



OCIMA

Overseas and Continental Independent Mercy Association

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www.ocimaya.org

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November 2015

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

As we enter the final weeks of 2015, it naturally becomes a time of *reflection* and a time to gauge how our lives have evolved over the past twelve months. For most people this personal analysis includes events that stand out in either a positive or negative way.

As you reflect, remember that you have contributed in a very positive way to the lives of many people in Guatemala and Ecuador through OCIMA. Thank you for touching the lives of so many people who, without your support, would just be without – without food, without medical attention, without an education.

Summarized below are a few highlights of how your 2014 donations were utilized.

School in Santa Rosa

Over the years an important source of funding for OCIMA has been an annual raffle conducted at St. Irenaeus – the Parish Fr. Nick came to love and cherish as family. In 2014 the St. Irenaeus family (and their friends) continued its strong support of OCIMA and raised \$27,600 through this event for the school in Santa Rosa. These funds were used for scholarships to 34 deserving young women and building maintenance of the school's dormitories.

Food Program

It is also worth noting that the raffle allows us to focus other donations to equally important programs, like our food donation program, which Fr. Nick especially enjoyed as it actively involved the youth of St. Irenaeus.

As noted in last year's newsletter, OCIMA refrained from shipping additional meals to Guatemala in 2013 and 2014 in order to resolve the shipping and receiving obstacles we experienced with our 2012 food shipment and to investigate a more reliable process for delivery of the food into the hands of the needy in a timely manner. At the end of 2014, the OCIMA Board was finally able to reinstate the program and earmarked \$27,000 for a food packaging in 2015. The 2015 food packaging event was a success and we are now in the process of finalizing details to ship the food using an entirely different process than in prior years. More to come in next year's newsletter.

Clinic

In 2008, during my initial trip to Guatemala I was particularly impressed by the clinic facility at Santa Elena. The entire complex was comprised of several sparsely furnished rooms that were being used by visiting, volunteer physicians for the treatment of those people who were able to travel to the facility. One of the rooms was completely filled with manila folders, containing whatever patient records were available. Another room – the only air-conditioned room – provided storage space for medicines and drugs distributed over-the-counter and in fulfillment of prescriptions. With donations from OCIMA, almost all of the drugs and medicines are dispensed at a significant discount to the patient –

making medicines affordable without discounting the value patients receive in return.


Today, this same facility continues to evolve with support from OCIMA. Over the past year, it has been physically expanded and upgraded to include surgical facilities specifically dedicated to birthing, neo-natal care and major surgeries. At last report, construction was nearly complete. The goal for 2015 and 2016 is two-fold: (1) complete the facility; and as noted in our 2014 letter, (2) equip this facility with the proper medical equipment that will meet the needs of the patients and the talent of the doctors. The sisters at the clinic continue to indicate the lack of instrumentation and equipment as being one of their most critical needs at this time. A detailed analysis of the required instruments indicates the total price to be approximately \$58,000.

The synergies between the Clinic and the Nursing School are also being realized. When our OCIMA group visited Guatemala earlier this year, they met a lab technician who is working at the Clinic and who had recently graduated from the Nursing School.

CLOSING

Maintaining the current level of service to our mission endeavors in Guatemala and Ecuador as they are today is challenging. In addition to the Clinic, the school and the food program, we continue to support the Orphanage in Santa Elena, the Nutritional Center in Morales, the Day Care Center near Santa Elena, and micro-coops and special projects in Ecuador. For example, some of your 2014 contributions were used to install a new floor in the girls' living quarters at the Orphanage. In Ecuador, your donations helped to build a new house for young people with a focus on education to prevent adolescent pregnancies.

You have helped us meet challenges before. Please help us meet the expanding challenges as we move forward with Fr. Nick's work. There are many good charities in this world. Thank you for supporting OCIMA!


Grayson Smith
OCIMA President

FINANCIAL REPORT — 2014

FUNDS AVAILABLE:

Donations in 2014 (excluding donated prize for raffle):	\$ 135,130
Raffle Proceeds (net of expenses and cash prize)	27,607
2014 Endowment Fund Distribution to OCIMA:	6,327
Carryover from 2013:	489
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE:	\$ 169,553

PROJECT DISBURSEMENTS:

1. GSFEP (Ecuador)	\$ 18,000
2. School in Chapas, Santa Rosa	38,000
3. Nutritional Center in Morales	25,000
4. Clinic, Orphanage and Day Care Center in Santa Elena	40,500
5. Surgical Facility in Clinic, Santa Elena	18,900
6. Purchase and packing of specially formulated food for the malnourished	0
TOTAL PROJECT DISBURSEMENTS:	\$ 140,400

EXPENSES:¹

1. Postage, envelopes, P.O. Box, bank fees	\$ 1,244
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TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:	\$ 1,244
TOTAL EXPENSES & DISBURSEMENTS:	\$ 141,644

CARRYFORWARD TO 2015:²

\$ 27,909

¹ Total expenses were 0.73% of total funds available for 2014.

² \$27,500 earmarked for 2015 food packing event.