



grassroots

your Curamericas Global newsletter

OUR MISSION

Curamericas Global partners with underserved communities to make measurable and sustainable improvements in their health and well-being.

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New Birth Clinic Provides Care for All

Calhuitz Casa Materna, or Maternity Center, is a community-based, culturally-sensitive center where Guatemalan women can receive prenatal care and safely give birth attended by skilled health personnel. Completed in 2010 with the help and support of Curamericas Global volunteers and donors, the Casa has become an icon of health, and women travel from surrounding areas to receive the quality life-saving care the Casa Materna staff provides.

Women who have given birth in the Casa Materna know firsthand that receiving care at the Casa is safer than giving birth at home and that the mother and child both have a better chance of survival. They have shared their experiences with other women, ensuring the positive reputation of the Casa Materna is reaching families in the remote towns that comprise our project region.

The Casa Materna is more than a birthing clinic, however. The professional staff also provides growth monitoring, health education and outreach,



A Casa Materna staff person reviews medical and nutritional information with a new mother.

vaccinations, vitamins, and other basic maternal and child health care. Health personnel also refer patients to other health facilities in cases of emergency, as well as providing community transport to a hospital. Families are learning that they can trust the staff at the Casa Materna and will even seek their professional advice for continued medical attention.

In rural communities such as Calhuitz, there is a strong cultural resistance to going to

a hospital. Through donor support, Curamericas is providing educational outreach opportunities to help local people understand that going

to a health facility is not to be feared. For example, Ana, a Casa Materna Health Associate who grew up in the area, is able to understand why many families choose to stay at home and risk near-certain death over going to an unknown facility for care. Her connection to the native population helps them

overcome their fears and see the Casa Materna as a vital part of the community.

Thanks to Curamericas' supporters, over 100 mothers have safely given birth to babies since the grand opening of the Casa Materna last year. For more information about the Casa Materna, contact Erin Pfeiffer, Guatemala Project Manager, at (877) 510-8747 or at erin@curamericas.org.

Curamericas Global is a donor-supported organization. Support our efforts to make a lasting impact on the health and well-being in underserved communities around the world... with your donation today! It's safe. It's fast. It's online. Look for the button...

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Making an Impact...

... in Bolivia

Curamericas Global first began working in Bolivia in 1983. Through implementation of a USAID child survival project, we addressed the primary causes of morbidity and mortality through interventions related to immunizations, diarrhea and pneumonia case management,



nutrition, and maternal and newborn care. And we continue to work with our partner, Andean Rural Health Council (CSRA), one of Bolivia's leading non-governmental

organizations. CSRA has been working diligently in the city of Montero and in the city of El Alto to provide primary health care and community-based services in these disadvantaged areas. The Bolivian government is very interested in many of the projects that CSRA is

implementing and in finding ways to replicate them on a national level.

Curamericas Global volunteers continue to offer a helping hand at the

local clinics, providing direct care, education and outreach. For more information about volunteering, contact Andrew Herrera at (877) 510-8747 or at andrew@curamericas.org.

... in Haiti

In 2009, the US President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) awarded Curamericas Global \$2.2 million over three years to partner with a local organization to provide preventive HIV services for women.

Curamericas worked with Management and Resources for Community Health (MARCH) and now with King's Hospital in Port-au-Prince to aggressively and creatively address serious HIV prevention service gaps with a community-based approach in an effort to lower the devastating HIV incidence in this country.

Local Haitian peer educators lead educational sessions for adults and youth while also providing follow-up with each person in their district who has been infected with HIV or other sexually-transmitted disease.



This relationship assures appropriate care, treatment and referral for various health needs.

Along with King's Hospital, Curamericas is serving both men and women in surrounding communities, especially tent cities that have built up around the hospital. As we complete the last year of our project, we are looking for continued funding for our partnership in Haiti.

For more information about our work in Haiti, contact Roger Follas at (877) 510-8747 or at roger@curamericas.org.

Curamericas Volunteers Save a Life

This past winter, six nursing students from Florida Gulf Coast University in Fort Myers, Florida, traveled to Guatemala for an alternate spring break trip to support our partners and provide services to six rural mountain communities. These volunteers provided training on the prevention of post-birth bleeding (the number one cause of maternal mortality in the region) and a demonstration of critical resuscitation skills for newborns. They were also able to facilitate health activities in remote Mayan communities, easing the tremendous workload

of the local staff members. Not only did these volunteers provide over 245 health services for women and children, they also offered critical support to an emergency situation.

During that week, seven year-old Diego fell from his roof — a 15-foot drop — and landed on his head. His family quickly brought him to the Casa Materna for help, and the staff requested support from the visiting nursing students. His head injury was serious and needed attention, but the nearest hospital was more than six hours away. The distance

and cost of going to the hospital made the staff recommendation seem impossible. Several hours passed with Diego's health rapidly deteriorating; and the family was ready to give up, resigned to the fact that Diego would very likely die from his injuries.

However, the students rallied the community, collecting the necessary funds to make the trek to the hospital. Two days later, volunteers followed up with the Diego and his family at their home. The students performed a follow-



Courtney and Carissa performing a well-baby check-up

up exam and instructed the family on what was needed for Diego to fully recover from the accident. Thanks to the volunteer team, Diego is once again healthy, safe, and happy — as a seven year-old should be.

Making an Impact... (cont.)

... in Guatemala

Since 2003 Curamericas Global has been working with our local partner, Curamericas-Guatemala, in rural Mayan communities in the country's northwest mountain region. The area is frequently called the "Triangle of Death" because of the extreme maternal and child mortality rates.



Through a USAID child survival project grant, we have laid the foundation for our work to strengthen the local health system and improve maternal and child health.

To further our efforts, Curamericas received grants to develop the knowledge of local health personnel. The United Methodist Committee on Relief (UMCOR) provided \$10,000 to train nurses and health educators about the transmission and prevention of HIV/AIDS with an emphasis on approaches that will be effective in their communities.

We also received a grant of \$29,529 from the Weyerhaeuser Family Foundation for an intensive clinical training on essential maternal and neonatal care for nurses and health educators.

For more information about our work in Guatemala, contact Erin Pfeiffer at (877) 510-8747 or at erin@curamericas.org.

... in Liberia

Curamericas Global was awarded a USAID Child Survival grant to implement a child survival project in Nimba County, Liberia over five years, starting in October 2008. We work with our in-country partner, Ganta United Methodist Hospital, to serve a population of nearly 150,000 in north-central Liberia near the Guinea border.

A component of the child survival project is our Water and Sanitation project, began in January 2010. Curamericas' supporters have contributed to this project in many ways, such as providing materials to build wells and latrines in more than 60 communities. Educational opportunities made possible through a grant from Ronald McDonald House Charities have allowed us to teach proper hand washing techniques, proper maintenance for the

water pumps and hand washing stations, water treatment and waste disposal.

Donor support has created access to sustainable water and sanitation systems for thousands of men, women and children in Liberia. For more information on our project in Liberia, contact Bakary Sidibe at (877) 510-8747 or at bakary@curamericas.org.



YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

VOLUNTEER.

For more information about volunteering — with your business, your church or community organization, or by yourself — contact Andrew Herrera at (877) 510-8747 or at andrew@curamericas.org.

DONATE.

Simply use the enclosed pre-addressed envelope to mail your check made payable to *Curamericas Global* or fill in your credit card information, if you prefer. Credit card donations can also be made at our website, www.curamericas.org.

To make a gift of stock or if you remembered Curamericas Global in your will, please contact Maria Hernandez at (877) 510-8747 or at maria@curamericas.org.



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Making an Impact

One Community at a Time

Curamericas' work spans the globe and touches someone's life in one way or another every day. Each day, we strive to put into action the compassion and generosity represented by your gifts.

Curamericas Global isn't a single issue organization, because people don't live single issue lives. We work alongside communities as they address diverse but related concerns, such as water and sanitation, HIV/AIDS, maternal and infant healthcare.

Our work is challenging, but together and with your support, we can create opportunities and overcome obstacles that will affect thousands of lives. We hope you're excited to learn more and become involved.

So let us know what you think of our efforts and share your ideas with us. We look forward to hearing from you.

Jaime Carrillo, Executive Director
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Your gifts help to fund our efforts to make a lasting impact on the health and well-being in underserved communities around the world. Thank you for your steady support. Everything we achieve around the world depends on you!



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