

## Changing Lives in Iquitos: Our Mission to Peru

*Written by student volunteer translators*

Iquitos, Peru's main jungle port city, was so hot and humid that everyone's shirt was damp with sweat after the first long, crowded, stuffy day of our March 2004 medical mission. The hallways were too narrow for the more-than-one-hundred patients hopefully waiting to be screened. Everywhere we looked, curious, friendly children flocked hallways and examination rooms. This year's medical mission brought



*A very happy Anna Maria waits her turn for cleft lip repair in Iquitos, Peru.*

excitement and help to many needy people from the jungles of Peru.

The medical team consisted of four physicians (two ophthalmologists, one plastic surgeon, and one anesthesiologist), nurse anesthetists, nurses, technicians, and other medical staff. In addition, a multitude of translators and support staff provided clear communication, organization and record-keeping of the team's activities. The staff screened 68 patients and performed 45 surgeries in four days,

including twelve plastic surgeries on children with cleft lips and palates, and thirty-three operations to correct crossed eyes in men, women and children of all ages. In addition, they provided eyeglasses for four children.

Those who serve on mission teams have the privilege of permanently changing the lives of many.

Not only do the operations performed improve the physical health of patients; they completely alter the social standing of individuals within their community. The people of Iquitos have expressed their gratitude to all who participated, for their giving hearts and willingness to touch the lives of people halfway across the world.

Involvement in this medical mission was funded and arranged by the participating personnel, and coordinated by Casa Hogar Juan Pablo 11 of Lurin, Peru. Each year, the mission team takes a large quantity of medical supplies to support hospitals in Peru. This year, \$80,075 worth of supplies and equipment were donated for use during the mission and after the team's departure.

**Total value of goods and services on this Iquitos mission was \$324,481.** SRW's expenses were minimal (\$1,349), thanks to the generous support of the Gundersen Lutheran Foundation and The Catholic Diocese of La Crosse, Wisconsin. We thank them for their continued support. **For every \$1 spent to support this mis-**



*Dr. Movaghar with Ericka and Mom before surgery... waiting all day can be long but everyone is happy with the results — no more crossed eyes!*

**sion, \$240 worth of services and goods were provided in Iquitos.**

*Thank you Father Sebastian and the staff of Casa Hogar: we could not do it without you!*

### **Team Members from Casa Hogar:**

Father Sebastian Kolodziejczyk  
Amber Shauske  
Kate Woodford  
Mei Lei Kwong  
Jamie Franke  
Theresa Delucchi  
Janice Murphy  
Dr. Javier Echaiz Alvis

### **Team Members from Wisconsin:**

Mary Dowling, RN  
Marge Abegglen, RN  
John Alameida, RN  
Robert Bechtel, MD  
Mary Dudley, CRNA  
Catherine Gibbs, LPN  
Robert Groshek, MD  
Donna Hundt, Assistant  
Mark Kernan, CRNA  
Lynn Martin, MD  
Mansoor Movaghar, MD  
Sue Tishafer, RN  
Jessica Weger, Surg. Tech  
Shelley Wilker, Surg. Tech

# Meet our New Board Members

The SRW Board is pleased to introduce two new members, who graciously agreed to serve when two seats were recently added.

**Mr. M. Ross Menard** has been SRW's landlord since its inception. Born and raised in the western suburbs of Chicago, Ross graduated from Northern Illinois University in Dekalb in 1964, where he met, wooed and eventually married Marita. She taught mentally impaired children while Ross went to grad school at the University of Cincinnati. Ross has a varied career background: he worked as a city planner, an industrial development representative for a railroad in Wisconsin, and a mortgage loan officer for Mutual of New York, before moving to Madison in 1969. Since then, Ross has been developing commercial real estate in Wisconsin. He has four daughters, ages 28-37, of whom two are married. He is the proud grandfather of three little boys who make him "glad I had daughters." He likes to fish deep in the bush of Alaska and northern Canada. Another love: travel. Ross just returned from New Zealand and plans to visit Scotland this summer. He brings a wealth of board experience, having served WNWC Christian Radio, Youth for Christ, and Blackhawk Evangelical Free Church, where he has also held numerous other types of office.

**Mr. Spencer T. Schroeder** grew up in Milwaukee, then lived in Madison from 1978 until 2001, when he moved, one hour away, to Wood Lake, Wisconsin. He's been married to Valerie for 28 years, and is the father of two daughters, Erin, age 23, and Kelly, age 20. Spencer graduated from the University of Wisconsin Milwaukee in 1973, and started out at Roadway Express as a Management Trainee the next year. Eventually, he took responsibility for two terminals, which he managed until 1996. He then worked as a District Manager for Brinks, overseeing 21 branches in four states. In 2000, he became General Manager for Durham School Services, where he

watches over the safe transportation of thousands of children each year. The motto Spencer lives by at work also applies at SRW: "Safe, On Time, and Ready to Learn...Everyday." Spencer believes in the mission of SRW and draws inspiration from the tireless efforts of cofounders Mary Dowling and Lisa Fernandez.. "The contribution both Mary and Lisa make each and every day cannot be underestimated. Frankly, I don't know how they do it. If I can make their mission and efforts just 1% easier, count on me to help!"

We warmly welcome Ross and

Spencer to the board, and heartily thank them for the contributions they have made already and will continue to bring to the organization.

Be sure to check out SRW's redesigned website.

Go to [www.dean.org](http://www.dean.org) and click on "Health Education and Community Projects."

## Accomplishments and Plans:

### Looking Back on 2003 and Ahead through 2004

Total value of products and services delivered around the world and within the U.S. (including medical missions, wheelchair missions, and eyeglass missions) in 2003: \$1,906,483

Number of volunteer hours donated to SRW in 2003: 2,256, or more than 40 hours per week

For 2003 the volume of usable material saved from Wisconsin landfills: 192.4 tons

#### Shipment and Supply Destinations in 2003:

Haiti	Northern Iran
Nicaragua	Peru
Philippines	Cuba
Dominican Republic	Africa
Honduras	Guatemala
Ecuador	Local US destinations

#### Shipment and Supply Destinations thus far in 2004:

Guatemala	Nicaragua
Peru	Philippines
Cuba	Ecuador
Afghanistan	Nigeria
Ethiopia	Haiti

#### Upcoming missions and activities planned for 2004:

Eye glass mission to Niquinohomo, Nicaragua  
 Wisconsin/Nicaragua Wheelchair Distribution, Matagalpa, Nicaragua  
 Shipment to Sierra Leone  
 Shipment to Mulukuku, Nicaragua  
 Shipment to Camaguay, Cuba  
 Honduras Medical Mission (early



# Precious Memories: Our Mission to Guatemala, January 2004

By Mary Dowling

Medical missions—and the days leading up to them—are a whirlwind of activity. Sometimes the pace seems frantic, as team members strive to accomplish as much as possible in a short six-day mission. When it's all done, everyone on the team can review the mission statistics and enjoy a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction. But it's never just about numbers. The memories each person brings home warm the heart and last a lifetime. Each team member can recall special moments with children, parents, or co-workers that they'll carry with them forever.

For six days in January 2004, our medical mission team (listed below) worked closely with The Pediatric

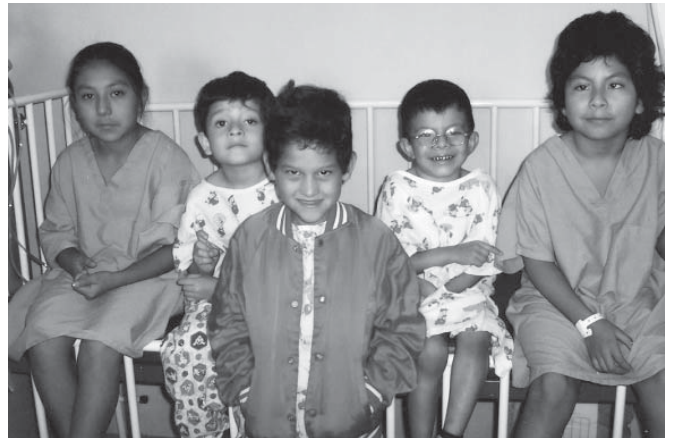
Foundation of Guatemala, in Guatemala City. There we were prepared to assist children with orthopedic needs and eye problems. News of our mission had spread, and our arrival drew children and families

from Guatemala, Nicaragua, Honduras, and El Salvador. It's impossible to help all who come to our clinic, and those we cannot help we think of often after we leave, as we know their struggles will continue. Our hearts go out to them and their families.

During our six days in Guatemala, we screened 174 patients in the clinic, and our surgeons performed 49 procedures in the operating room. Our physician team members, specialists in orthopedics, ophthalmology, and anesthesia, collaborated with the Pediatric Foundation to

offer a symposium on the implications, in each of these specialties, for treatment of children who are afflicted with Cerebral Palsy. Many Guatemalan professionals attended this symposium and left with a wealth of information that will benefit children in Guatemala.

Our last day of surgery is always a bit hectic, as we begin to pack up, take inventory, prepare donations for the institutions we work with, and say good bye. As the last day of this mission unfolded, I was approached by the father of Yari, a 14-year-old whose surgery we had completed in the middle of the week. Yari suffers from fairly involved Cerebral Palsy; he cannot speak, though he comprehends all that goes on around him. He learned to walk only a few years ago, with the help of orthopedic procedures, therapy, and a determined and loving family. This is the second consecutive year we've performed a procedure on Yari, whose Guatemalan orthopedic surgeon is determined to help him improve. As is the way with most 14-year-old boys, Yari has grown and matured dramatically. His shoulders have broadened, and his legs and arms are much more mature than they were even one year ago. His father gave me a handmade envelope which contained a small handmade card for Dr. Mann, the surgeon who had operated on Yari's legs. As he hugged me, Yari's father cried tears of happiness and expressed thanks to Dr. Mann and our team for helping his son. The note from this grateful parent to Dr. Mann said, "Thank you from my heart for the new life you have given our son. God's blessings for you and your equip-



*Five of the 28 Guatemalan eye patients wait for surgery.*

*ment. From our hearts, Yari's family*

Incidents like this are not included in the statistics which measure the success of our trip. But in our hearts, they provide their own testament to the value of our efforts. And they inspire us to go back. Not just to Guatemala, but anywhere we can help children who need our assistance.

Our Team Members were:

Marge Abegglen, RN  
Toby Haines, RN  
Julie Balzer Surg, Tech  
Michael Struck, MD  
David Mann, MD  
Pam Smith, CRNA  
Kathy Sweeney, LPN  
Patricia White, CRNA  
Guiditta Angelini, MD  
Shelley Wilker, Surg Tech  
Jonathan Tueting, MD  
Heather De Long Potter, MD  
David Hillman, Assistant  
Mary Dowling, RN

The value of our services, and supplies used and left with the Hospital Nino Jesus, was \$452,185.00. In part because team members pay for their own airfare and room and board, and many of our supplies are donated, the ratio of cost to value for this mission was 1:113; in other words, for every \$1.00 SRW spent to accomplish this mission, we delivered \$113.00 worth of goods and services during our week in Guatemala.



*Angelica comes to the clinic with her mother for an examination of her club foot, which Dr David Mann repaired in Guatemala.*

# Recycling Project Gets New Digs

by Lisa Fernandez

In February 2004, I had the pleasure of spending eight days in Matagalpa, Nicaragua, helping to construct a badly needed building for the Recycling Project of Familias Especiales. Familias Especiales is an organization spearheaded by Sister Rebecca Trujillo, which serves more than 800 variously handicapped children and young people, and their families. One of their programs, the Matagalpa Recycling Project, provides employment to

young people collect recyclable paper and cardboard from businesses and offices in Matagalpa and the surrounding community. They clean and sort the paper to sell to a recycling firm in Managua. Until last winter, the Recycling Project operated out of an inadequate building which did not



*Youth sort paper and cardboard in spacious, airy new digs*



*New recycling building now complete in Matagalpa, Nicaragua*

provide the needed space or conditions for sorting and cleaning paper.

When Familias Especiales proposed that SRW help build a roofed warehouse, two of SRW's stalwart supporters and volunteers, Henry Bassett and Duane Huibregtse, offered to fund the entire project. I traveled to Matagalpa to participate in the start-up, and offer assistance and support. It was a great experience! Wielding pickaxes and shovels, several young men cleared the land and prepared

youth who are otherwise unable to find work due to their disabilities. Working with a mother who offers support and supervision, these

the foundation for the building. I took my turn with pickax and shovel, and also drove a truck which transported materials and workers to and from the work site each day. I wasn't able to stay to see the structure completed, but I'm happy to report that today the Matagalpa Recycling Project has a brand new building with room for sorting and storing. The young people who work in the Recycling Project are pleased that they can do their job much more comfortably and efficiently.

## Working Together, We Can Do More

Whenever possible, SRW networks with individuals and organizations whose goals coincide with our own—to relieve suffering and improve the lives of needy people around the world. Together, we can accomplish more than any one working alone. This was illustrated recently when a Madison, Wisconsin, family practice physician traveled to Kabul, Afghanistan. Dr. Kouros Farro, who is Iranian by birth and speaks the language of Kabul fluently, worked at the Rabia Balkhi Women and Children's Hospital for a month. Though his trip was arranged through the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and a University of Wisconsin Hospital

program, Dr. Farro contacted SRW just before departing, in order to obtain some basic medical supplies. These supplies would prove to be most needed during his one-month stay.

The Rabia Balkhi Hospital delivers nearly 18,000 babies each year without even the most basic equipment. The maternal mortality rate is the highest recorded on the planet, as two mothers out of every one hundred die in childbirth. About 30% of infants in Afghanistan die within the first year of life, and 25% of children who survive infancy die before age five. When Dr. Farro arrived at his post and realized the hospital did not own even stethoscopes or

ambubags for reviving newborns, he contacted SRW again, and more supplies were mailed to him. Thanks to the cooperation and support of the UCC of New Glarus, the cost of the shipment was covered.

SRW is always ready to respond to such opportunities to meet the overwhelming need of those without other resources. By networking with Dr. Farro—one individual—SRW was able to better equip a hospital to save and improve lives. Thank you to Dr. Farro, and others like him, who help us minister to the most needy in our world.

# Those Lions Can Really Roar!

by Lisa Fernandez

SRW has taken on a new project in Mulukuku, a remote area in the mountains of northeast Nicaragua, where state schools are almost nonexistent and few children have access to education. Working with Sister Sandy Price and her parish in Mulukuku, SRW has a unique opportunity to make a real difference in this community of subsistence farmers and their families. Sister Sandy has lived and worked in Mulukuku for twenty-two years, and has established forty one-room and two-room schoolhouses. Her parish provides teacher training and serves children regardless of religion, race or culture. These schools are in desperate need of supplies and basic furnishings. There are currently over 1000 students who do not have desks to sit at in school! Learning this, SRW heard a call to help.

But how does an organization in Wisconsin fill such a great need in a faraway country? SRW contacted

## A Knight in Shining Armor

Sharing Resources Worldwide owes a big thank you to Sir Edward Artis, Chairman and Co-Founder of Knightsbridge International. Knightsbridge International ships huge quantities of humanitarian aid all over the world, and SRW has partnered with them over the last year by providing medical supplies and equipment to fill their containers. After reading our "Urgent Needs List" in the last SRW newsletter, Sir Edward responded by sending us a brand new laptop computer, loaded with software. His enclosed letter said, "I am pleased to send you a brand new notebook computer, not only by way of saying thank you for the incredible support you have provided to our various humanitarian relief efforts worldwide in 2003, especially the Philippines, but also in keeping with our motto: 'We will continue to do what we can, when we can, because we can — it's just that simple.'"

And so will SRW. Thanks, Sir Edward.

Dwayne Habrat, the State Secretary of the Lion's Clubs of Wisconsin. Dwayne got the word out to district clubs, and the calls started coming in; from Kiel and Cornell and Kadott, and all over Wisconsin, Lion's Club members responded to the call for school desks. Quietly waiting in barns and storage rooms and hay carts all over Wisconsin, were discarded school desks which Lion's club members had rescued, knowing that someday they would find a new home. School desks, chairs, teacher's desks—all awaited the call for help. During the last five months, SRW and the Lion's Clubs have collected over 500 desks, and hundreds more are awaiting pickup. Everywhere we've gone to pick up desks, we've been received by enthusiastic, organized helpers. In Cornell, a whole class of middle school students hand-carried over 100 desks from a third-floor storage room in the school and loaded them on our truck. We then had the opportunity to talk with the students about SRW and the project in Mulukuku.

A heartfelt thank you to the Lion's



*Loading desks in Kiel, Wisconsin*

Clubs of Wisconsin, and to all who have helped us toward our goal of seating all the students in Mulukuku at desks of their own.

If you really want to make things happen, ask a Lion to help you!

## Thank You to the Dean Foundation

Since its founding in January 2002, SRW has maintained non-profit status under the umbrella of the Dean Foundation for Health, Research and Education in Middleton, Wisconsin. Established in 1986 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, the Dean Foundation strives to improve health care, increase health education, advance clinical research, and administer charitable activities. The Dean Foundation sponsors public service and health education in the communities it serves, and conducts and sponsors health-related research.

If you check out the Dean Foundation website ([www.dean.org](http://www.dean.org)), you'll find Sharing Resources Worldwide listed in the left-hand column, and you can read various articles about our activities. This website listing is

one of many services and benefits the Dean Foundation has provided for SRW. Another invaluable benefit is the service of Becky Johnson, CPA, Manager of Finance for the Dean Foundation. She always answers our questions and provides information cheerfully and efficiently.

The Foundation has included us in its publicity, and opened the door to valuable contacts. Thanks in part to the Dean Foundation, our work is known in wider and wider circles, and we frequently receive offers of donations and help from people who've heard about SRW through folks at the Dean Foundation.

We will always be grateful for their help and support, and want to publicly express our deep appreciation to the Dean Foundation and Becky Johnson.

## Thank You to Dean Health Systems and St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center

Since its founding in January 2002, SRW has received loyal support from Dean Health Systems and St. Mary's Hospital Medical Center. Their monetary assistance has helped us grow and mature. Warehouse and office rental, utilities, truck rental, and shipment fees are ongoing expenses which each of these local institutions have generously helped us to meet. We greatly appreciate the support of these organizations and can assure them that their funds have been used wisely. SRW will continue to use such support carefully, to achieve our goal of helping our brothers and sisters around the world enjoy improved health, wellness, and dignity. We look forward to working together in the future.

## Contributors to SRW

SRW sincerely thanks the following for in-kind contributions, inventory and products, and other types of support.

Diocese of La Crosse  
Gunderson Lutheran Foundation  
Knightsbridge International  
Evco  
Penske  
Owens and Minor  
Aljans  
Physicians Plus  
Meriter Hospital  
Beaver Dam Hospital  
Wheelchair Recycling Project  
UW Hospital and Clinics  
Madison United Hospital Laundry  
Madison Fire Department  
Lions Club of Wisconsin  
Dean Foundation  
Dave Sisson Orthotics  
Lisa Otto / Grey Horse Studio  
Blanca Podesta / Translator  
Od Tapo Imi Band  
Returned Peace Corp. Volunteers  
of Madison  
Strollers Theater Group  
Wisconsin Network for Peace and Justice

Hope Haven, International Ministries  
Wheels for Humanity  
Countless individuals, church groups,  
and school groups

*We try to maintain an accurate accounting, but sometimes we omit a name inadvertently; let us know if you don't see your name/group listed and we'll be sure to recognize you in the next issue.*

## We'd Love to Talk with You

Co-founders Lisa Fernandez and Mary Dowling are available to speak to groups about the work of SRW around the world. Their presentation includes an informative and moving video, which illustrates in 8½ minutes the goals and accomplishments of SRW. Please contact Lisa or Mary to share the SRW story with your group of any size. You can find their contact information on the mailing panel of this newsletter.

*Under the umbrella of the Dean Foundation, Sharing Resources Worldwide is able to serve as a tax exempt charitable 501 (c) (3) organization.*

[www.dean.org](http://www.dean.org)



Visit us on the web at the Dean Foundation website: [www.dean.org](http://www.dean.org)  
under Community Projects.

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