



OCIMA

Overseas and Continental Independent Mercy Association
22050 MAUER DRIVE ST. CLAIR SHORES, MICHIGAN 48080 (586) 777-5605

November, 2005

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The year 2004 was an extraordinary one for us, for which we thank our generous donors. Our financial statement confirms this. You can readily see that the ratio of income to expenses shows how much of every dollar goes to the people for whom it was intended. We are very proud of our 100% volunteerism.

We began a new program this year — a program to feed the malnourished. We have already sent 100 boxes of food and have 400 boxes ready to be shipped. The 400 boxes contain 13,200 lbs. of dried food which when prepared yields 108,000 to 216,000 meals, depending on the ratio of children to adults. Last May, I held a young 12-year old girl in my arms. She weighed only 16 pounds. This is sinful. This severe malnutrition, especially among children, cannot be allowed to continue.

Because of government regulations placed upon the donor and the recipients of the food in Guatemala, we were unable to send the 400 boxes. Also, Sister Marcela who helps us distribute the food in Guatemala was injured in a terrible accident. She is now recuperating from multiple broken bones and serious injuries throughout her body. I went to Guatemala on November 8th, and coached another sister to take Sister Marcela's place so that at the beginning of 2006 we can send these boxes.

Our clinic in Santa Elena tripled in size by generous donations, is completed. The old part was refurbished to accommodate an x-ray machine which was donated by an Italian organization. The sisters are looking for ultrasound and mammography machines. For this we shall solicit aid from the German charitable organization called "Caritas" and Medishare in the United States. We shall have a first class clinic in the middle of a rain forest which will treat about 15,000 to 20,000 patients a year. We still care for 33 orphan girls there as well.

In Santa Rosa, Guatemala, the school year began in January with fanfare because of the updated computer system which puts our students on a par with any student anywhere in Guatemala. The classroom contains 25 up-to-date computers together with the needed software. Our residences there support 73 girls and 20 boys. We have now graduated our fourth class of teachers, 112 in all, in October. This means that they may return to their villages to teach children who would otherwise not have an education. For the first time, we also graduated a class of 27 young women and men in the fields of tourism and hotel management. Tourism is fast becoming the main source of income for Guatemala. Our program is a solid step toward providing employment opportunities for our students.

All this is quite an accomplishment, we think. We ask you to continue to be as generous with your help as you have been in the past.

The holiday season is fast approaching and, as usual, we wish you and your families holy and holly feasts. May God bless you all.

Sincerely,

Fr. Nicholas H. Amico

FINANCIAL REPORT — 2004

<u>INCOME:</u>	Donations:	\$ 243,107
	Carryover from 2003:	58
	Expenses:	(357) ¹
	TOTAL:	\$ 242,808

DISTRIBUTIONS OF FUNDS COLLECTED:

Ecuador:

- | | |
|---|-----------|
| 1. Donation to finance the bank which lends money to the poor | \$ 10,000 |
| 2. Ongoing projects for human development | 31,885 |

Guatemala:

- | | |
|---|---------|
| 1. Residences and schooling plus room and board for Santa Rosa and Guatemala City | 67,800 |
| 2. Clinic and van to Santa Elena | 119,000 |
| 3. Food and transportation costs | 14,000 |

TOTAL: \$ 242,685

CARRYOVER TO 2005: \$ 123

¹ Expenses are 0.15% of total income for the year.