

# CAROLINA HONDURAS HEALTH FOUNDATION

## Newsletter – June 20, 2016



Dear Friends of CHHF,

At the CHHF Board of Directors meeting in May, the Board approved the acceptance of the offer to merge the on-going programs of Leonarda's Home of Hope into the CHHF programs. Since some of these programs overlapped the work of CHHF, more efficient services could be offered by merging the two charities. Founded in 2009 with the goals of building a suitable home for the orphans of Limon and of helping children in Honduras, LHOH had accomplished its primary goal and voted to dissolve last November. As a result of this merger, CHHF will be able to

- Continue seeking ways to improve the education of children in the area.
- Develop programs to improve public health in the communities which we serve.

**Board Changes** - Nurse Derinda Connor has served on the CHHF Board for seven years and has been Vice President for the past two years. Having first volunteered at our clinic in 2004, Derinda has been leading teams to Honduras from Ebenezer Baptist Church in Florence, SC. She rotates off the Board this year but will continue to lead teams to our clinics. Thank you, Derinda, for your faithful service!

Three new Board Members joined the CHHF Board of Directors in 2016. Dr. Susan Caldwell will chair the Community Development and Education Committee, seeking ways to develop partnerships with the communities in which we serve. The primary objective of this effort will be directed toward improved public health programs and ways to enhance the education of children. Dr. Young Choi, MD and Dr. Hugh Guffey, PhD will be working to establish eye care programs in Limón to include an eye surgery center. This program is vitally needed as there is no easily accessible eye care without significant travel and cost for patients in our area.

**Team Highlights** - Each year more than 200 medical volunteers and support staff finance their own trip and purchase necessary medical and pharmaceutical supplies in order to serve impoverished Hondurans desperate for quality medical care. Since its inception in 1995, CHHF has hosted up to 19 teams a year at our clinics serving over 10,000 patients. There are many stories of how the work of CHHF is serving the needs of the community; below are just a few of interest from our recent teams. Thanks to the Team Leaders and volunteers who have served.



At a remote clinic, this five year old described pain after having surgery on his arm. Nurses uncovered the sling to find a dirty, smelly bandage, two pins coming out of his elbow, and infection. Nurses and doctors irrigated and redressed the wound, then provided antibiotics. They recommended to the parents that the child see his surgeon as soon as possible. And the team was pleased to see a child who came in tearful and in pain, but who left smiling.

In mid-May within minutes of the team's arrival at the clinic, a request came for a house call. PA Vickie Glover and Nurse Shelly Thomas went to the home of a 96-year-old man. Diagnosing pneumonia, they gave antibiotics and asked that his family let them know how he progressed. Three days later he came to the clinic, bearing a huge bouquet of flowers for Vickie and Shelly.





At the Icoteas clinic in early June, a family sent a request that a doctor make a house call. There they found a man who had been bitten by a venomous pit viper. Previously the patient had seen a doctor but no anti-venom was available; thus the doctor made a long incision on the leg so that the poison could drain. After a day and a half, stitches were placed in the leg. Our doctor checked the wound and explained the importance of wound care to prevent infection; he told the family it would be three months before weight could be put on that leg.

Board member Hugh Guffey was at the clinic in late May. Accompanying Guffey were a number of volunteers who set up eye clinics. They gave eye exams and dispensed prescription glasses, reading glasses, and sunglasses. This service is greatly needed in the area which our clinic serves.



The team of Sandy van Leliveld had with them a dentist from Tegucigalpa. This dentist was busier than busy every day but had time to console this little patient. Dental care is another medical service badly needed in the area.



Volunteering at the clinic in Honduras provides opportunities for problem-solving tactics. As can be seen in these two photos, challenges such as loss of electricity and flat tires are overcome in order that “the work goes on.”



Words cannot express our thanks to the volunteers who use their vacation and pay their way to serve this need in Honduras. May God continue to watch over and guide our work and make us a blessing for the people we serve.

Sincerely,

N. K. Hook, Jr.  
President