



THE SHALOM FOUNDATION

Volume 1, Issue 4

Year in Review 2006

*"I will not forget you. Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands."
—1 John 3:17-18*



*"For the ministry of this service is not only supplying the needs of the saints, but is also overflowing in many acts of thanksgiving to God."
- 2 Cor. 8:12*

Healing Hands: Partnership Gives Hope

*By Jessica Howard Ennis
Reprinted with permission*

Guatemala is a country in Central America that is slightly smaller than the size of Missouri with the majority of its 14.2 million people living below the poverty line. It is a country full of children -- more than half the population is under the age of 18 and malnutrition and lack of quality health care makes growing up healthy in this country a daunting task.

Children born here have the odds stacked against them. Life expectancy at birth is the lowest in all of Central America, and infant mortality rate is the highest. Nearly half of the country's children under the age of 5 have stunted growth, one of the worst performances for growth attainment in the world.

The plight of Guatemala's children has garnered the attention of worldwide medical and humanitarian communities. The Monroe



Carell Jr. Children's Hospital has chosen Guatemala City as the formal site for medical aid for children, and

recently completed the first official surgical trip.

A team of 14 surgeons, doctors, nurses and staff members from Children's Hospital screened patients and performed 37 pediatric urologic surgeries on children at San Sebastian Hospital in Guatemala City Feb. 5-11.

"The medical component of our work at Shalom is really going to be the most important thing we end up doing in the next five to 10 years," said Steve Moore, president of The Shalom Foundation. "I have a great respect for the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital team - the dedication of the nurses and doctors and their commitment to care is amazing. The international impact of this partnership will literally affect thousands of lives and we're very excited about that."

Team Members Return From Building Homes In Guatemala

In addition to the two surgery trips with Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, two Shalom Foundation construction trips were also scheduled in 2006.

With luggage in hand and tools in tow, a team

of 30 individuals set out together to build homes in the Paraiso and Santa Faz neighborhoods in Guatemala City, Guatemala May 26 through June 2. The team was expecting to build 7 houses for families living in inadequate shelter

and general extreme poverty, however, what they encountered was much more.

"As we embarked on our journey of homebuilding for the week, I was focused on getting the homes that we came to

Team Members *(continued)*

build constructed and ready for use," reflects team member Tami Harris, "But God quickly taught me the first day that the families and our interaction with them would be a key part of our trip also. We were there to build up the community through the construction of homes but also to lift up the people we met in the process."

Team members, ranging in age from 15 to 66, started the week by participating in worship at Shalom Church, located in the heart of one of the poorest communities in the city. The team was greeted with boundless love

and incredible gratefulness as Tami remembers, "As we prayed for them, they had been praying for us all along also!"

The team of 30, representing 12 different churches and five denominations, worked during the day to build homes for the Guatemalan families. In the late afternoons, team members were involved in community outreach and evangelism where several decisions for Christ were made. The team concluded their trip on June 3, but the mission continues as the team seeks out more sponsors for the children they met during their stay. To date, members from this

team have found sponsors for 10 children from the Critical Needs list.

A second construction team left July 22 to work on part of the expansion at Shalom School. Because of the nature of the work, this "family trip" allowed younger teens, specifically 13 and 14 years old, to travel with their parents and serve in Guatemala.

The success of these trips can be seen in the grateful smiles of the Guatemalan children and in the lives of the team members that have been changed forever. We thank each of you for your prayers and support for these trips.

Healing Hands: Partnership Gives Hope to Poverty-Stricken Guatemala

Specifically with Shalom, Children's Hospital has committed to help create sustainable programs to provide health care services; educate the community on health issues; provide staffing for surgical trips; and share technology and information related to advances in health care in the country.



The February team said the patients left a lasting impression on them. One mother traveled 8 hours by bus with her 8-month old baby who needed a procedure. After the surgery, she made the long trip home with her baby.

"All the kids tugged at our hearts," one team member said. Added the lead surgeon, Dr. Brock, "I am truly indebted to the many outstanding people who gave so much of themselves to make this mission a successful reality."

November brings another exciting time in the growth of this initiative. On November 4, a team of 17 surgeons, doctors and nurses as well as two Shalom Foundation representatives depart on the second scheduled surgery mission trip.

The team will focus on 3 areas of specialty: ear, nose and throat cases, head and neck masses, and facial plastic surgery such as cleft lip and pallets.

As of November 1, the team had nearly 90 children scheduled for consultation which will result in up to 45 scheduled surgeries.

The team returns home to the US on November 12.

"The international impact of this partnership will literally affect thousands of lives. "

-Steve Moore, President of The Shalom Foundation



Health Statistics: A Snapshot of Guatemala

- Guatemala's population is approximately 14.2 million people, with 4-5 million living in Guatemala City. **Fifty percent** of the country's population is **under the age of 18**.
- A significant share, 59%, of Guatemalan residents lack access to **any** healthcare services.
- In terms of diseases, major causes of death in Guatemala still include **treatable** and communicable diseases such as diarrhea, pneumonia, malnutrition and tuberculosis.
- Guatemala has among the **worst performances** in the world

in terms of child growth attainment, with an overall stunting rate of **44%** of all children under 5. Only Bangladesh and Yemen have higher stunting rates.

- Over four-fifths of the women in the poorest quintile give **birth at home**, where they lack sanitary conditions for safe delivery.

- Population below poverty line: **75%**

Population living in extreme poverty: **16%**

- Life expectancy at birth in Guatemala is the lowest in all of Central America and infant mortal-

ity is the highest.

- Even when health facilities are present, most lack medicines, staff and equipment to treat patients.



Can You Help Us Meet This Need?

The Foundation is in need of financial support for the **Food for Thought** program for the 2007 school year. Half of the students who attend Shalom School are **malnourished**. We know that children cannot learn when their bodies are hungry. This program provides well-balanced meals at lunchtime to students suffering from lack of nutrition. Currently the program is feeding 346 children, and costs more than \$25,000 per year.

Please consider sponsoring a day, a week, or a month of the Food for

Thought program in 2007.

You can help feed more than **300 children for a day for only \$125; \$625 will feed more than 300 children for a week; and \$2,500 will feed them for a month.**

Consider making this a family, Sunday school class, church or company project. Bring you and your friends together in a common purpose and experience the joy of sharing in service with the ones you love.

If you can help, please contact Jacqueline Swartz at 615-595-5811 or via email at jswartz@theshalomfoundation.org.

Thank You!



- Shalom School is in need of a digital camera (4 megapixel or something similar is hoped for). This camera will be used to take pictures of children in need of sponsorships and to upload pictures to the website. The camera will also be used to take photos for new sponsorship packets that are

created each month as well as photos of mission teams and the families we serve.

- The Foundation is in need of 30-50 folding or stacking chairs for use at the Shalom Foundation office in Franklin. The chairs are needed to provide seating for mis-

sion team meetings.

Please contact Jacqueline Swartz at 615-595-5811 or jswartz@theshalomfoundation.org if you are able to assist in any way.

THE SHALOM FOUNDATION

115 Penn Warren Drive
Suite 300-305
Brentwood, TN 37027

Phone: 615-595-5811
Email: jswartz@theshalomfoundation.org

About Us

The Shalom Foundation is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization dedicated to providing financial support for underprivileged children and their families in the United States, Central and South America.

We are dedicated to providing basic educational opportunities, home construction and repair for families at risk, essential food and clothing needs and medical support and assistance for critical as well as basic healthcare.

The Shalom Foundation seeks funding through personal donations, corporate contributions and special event fundraisers. Contributions to The Shalom Foundation are 100% tax deductible.



www.theshalomfoundation.org

YES! I want to support the ministries of The Shalom Foundation.



Check one: MC Visa Check

Name on Card: _____

Name: _____

Card Number: _____

Address: _____

Expiration Date: _____

Address: _____

3-Digit Code on Back of Card: _____

City ST Zip: _____

Your Signature: _____

Phone: _____

Charge Amount: \$ _____

Email: _____

Please make checks payable to **THE SHALOM FOUNDATION**
PMB 305, 115 Penn Warren Dr, Ste 300, Brentwood, TN 37027 USA

THANK YOU!