



# OCIMA

## Overseas and Continental Independent Mercy Association

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December 2017

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

In this year's letter and update we would like to focus on the work that is being accomplished at the Nutritional Center in Morales, Guatemala. Know that O.C.I.M.A. continues to provide financial support to the Clinic, Orphanage and Day Care Center in the northern part of Guatemala, as well as Micro-coops in Ecuador, health care to the poorest of the poor in Ecuador, and scholarships to young girls at the school in Santa Rosa. We encourage you to view the video on our website OCIMAYA.org. Although filmed a few years ago in Guatemala, the video provides a good overview of the work we continue to do and expand upon.

### The Nutritional Center

Fr. Nick's vision was always to focus on the most vulnerable population, the CHILDREN, with no restrictions on age or religion. As a result, the Nutritional Center is able to use OCIMA's assistance to help children of ALL ages. This is important because many other charitable organizations restrict how funds can be used and generally direct their funds to children under the age of six.

The Center is managed by Sister Mary Elena, a medical doctor. The Center's primary stated mission is to help in the nutritional recovery of children from birth to age 5. The Center also provides pre-natal care in order to prevent premature and low-weight births, and assists older children who suffer from varying degrees of malnutrition. Earlier this year, the Nutritional Center was the primary recipient of the specially formulated meals purchased by OCIMA and packaged by the parishioners of Saint Irenaeus Church.

The last week of each month the sisters deliver food to urban and rural areas. Throughout the year, they examine the children, perform blood tests and stool exams, deliver medicines as needed and conduct medical consultations with families. The Center sponsors two big celebrations each year – "children's day" and a Christmas celebration with gifts, refreshments, clowns and games.



### Special Cases

Not all children are treated in the field. The following are two cases that required extended stays in the Nutritional Center due to the severity of their conditions.

Ignacio was one year and seven months when



he entered the Nutritional Center in May of 2017, with a weight of 13.2 lbs. The ideal weight for a boy of Ignacio's age would be 24 lbs. The Sisters took him in and monitored his diet and nutritional intakes. In July, Ignacio was able to leave the Nutritional Center and his weight was close to normal. When he left, he was a happier and more alert child.

The second child is Jose. When Jose entered the Nutritional Center in March this year at the age of 3 years 4 months his weight was only 18 lbs. Jose was a resident at the Center through October.



Both children made great strides in both weight gain and overall alertness. It was also determined that both of their mothers were pregnant and in a state of malnutrition. So the Sisters will continue to follow up with both mothers.

These are just two examples of the thousands of children that need the assistance of the sisters at the Nutritional Center. The sisters' resources are scant, but with OCIMA's help, they make a huge difference in the surrounding areas of Morales.

Know that your generosity is supporting the health care, educational and nutritional needs of a very grateful population. The people of Guatemala and

Ecuador thank you for your continued generosity and support. The Sisters of Guatemala have you and your families in their prayers.

Larry Gatt - OCIMA Vice-President

### FINANCIAL REPORT — 2016

FUNDS AVAILABLE:

Donations:	\$	110,443	<sup>1</sup>
Raffle Proceeds:		31,122	<sup>2</sup>
2016 Endowment Fund Distribution to OCIMA:		6,550	
Carryover from 2015:		172	
<b>TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>148,287</b>	

PROJECT DISBURSEMENTS:

1. GSFEPP (Ecuador)	\$	18,000	
2. School in Chapas, Santa Rosa, Guatemala		34,500	
3. Nutritional Center in Morales, Guatemala		21,500	
4. Clinic, Orphanage and Day Care Center in Santa Elena, Guatemala		44,430	
5. Purchase and packing of specially formulated food for the malnourished		27,000	
<b>TOTAL PROJECT DISBURSEMENTS:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>145,430</b>	

EXPENSES:<sup>3</sup>

1. Envelopes, P.O. Box, bank/license fees, annual audit	\$	1,357	
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,357</b>	<sup>3</sup>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES &amp; DISBURSEMENTS:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>146,787</b>	
<b>CARRYFORWARD TO 2017:</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>1,500</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Excludes \$12,122 in donations made during raffle (i.e., no ticket purchases). Also excludes value of donated raffle prize.

<sup>2</sup> Includes \$12,122 in donations, ticket sales of \$21,000, reduced by \$2,000 cash prize. All other raffle expenses were donated.

<sup>3</sup> Total expenses were 0.92% of total funds available for 2016.