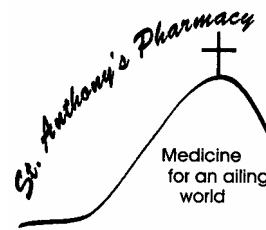


# St. Anthony's Pharmacy

July 2001



*The crisis in Nicaragua underscored the power of modern communication through email, fax and Internet. It was the rapidity of the response and its sheer volume from people like you that literally mobilized an international response within weeks, forcing the current Nicaraguan government to allow the clinic to reopen.*

## From the Founder: *Jim Tryon, M.D.*

This has been an active year for us, as I'm sure you'll see by the articles in our newsletter. We've expanded our areas of service to Guatemala and Mexico, and are continuing in Nicaragua and Haiti. We've also decided to send our newsletter in the summer. We have found that since our fiscal year ends in May we have a lot more to report then.

This year St. Anthony's is 9 years old. We began in Bosnia, where we first responded to a crisis that the war presented, then hammered out our process and defined our mission. Now we continue with a more methodical, board-directed approach to the pharmacy's mission and purpose.

Our involvement with the Mexican village of La Colorada Rancho was a new step for us. The Board asked "How can a non-profit pharmacy contribute to purchasing a water pump? After much good-natured debate we decided that clean, reliable water is so basic it can be considered a drug, like oxygen is, in medicine. Clean water is necessary for drinking, mixing medicines and infant formulas. And, certainly, contaminated water is more costly in the long run when it causes water-borne diseases. In the end we came to an amicable consensus about contributing to the purchase of the new pump. I think the pictures of the fiesta held the day the pump was installed vindicated our decision. Certainly, after spending an afternoon with an

exuberant Mary Quinalty, our contact in the village, there could be little doubt! Our two organizations share a common vision that is so invigorating.

I am especially excited about our relationship with the Behrhorst Clinic in Guatemala. Here we find St. Anthony's returning to its roots, providing support for basic medicines in rural villages. Once again we learn that the people are innovative and hard working, and can thrive if they have access to basic resources. I will be visiting this newest St. Anthony's project in November to make the personal connections that we've discovered are so necessary to sustain the effort, and guarantee our success. In this effort like in Mexico, we find ourselves partnering with another established organization to more effectively. We feel that this will actually make your dollar stretch farther by avoiding the overhead we would have needed to expand into Guatemala alone.

It should also be evident, as you read about "The Cloud over Mulukuku", that our project in Nicaragua, may be in jeopardy. The attack on Dorothy Granada by the Nicaraguan government reminds us of how grass roots efforts at self-help can be threatening to the existing establishment. This is something we must continue to be aware of not just in Nicaragua, but also in Haiti and Guatemala. As this newsletter goes to press we have Dustin Cole a very committed medical student spending a week

with Dorothy in the clinic in order to assess the long term viability of our ongoing commitment there. The most current information we have to date indicates that Dorothy, St. Anthony's medical consultant at the clinic, may not have her visa renewed in September, so she may not be able to return to the clinic. We have been providing \$20,000 annually to the pharmacy under her watchful eye, and we will have to make sure that such support can continue without interference should she be forced to leave.

One last plea before closing: The crisis in Nicaragua underscored the power of modern communication through email, fax and Internet. It was the rapidity of the response and its sheer volume from people like you that literally mobilized an international response within weeks, forcing the current Nicaraguan government to allow the clinic to reopen. We realize how important it is to be able to instantly communicate with you if such a crisis were to arise again.

**Accordingly we ask that each on you fill out the new section on our pledge card with your email address or email us with it at [trybalcon@aol.com](mailto:trybalcon@aol.com).**

So...Mexico, Nicaragua, Haiti, Guatemala...all wonderful projects thanks to you. There is nothing magic about it, though. We're just a small organization with an unbelievably committed cadre of supporters and, at the moment, virtually no overhead. The key to our success is commitment and continuity.

Thank you all, again, for your donations and letters! And, please

### *In this Issue*

A Cooperative Effort with the Behrhorst Partners for Development in Guatemala	2
A Cloud Over Mulukuku	3
Haiti: Three Ongoing Projects in 2000-2001	4
It Takes a Pump: Irrigation Water Flows Anew in Mexico	5
A Tremendous Welcome for Dorothy in Mulukuku	6

# Improving Maternal & Child Health in Guatemala: *A Cooperative effort*

In 1970 one of our board members, Dr. Janette Carter spent six months as a volunteer at the Behrhorst Clinic in Chimaltenango, Guatemala. The experience was so life changing for her that she decided to become a doctor. Throughout her career as an internal medicine physician she has maintained her contacts with the clinic. It was through Dr. Carter that we learned of the Maternal Health and Child Project that the Behrhorst Partners for Development are beginning.

The Maternal Health and Child Survival Project is focused on the timely delivery of cost-effective care through the training of 50 community health promoters (CHP) and traditional birth attendants (TBA) to attend normal deliveries and recognize when women need specialized care. In rural Chimaltenango, most maternal deaths are related to severe hemorrhage, obstructed labor or sepsis due to poor hygienic conditions. Most newborns die from asphyxiation during difficult and long labors or infection. The program will help prevent these unnecessary deaths by training CHP and TBAs to provide

curative and preventive health care. The program will also provide information about access to family planning



**High quality health care for women and their newborns is the goal of this program**

services, as birth spacing has been shown to have a direct impact on reducing both maternal and infant death rates.

St. Anthony's role is to provide the funding for the community pharmacies in the twenty participating villages so that each TBA and CHP will have access to a stock of

common medications such as antibiotics, multi-vitamins, folic acid, iron, anti-fungal agents, anti-helminth agents and oral rehydration packets. Included in this budget will be some items such as gauze, soap, and umbilical cord string. We have projected an initial investment of \$10,000 for the first year for medicines. Other sources of funding will pay for the 50 traditional birth attendants at \$80/TBA and 50 community health promoters at \$120/CHP.

We at St. Anthony's believe this program embodies all of our goals as an organization and we are very excited to be a part of it. In a country which has one of the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in the Western Hemisphere (surpassed only by Haiti and Bolivia) programs of this nature are desperately needed. Most importantly of all this program partners with the local villagers involving them in all aspects of the planning and implementation. We hope that this will ensure its success.

The hard work of the villagers combined with the generosity of friends and donors can help to change the lives of future generations.

*This project is an innovative and comprehensive approach to maternal and child health which empowers indigenous Mayan communities to take control of community health decisions on the village level.*

Want to know more about the Behrhorst Partners for Development? You can read about them at their web site: [www.behrhorst.org](http://www.behrhorst.org)

## **"Doc" Behrhorst: A Pioneer**



**D**r. Carroll Behrhorst was a medical missionary for the Lutheran Church who created a medical program in

Chimaltenango, Guatemala to meet the needs of the Kaqchiquels, an indigenous people living in the Guatemala Highlands. The Behrhorst Partners for Development was incorporated in 1967 to provide financial support for his work.

In 1995 the BPD expanded its mission to support many important Guatemalan programs that have as their goal the treatment of problems related to poverty, illiteracy and the high rates of infant and maternal death.

The work of Dr. Behrhorst in developing innovative approaches to deliver health and community development services to the peoples of the highland region won accolades from the World Health Organization in 1976 as one of the 10 global models of primary health care in the world. After his death

nearly a decade ago the BPD has



**Hand woven wall hanging made by Guatemalan women associated with the Maternal and Child Survival Project**

*"Because of my privileged position being a gringa...and being able to call forth tremendous support in the US and internationally, I was not jailed, disappeared, raped, tortured or killed as have so many in the struggle for human rights throughout the history of Latin America. Thus, the experience was a gift that deepened my understanding of what it means to accompany the poor."*

Dorothy Granada

## A Cloud over Mulukuku: *The Silver Lining*

The past eight months have been like a roller coaster for the Maria Luisa Ortiz Women's Center in Mulukuku, a rural community in central Nicaragua, that St. Anthony's has been sending medicines to for the past three years.

On November 14, 2000 President Arnoldo Alemán closed the clinic and threatened to arrest all of the clinic directors on the trumped up charge that the clinic was serving only members of the opposition Sandinista party. On December 8, 2000 government troops went to the home of Dorothy Granada, the clinic's director for the past 11 years and a nurse from Santa Cruz, California to arrest her in a surprise, predawn raid. Fearing for her life and certain of deportation, Dorothy had gone into hiding the day before. With the closure of the clinic, all health care was cut off to its 30,000 patients.

There began a real life drama that was both spellbinding and indicative of the power of international support. Grassroots organizations of supporters who were friends of the clinic flew into action including St. Anthony's. By late November, emails, faxes, and letters of support had flooded the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Embassy in Managua.

Articles on Dorothy Granada and her predicament appeared in Nicaraguan newspapers El Nuevo Diario and La Prensa. Key Nicaraguans including Vilma Nuñez, head of the human rights commission CENIDH, and Ana Quiroz, head of the Coordinadora Civil, a network of 400 non-

governmental organizations from civil society, came to Dorothy's support.

On January 23, 2001 Gerry Hadden, NPR's correspondent for Latin America, interviewed Dorothy Granada on its popular news program "Morning Edition". The 5-½ minute report also included interviews with one of Dorothy's cancer patients in Mulukuku, with an important leader of the Coordinadora Civil, Ana Quiros, and with Sandinista presidential candidate Daniel Ortega.

The powerful Amnesty International became involved as international awareness of the situation developed. Dorothy appeared on Nicaraguan television.

In the end justice triumphed, at least temporarily. Under tremendous pressure, President Alemán allowed the clinic to reopen provisionally for 3 months on March 8<sup>th</sup>. For Dorothy's part she wrote us in a recent letter, "My (deportation) case is in the Supreme Court. If it rules in my favor, I can stay until my visa expires on September 9<sup>th</sup>. If they rule against me, I am out immediately. I will apply for my visa to be renewed in July and hope I can get it. However, the President has promised that it will not be issued. If that happens, I leave 9/09 and work in the States for the Clinic and pray for another government at the elections in November."

In order for the clinic to stay open it must hire a full-time physician and lab technician and a part-time pharmacist. Dorothy writes, "I am worried about money and hope we don't have to cut

programs." Despite all of this she says that the recent and continuing problems with the Government have only strengthened the clinic.

As is often the case, this drama has highlighted the needs of the poor in Nicaragua. Their neglect and abuse at the hands of the current government has been exposed to people around the world. The conflict has united Nicaraguans. That is the silver lining in this cloud of persecution.

In July we will send Dustin Cole a first year medical student at the University of New Mexico School of Medicine to the clinic for a site visit. Among other things, Dustin will take donated computer hardware and software that will allow Dorothy via satellite phone (since there are no phones in all of Mulukuku) to utilize Center For Disease Control data and information so that she can begin tracking her patients and keep updated records. This will allow ongoing analysis of how they are doing in the fight against some diseases like cervical cancer in women.

Most importantly, the clinic must stay open to serve the needs of the desperately poor. St.



For an in depth, on going update on Dorothy and the Maria Luisa Ortiz Women's Clinic interested members are directed to their web site  
[www.peacehost.net/dorothy](http://www.peacehost.net/dorothy)

Anthony's has made a commitment to this clinic to be



**Yes!** I want to help these little girls and others like them with a gift of medicine and essential health items in the coming year.

Enclosed is a donation of

\$50 \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 \_\_\_\_\_ \$150 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is a pledge in the amount of \$10.00 a month for one year to support St. Anthony's mission beginning \_\_\_\_\_.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

*I write to you from Haiti, a country that seems to sink even deeper into poverty, despair and anarchy. Without St. Anthony's there would be nothing there in that dusty crossroad.*

Sarah Hackett, RN

*This is a country with an economic profile similar to those in war situations.*

Dr. Cadet Wilfrid

## Haiti: Three Ongoing Projects in 2000-2001

This past fiscal year St. Anthony's has supported three separate projects in Haiti.

### **Clinique de la Santé Familiale**

We continued our ongoing support of the Clinique de la Santé Familiale in Fonds des Blancs sending them \$6500. Sarah Hackett, the American nurse who runs the clinic reports to us that in order to improve their efficiency they have abandoned the on site surgery that they were trying to perform and instead the clinic pays the round trip bus fare of \$2.40 to the Fond des Negres Hospital, a Salvation Army Hospital an hour away. There Dr. Lolange performs 12-20 vasectomies and tubal ligations once a month for the clinic. Dr. Lolange will also perform other small surgeries at his office 2 hours away. The clinic pays him \$30 for each procedure so that he can buy gloves, suture and gasoline to run the generator for the lights and sterilization of instruments.

The clinic's community outreach worker gives one health related presentation a week travelling to different villages by mule. Their goal is to improve outreach by the purchase of a used motorcycle.

One of the marvelous developments that has occurred as a result of our involvement with this clinic is the formation of Haiti Projects in Albuquerque, New Mexico. One of our board members, Susanna Taylor has opened a small mail order business out of her home selling



A member of the women's sewing cooperative

hand crocheted night gowns, table cloths, napkins and other items that women in the co-op have made. All profits are returned to the co-op giving the women much needed cash and a US outlet for their goods. You can reach Susanna for more information at [btaylor184@aol.com](mailto:btaylor184@aol.com).

### **Pediatric Ward in Port Au Prince**

This year we sent \$3000 to the Pediatric Ward of a hospital in Port Au Prince. The money was sent directly to Dr Cadet Wilfrid a physician who completed his training in the US and returned to his native Haiti to practice pediatrics.

In a letter to us Dr. Cadet wrote "the poorest patients still need

support and now more than ever. This is a country with an economic profile similar to those in war situations. In fact, for the past year we have received some 6000 patients in need of antibiotics. Deaths are generally due to lack of antibiotics. ...On behalf of the children and everyone here in the Pediatric Ward I am delighted to thank you for the generous gift you have made to us."

### **Humanity for Haiti.**

This year we renewed our commitment to support HPH with a check for \$10,000. Our donation was for their healthcare project. The project is being implemented in three central Haitian counties, Bucan Carre, Las Cahobas and Sodo with the greatest focus on nutrition. One certified nurse and a group of healthcare promoters assess malnourished children, supply the family with food and education and follow up on a monthly basis. They also teach



Dr. Lolange consults with a patient before surgery at the Clinique de la Santé



**St. Anthony's Pharmacy  
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Albuquerque, NM 87114**

St. Anthony's Pharmacy is a 501 (c) 3 foundation

# It Takes a Pump: *Irrigation Water Flows Anew in Mexico*



Nine of 12 La Colorada landowners were present when the switch turned on the new water pump in April. Faces beamed as water gushed from the flow pipe into a dried-up irrigation canal, filling it for the first time since December. St. Anthony's contributed \$4,500 towards the purchase.

Archdiocese of Santa Fe and a health educator, has been living and working with 30 families in the town of La Colorada Rancho, state of Guanajuato Mexico. It was she who called fellow board member Bob to tell him of the plight of these villagers when the town's 20 year old irrigation pump failed.

Esperanza had designed a food program, along with medical services to make high yield, fast growing, protein-rich soy milk from soy beans for the village children. Without water at the beginning of the growing season, the villagers couldn't grow any crops, much less soybeans.

Esperanza immediately began a fund raising program. Their March 2001 newsletter tells the story: **St. Anthony's Comes Through!** We contributed \$4,500 to the \$10,000 project. The simple gift of water has made this community's dream come true.

*"St. Anthony's thank you so much for the generous gift to Esperanza, it literally saved the day."*

Frank Spencer  
President of  
Esperanza de  
Joaquin'

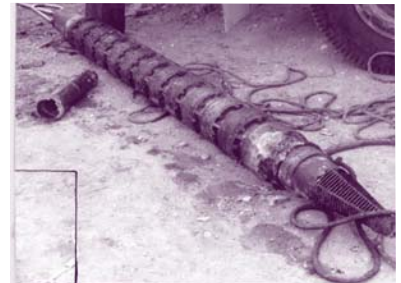
Your heart is a pump. It moves blood and "irrigates" your body. Your heart pumps life. An irrigation pump pumps life, too, because in arid Central Mexico without water there is no bean crop, no corn crop, no fodder crop. The absence of water, our very lifeblood threatens the existence of people, cattle, hogs and all domestic animals.

That is why St. Anthony's responded as it did when we received a phone call from long time St. Anthony's friends and

donors Bob and Virginia Flanagan pleading for help in solving a crisis for villagers in La Colorada Rancho, Mexico.

Bob is also a soybean researcher for a volunteer organization called Esperanza de Joaquin' which formed as an outreach network to foster and stress human dignity by improving the physical, emotional, social and spiritual health of villagers in rural Mexico. It was formed in honor of the late Father Joaquin' Martinez who dedicated his life's work to the same population.

Mary Quinalty, catechist in the



Dead! La cucaracha!  
This 20 year old bottom hole submersible water pump was replaced with a new REDA-type motorized electric pump.



Padre Joaquin' Dominez presides at a ceremony blessing the new pump on Sunday after it was installed

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## Tremendous Welcome for Dorothy In Mulukuku:

Excerpts from *El Nuevo Diario, Nicaragua 17 February 2001* by Joaquin Torres (translated into English by Julia Lutsky)

*What a wonderful time to be in Nicaragua! A sense of hope and pride is in the air. People who recently believed they no longer had options, now believe that by working together they can make positive changes. Human rights are center stage.*

If on Thursday afternoon [15 February] Dorothy Granada had been able to take hold of her popularity and her love for the people of Mulukuku she could have called forth a revolution and led an army of thousands. The office of mayor would have been too small for her. She had won the presidency of the streets.

Of course, no one put palm branches under her feet but little else was missing. She was received like a saint, a martyr, a heavenly messenger, a protecting mother, a star, a sun come to illuminate the lives of thousands. Everyone wanted something from her: an embrace, a kiss, a tear. That she touch and cure them with a touch of the hand.

It seemed like one of those chapters of a novel that draws rivers of tears. Only these were real, from mothers, daughters, sons and fathers. From the sick and the well. From an entire people who had been two months without her and who now wanted recover that time in one afternoon, enjoying

each moment as if it were the last.

"God bless her for coming here;" "Dorothy, welcome to your home;" "Dorothy is health;" "May the corrupt ones be gone, may Dorothy stay forever," said many of the posters and blankets carried by the thousands of people who went to meet her at the entrance to the town, with music, firecrackers, even with such militant slogans as "the people united will never be defeated."

There has been no such demonstration in Mulukuku in many years. Her improvised escorts tried to open the way so she could walk but every time they did more and more people joined in until they arrived at the Maria Luisa Ortiz Clinic, where Dorothy was received by another huge crowd of people.

The march was the beginning of an event that lasted more than three hours. Everyone wanted to say how much they loved her and how they had suffered without her. Everyone wanted to dance and sing.

In Mulukuku the surveys about Dorothy leave no margin for error.

Without any need for explanation, the responses are the same: "Dona Dorothy is good. She takes care of us and she helps us without looking to see to which party we might belong. They closed the clinic out of envy because they know she is both benevolent and very well known."

She walks with an energy and force that enable her to face a cancer as easily as a government, one such as that presided over by President Alemán which, when all was said and done, as she admits after the persecution she has undergone, has done her the favor of awakening solidarity both for her and for Mulukuku.

The human warmth shown her was tiring for her at times. But she, at 70 and having driven 242 kilometers [about 145 miles] from Managua to Mulukuku, shouted, danced, laughed and could not stop thanking people and saying, "you have stolen my heart. The lord is my God and you are my blessing."

"Thanks to communications media, to my friends who help me maintain this clinic and to you for