



OCIMA

Overseas and Continental Independent Mercy Association

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www.ocimaya.org

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November 2018

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

It is hard to write a letter that truly depicts the work that is being accomplished in Guatemala and Ecuador as a result of your generous and continued support. I have now been to Guatemala twice, and both times, I have been humbled by the Sisters' tireless efforts and what they are able to achieve with so little.

Below is a communication from Sister Silvia at the school in Santa Rosa. Although it is in broken English, it is far more powerful in expressing the obstacles the people face on a daily basis and the overwhelming gratitude they have for the humanity and generosity we share through OCIMA.



Appreciable All

I salute you cordially in the hope that all of you will enjoy health, enthusiasm and dedication in the mission you perform at the service of the community and in the social works that it accompanies with so much love.

We are part of this great family that you keep active with care and sacrifice: God will pay you. We are to conclude the academic year 2018, in the month of November there are the graduations and the ladies return to their homes.

Outstanding moments: A sixth-grade lady died her mother. The family lives in a remote area in the municipality of Barberena, she enjoyed full scholarship in the boarding school and in the CENSE. Thank God the young woman now has a bilingual teacher's diploma, which allows her to practice as a teacher and defend herself in life: she is a very good person and responsible.

There are also two young girls (sisters). We discovered that they were raped by their stepfather. The Public Ministry agreed that they would be with us to continue studying as we proceeded to investigate the case. They are small gestures of solidarity that allow girls, in their fragility as a woman, to continue struggling to break barriers, prejudices, humiliations.

These are some of the real situations that bring us closer to the basic necessities of the problems that some families live and in which we have to assume, share and heal. You are the throbbing heart that beats and transmits life to the home "Saint Catherine of Siena". Your support makes real and effective the attention to the weakest.

Say thank you, that is, express gratitude for the joy, the hope to keep walking, with the certainty that the Lord multiplies his blessings in his families and his work. Thank you.

Here are some pictures.

With affection and appreciation the sisters and ladies, we salute you.



These are just some of the faces that your generosity helps make smile. We also continue to work with the sisters who run the Clinic, Orphanage, Day Care Center and Nutritional Center where the needs are just as great, or greater. And we continue to help in Ecuador through micro-coops and healthcare at “Un Canto a la Vida” hospital in Southern Quito. The work that our founder, Fr. Nick, started continues; however, the work to be continued is tremendous.

Thank you to all for your support!!!!!!!!!!!!

Larry Gatt — OCIMA, President

FINANCIAL REPORT — 2017

FUNDS AVAILABLE:

Donations:		\$ 89,546	¹
Raffle Proceeds:		27,794	²
2017 Endowment Fund Distribution to OCIMA:		6,640	
Carryover from 2016:		1,500	
TOTAL FUNDS AVAILABLE:		\$ 125,480	

PROJECT DISBURSEMENTS:

1. GSFEPP (Ecuador)		\$ 18,000	
2. School in Chapas, Santa Rosa		33,750	
3. Nutritional Center in Morales		24,000	
4. Clinic, Orphanage and Day Care Center in Santa Elena		48,000	
TOTAL PROJECT DISBURSEMENTS:		\$ 123,750	

EXPENSES:³

1. Postage, Printing, P.O. Box, bank/license fees, annual audit		\$ 1,728	
TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES:		\$ 1,728	³
TOTAL EXPENSES & DISBURSEMENTS:		\$ 125,478	

<u>CARRYFORWARD TO 2018:</u>		\$ 2	
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¹ Excludes \$13,294 in donations made during raffle (i.e., no ticket purchases). Also excludes value of donated raffle prize.

² Includes \$13,294 in donations, ticket sales of \$17,500, reduced by \$3,000 cash prize. All other raffle expenses were donated.

³ Total expenses were 1.38% of total funds available for 2017.