

Impact Statement

2013



*Delivering compassionate
healthcare and the Gospel to the
most needy in the developing world*





HELPING HANDS Medical Missions Impact Statement 2013

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Dear Fellow Missionaries and Friends,

For the first time in a few years our missionary participation has increased! This is a wonderful testament to your steadfast love and dedication to the poor. This increase in participation has also led to an increase in the number of patients we have been able to serve. Despite some challenges this past year, HHMM continues to forge ahead in a spirit of Gospel Charity reaching hundreds of poor individuals and families with a message of faith, hope and love. As many of us know, it is not all about the numbers but about the love. Blessed Teresa of Calcutta reminds us, "I am not sure exactly what heaven will be like, but I know that when we die and it comes time for God to judge us, he will not ask, 'How many good things have you done in your life?' rather he will ask, 'How much love did you put into what you did?'"



This past year we have also been able to make new inroads into parts of the world that we have not previously been, areas that are in much need of our ministry. One of these new locations is Chiapas, Mexico. I participated in the mission this past spring. Yet, despite the wonderful success of our mission, I heard the sad plight of one family's struggles to make sense of the death of their daughter. Sadly, it's a story that I have heard too many times. It is a story of the "International Birth Control Police," preying on poor mothers and deceiving them into receiving various forms of birth control. I spoke with one mother who said her daughter died shortly after receiving the contraceptive drug Depo Provera. How sad! This does not have to happen.

This incident along with countless others like it, saddens me, but also motivates me to keep going, to keep fighting this grave injustice and to keep promoting Natural Family Planning as a safe and natural way to space children according to God's timing.

I was made aware of these same anti-life tactics at another mission site in Playa del Carman some time ago. It took a few years and some strategic planning, but we have now established an ongoing chastity and NFP Program with a local Catholic Church that employs local missionaries (see story on page 4). This chastity and NFP outreach program, started in 2011, is still going strong today with the help of our local missionaries. It is my hope that we can begin a program like it in Chiapas. I recently read that small, poor countries are bowing to the pressure from imperialist anti-life leaders to either accept contraception and abortion or lose international aid, i.e. funding. What is a poor country to do? We must do all we can to educate these poor countries with the truth that will help strengthen families, not destroy them. As Pope Francis reminds us, "the family [is], the foundation of coexistence and a remedy against social fragmentation." When we work to build up the family, we will in turn build up society. It is my prayer that we work to strengthen families, both at home and at our mission sites.

I thank you all for your participation in this great endeavor that we have been called to. I thank God for another great year and look forward to serving with you in 2014.

God bless,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lupita Assad, RN". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Lupita Assad, RN

Foundress and International Missions Coordinator

Bringing the Gospel of Life to the Poor – International Program Update



In 2010, Lupita Assad, Founder and International Mission Coordinator, along with Luis and Marta Oseguera, an NFP teaching couple from Texas, helped to establish a Natural Family Planning Program in the remote mission territory of the Yucatan Peninsula of Mexico. It was during the course of a Helping Hands Medical Mission that Lupita heard the heart wrenching stories

of women who suffered, and some who died, from using various forms of birth control “supplied” by the government. Since Catholic teaching on the sanctity of all human life is at the core of what Helping Hands does, Lupita knew she had to act fast to reverse this destructive force that had permeated much of the culture where these poor, simple people lived. During a subsequent mission, Lupita coordinated with a certified NFP teaching couple in Texas and they agreed to help train local NFP teaching couples who would in turn work with the poor throughout the mission territory.

To date, the program has been a great success. Much of this success is thanks to the coordinated efforts of a missionary priest, Father Higinio Izquierdo, and other Catholics who live in the area. As of June 30, 2013, the group has worked with over 160 people, in 8 different villages. In his travels, Father Higinio also continues to see things changing for the better. He sees a greater participation in the Sacraments and increased attendance at Mass. Father Higinio is grateful for the love and support of the missionaries and benefactors from the United States: to date almost \$10,000 has been raised for this program. The funds pay for the salary of the local Catholic professionals, transportation and materials.

We look forward to continuing this service to the poor and training others who will continue to pass on the solid Catholic moral teachings and the Natural Family Planning Billings Method for many years to come. Helping Hands will look to replicate the success of this program in Guatemala in 2013-2014.



Spotlight On The Missions – 5 Year Anniversary of HHMM in Ghana.



For over five years HHMM has been helping the people of Ghana, West Africa. This mission is one of the most challenging — both logistically and physically. It began in 2008 when a team of missionaries from Georgia went and it has been growing ever since. The people of Ghana are extremely poor, but they are grateful for the love and support they have received over these years. Working with Msgr. Simon Asamoah, the mission has had many accomplishments. Thousands of pounds of medical supplies have been sent to the area and many people have been served. The above letter is from the people of Ghana expressing their gratitude for the past five years of our missionary work.



Mission Statistics

Medical Missions Completed

Total Since 1996 – **113**

Mexico.....	42	Philippines	7
El Salvador	26	Ghana.....	6
Guatemala	18	Venezuela	3
Brazil.....	10	Dominican Republic.....	1

Mission Participants

Total Since 1996 – **3,127**

2013.....	207	2004.....	203
2012.....	181	2003.....	147
2011.....	217	2002.....	132
2010.....	270	2001.....	174
2009.....	205	2000.....	180
2008.....	273	1999.....	91
2007.....	316	1998.....	79
2006.....	235	1997.....	50
2005.....	227	1996.....	37

Surgeries Performed

Total Since 1996 – **3,250**

2013.....	142	2004.....	189
2012.....	113	2003.....	198
2011.....	140	2002.....	179
2010.....	261	2001.....	206
2009.....	165	2000.....	166
2008.....	229	1999.....	144
2007.....	270	1998.....	107
2006.....	189	1997.....	74
2005.....	182	1996.....	91

Dentistry Patients

Total Since 1996 – **13,856**

Ophthalmology Surgeries

Total Since 1996 – **154**

Selected Financial Information

Complete Audit Report
Available Upon Request

Independent audit conducted
by Carlos Reynoso, CPA

OPERATING REVENUE

	2011-12	2010-11
Mission Fees	\$ 104,204	\$ 107,794
Donations	\$ 109,823	\$ 133,536
Medical Volunteer Services	\$ 708,350	\$ 856,810
Donated Goods and Services	\$ N/A	\$ 301,560
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 922,377	\$ 1,399,700

OPERATING EXPENSES

Program Services	\$ 728,844	\$ 1,345,792
Administrative and General	\$ 46,369	\$ 37,287
Fundraising	\$ 11,249	\$ 13,911
Total Operating Expenses	\$ 786,462	\$ 1,396,990

Living the Mission Experience – A New Initiative Encouraging Other Missionaries, Past, Present and Future

In 2013, HHMM launched a new initiative that was aimed at inspiring and encouraging others to serve on a mission. Saint Timothy reminds us to, “proclaim the word; be persistent whether it is convenient or inconvenient; convince, reprimand, encourage through all patience and teaching.” (2 Timothy 4:2) Thus Living the Mission Experience was born. Often times at the conclusion of a mission we receive emails and phone calls expressing



gratitude for providing people the opportunity to serve our poorest brothers and sister in Christ. It is through these testimonials that our missionaries are inspiring and encouraging others.

We have received resounding feedback from a number of missionaries and friends who have been encouraged by these testimonials and we have even had a few missionaries who did not participate for a number of years return for our summer missions. We are grateful to them for sharing their stories and the life changing impact that missions have had in their lives. Topics range from *How to Build a Successful Mission* to *Non-Medical Volunteer Participation*. You can read all of the testimonials over at www.hhmm.org/living-missionary-experience/Living.

Advisory Board Members

Jim Becker, M.D.
Michael Brezinsky, M.D.
Mark Knabel, M.D.

HHMM Staff

Lupita Assad, RN, **International Missions Coordinator**
Gloria Madrigal, **National Secretary**
Stephanie Hagan, PharmD, **Volunteer**
Kathy Hagan, **Volunteer**

HELPING HANDS Medical Missions provide a unique life-transforming experience for doctors, nurses, medical and non-medical personnel. We have missions almost every month of the year. Serving over 2,000 poor patients per mission ... our missions last from 9–10 days, depending on geographic location.

HELPING HANDS Medical Missions

Mission Schedule 2014

LOCATION	DATE
Philippines: Tanauan-Batangas	<i>February 6-15, 2014</i>
Mexico, Quintana Roo: Chunhuhub	<i>March 13-21, 2014</i>
Guatemala: Escuintla	<i>March 28-April 5, 2014</i>
Mexico, Chiapas: San Cristobal	<i>May 24-June 1, 2014</i>
Mexico, Chiapas: Copainala	<i>August 1-9, 2014</i>
Guatemala: Ciudad Vieja	<i>August 9-17, 2014</i>
El Salvador: Sonsonate	<i>October 24-November 1, 2014</i>
Santiago Texacuangos	<i>October 31-November 8, 2014</i>
Mexico, Quintana Roo: Playa del Carmen	<i>October 31-November 8, 2014</i>
Guatemala: Ciudad Vieja	<i>November 7-15, 2014</i>

Contact Information

If would you like additional information on dates and locations please contact:
 Gloria Madrigal, **National Secretary 972-253-1800**
 or visit us at **www.hhmm.org**



HELPING HANDS Medical Missions

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