



Highlights from Our June Mission

- 35 volunteers, including one medical and one surgical team, donated 1400 hours.
- 1,193 Children received medical care. From 7 different communities
- 4,000 prescriptions filled.
- 35 children received surgical help for complex congenital defects.
- Nicaraguan surgeons received training.

Save the Date!

Sixth Annual Timmer Classic

September 17, 2010

PB DYE Golf Course

Ijamsville, Maryland

To register go to

www.timmerclassic.org

What Does Aiding Impoverished Countries and Watching the World Cup Have In Common?

During our June mission trip, everyone was watching the World Cup. Soccer, or football, is a poor man's sport. All that's needed to play is a ball, and two feet. This, however, does not make it any less important a game to the millions of people across the world who either watch or play it—or do both!

The importance and significance of this game was recently seen in the World Cup tournament that took place in South Africa. Thirty-two teams qualified to participate, hailing from every part of the globe. They came to represent their countries through their pride, soccer skills, and outrageous fans.

The World Cup is big, even momentous—for the winner, the trophy means a lot. But what is most amazing is the cooperation that brings all these teams and nations together. This tournament—with countries from North Korea, to Honduras, to Spain as participants—makes a statement that we as



Katie Nelson comforts a child in La Mascota Hospital

human beings are willing to acknowledge and honor each other as citizens of the same planet. We want to come together, despite the divisions that so often keep us apart. In fact, it brings dignity to ourselves when we treat other countries well. This is the premise for good sportsmanship, and is symbolized in the exchange of flags between teams before the games begin.....continued on page 2

HCI Welcomes New Board Chair Denise Bortolani-Rabidoux and Four New Board Members

Denise Bortolani-Rabidoux is president and CEO of Evangelical Homes of Michigan, which has more than 1,200 employees and serves more than 1,500 people. Denise takes pride in helping not-for-profit organizations and understands that strategic visioning and corporate-style planning are not just for businesses. She lists her greatest passion, beside her children, as her involvement with other not-for-profits. We are honored and excited to have Denise as our new board chair.

HCI also added four new members to the board this year, they are Steven Beerbohm, Stephen Hopkins, Suzanne Wanty, and Bill VanderRoest. Expect to hear more from them and about them in coming newsletters.

Reflections on a Mission Trip

By Jocelyn Schiller, M.D.

I felt so blessed to be part of HCI's June trip as one of the pediatricians. It was amazing that mothers and children would leave their homes at 4 am and wait in line all day just to see us. Sometimes I would become so overwhelmed when I saw the long line of people waiting in the morning. Even though most of them had not eaten anything all day, the mothers and children were very patient.

During the trip, there were many moments that brought joy to my heart: mothers who were overjoyed when I prayed for them, a mother who reached out her hand to touch me as she thanked me, a mother with a baby with Down's syndrome who was so poor in money, but so rich in love. **There were also many moments that broke my heart: children with stomach aches from hunger, children who had been abandoned by their parents, mothers who seemed so worn down from poverty.**

This was my first medical mission trip. For me, the trip was not only about helping God's children with their medical needs, but it was also about allowing God's Spirit in me to grow and to allow these children to touch my heart. Now that I am back, it is surprising to me how quickly I have jumped back into my usual busy consumer life. I pray that with time, the lesson God had, and continues to have, for me will sink in and stick.

World Cup, continued

To say that people are unconcerned with the rest of the world would not be accurate. Simply tuning in to the World Cup tournament says that we know there is a bigger world beyond our own country (and ourselves). Yet, if the connection to the rest of the world is only expressed in our dedication to professional sports, we are unified over novelty. A playing field that consists of selfless, courageous, bold human connections made in the pursuit of caring for the impoverished human beings who make up the countries we cheer for, is an indelible unity that will not go away after the games are over. If we can establish relationships with our brothers and sisters just by turning on a television set, think of the relationships that we from Hope International—and others like us—establish by giving a bit of our livelihood and time to our neighbors in need.

In this newsletter you will read about the work that is being done in Nicaragua to help and heal the poor—a work that truly expresses our desire to know and be connected with people from other parts of the world.

We need your support to be able to continue this work. Please consider making a contribution today. You can also contribute online through our Web page: www.hopeclinicinternational.org.

Mothers line up with their children to be seen by HCI's medical team



Above: Dr. Schiller on right with a mother happy to have received help and prayers for her child

Below, left to right: Drs. Lelli, Romeiser, Valle, Gozales and nurse practitioner Pam Graham hold a team conference



Nursing student Debbie Thornton with her new friend