has been a blessing in these last few years due to the unusual weather.

Other Programs in Guatemala

The clinic, orphanage, nutritional center and high school are all still in need of our assistance. The video will speak for itself. It is noteworthy to point out that the school is also reaching out to alumni and the surrounding community for additional

support. It is a poor community, hit hard by the earthquakes and weather in the area. As you watch the video, it may be helpful to know that a teacher starts out with a monthly salary of about 1,570 Quetzals (or \$200), and this is considered a good living.

In Ecuador, OCIMA Supports 2 Programs...

Just a small percentage of what OCIMA raises goes to Ecuador. About two-thirds of that goes to small groups of farmers through the GSFEP *campesino* bank and continuing education programs. With their work in the fields, these small cooperatives of farmers are able to drive local development and create new jobs. This allows families to stay together, instead of the men emigrating to find work elsewhere.

The rest of our support in Ecuador goes toward medical services for the poor. Since August of 2010, the hospital in Southern Quito has been up and running with 150 beds, 4 operating rooms, an emergency room, and much more. About 600 patients from the poorer districts of Quito and rural areas pass through the hospital each day! This is a vast improvement over what was previously available to the poor. The people (who can) pay small amounts. Others pay nothing at all.

We Would Like to Hear from You

Our e-mail address is INFO@OCIMAYA.ORG. If you have any questions, this is a good way to get answers.

You are OCIMA and you make this all possible. I join the people of Guatemala and Ecuador in taking this one very special time of year to tell you how grateful we are. There are no words to express what a huge difference you're making in this small part of the world. Peace to all of you and warmest wishes for health and happiness in the coming year.

Maria Curreri
OCIMA President

FINANCIAL REPORT — 2010

FUNDS AVAILABLE:

Donations in 2010:	\$ 167,466
Distribution from Endowment Fund:	5,375
Carryover from 2009:	1,136

TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE:	\$ 173,977
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PROJECT DISBURSEMENTS:

1. GSFEP (Ecuador) – Cooperatives, campesino bank, hospital for the poor	\$ 17,500
2. School in Chapas, Santa Rosa	34,000
3. Nutritional Center in Morales	21,000
4. Clinic, Orphanage and Day Care Center in Santa Elena	45,000
5. Purchase and packing of specially formulated food for the malnourished	54,000

TOTAL PROJECT DISBURSEMENTS:	\$ 171,500
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EXPENSES:¹

\$ 1,662

TOTAL EXPENSES & DISBURSEMENTS:	\$ 173,162
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<u>CARRYFORWARD TO 2011:</u>	\$ 815
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¹ Expense ratio (i.e., expenses as a percent of total funds available for 2010) is 0.96%. Expenses include P.O. box fees, postage, envelopes, auditor, and bank fees.