

Another Successful Mission to Peru

On March 31, 2006, an SRW medical mission group traveled to Lima, Peru, for our fourth annual trip to that part of South America. Again, our host partners extraordinaire—the staff of Casa Hogar Juan Pablo 11—spent much time and effort on our behalf before our arrival. It is only because of their determined efforts that SRW can even imagine, let alone accomplish, these missions.

Our destination was a hospital new to SRW, Instituto de Salud del Nino (The Children's Hospital) of Peru. This is a large facility with many specialties. Our surgeons worked alongside their surgeons to perform strabismus surgery (repairing crossed

mostly booked for Monday through Friday, each day a few parents would bring their children at the last minute, hoping we might be able to fit them in.

I would like to share some of the comments we received about the mission.

- From the Peruvian eye surgery team we worked with that week: "Our hospital has never received such a distinguished and well qualified group of professionals to assist our children with their eye-care needs as your team provided this week. Each of you showed to our children and their families much compassion and caring in your work."

- From John, one of our operating room nurses from La Crosse, "Glad to be a part of the team that helped the children be what they are meant to be."

- From Dr Mark Lucarelli and his wife Heidi: "We didn't have any idea

of how special that opportunity to interact with the patients and their families would be! A part of our hearts will always be in Peru. Thank you so much for letting us participate in this life-changing experience."

- Donna, our administrative assistant, said, "The spiritual uplifting that one gets when helping others is just hard to explain but I think we



Daniela before surgery to correct crossed eyes

all get much more than we give on these missions."

- Stephanie, an R.N. from La Crosse, stated, "It was an honor and privilege for me to complete this mission with you. I met some wonderful people, made some new friends, and had a great Peruvian experience."

- From Suzanna, a volunteer professional photographer from Dallas, Texas: "There is no way to forget the faces of those children we see, and how they completely trust our doctors and nurses who are helping them."

We also received a few comments from team members who experienced the typical frustrations of medical mission trips to other countries.

- "Taxis with no seat belts were a surprise!"



Families wait for screening for surgical treatment on SRW Peru Medical Mission in March 2006.

eyes) and ocular plastics, which also involve rebuilding the eye area. The patients had been prescreened by their staff earlier in March, and were ready for a final clinic evaluation by SRW staff. Screening day is always very long and requires much patience of everyone, but by day's end, our surgery schedule for the week was nearly full. Although we were

Helping Across Lifespans: From Grade-school to the "Old Folks' Home"

Lisa Fernandez recently returned from a two-week sojourn in Nicaragua, where she had the opportunity to visit several projects supported by Sharing Resources Worldwide. She writes:

I once again made the eight-hour bus trip to Mulukuku, Nicaragua (the dry season is definitely the time for this trip!) and spent several days there catching up on Sister Sandy's programs to improve health and education in this remote and underserved area. SRW has been supporting Sandy's work these last two years by collecting and shipping badly needed items: school desks, school supplies, clothes, first aid supplies, blankets, hospital linens, toys, shoes, office supplies, personal care items, and much more. As in previous visits, the impact of SRW's efforts was visible everywhere I went: in the mountain schools, the newly established local library, the thatched-roof homes. The benefits are as tangible and concrete as a desk to sit in, a pencil to write with, a bucket to carry water from the well, a clean bandage to wrap around a machete cut, a filing cabinet for medical records in a local clinic, the clothes on a woman's back. How wonderful to visit a two-room school house in the mountains of Nicaragua and see the children seated at desks that were collected and shipped from the SRW warehouse. To all who have contributed to the success of SRW's mission in Mulukuku, I am grateful for the opportunity to see the very real difference that your efforts are making in the lives of people far away. We truly are one world, and a small one at that!

I also visited Jinotepe, Nicaragua, a community about an hour from Managua. Guillermo Munguía, a lifetime member of this community with a limitless heart and a special sensitivity to the elderly, has taken his dream of providing loving shel-



ter for homeless elderly people and turned it into a reality. His Hogar de Ancianos (Old Folks Home) is truly something to behold.

Thirty-four destitute elderly men and women are now living in a safe place where they are cared for with a tenderness that can make you weep. True, the conditions are very basic and the needs are great. The beds are rusted shells with foam or folded blankets on top. There are no shelves or dressers- just a cardboard box here and there to serve as a table or storage space. But the residents are clothed and fed and kept clean. They have a place to sleep, water to bathe in and three meals a day. Most importantly, they have loving, respectful, tender care. Guillermo has exhorted the town of Jinotepe to embrace the homeless elderly in the community, knocking on doors and entreating poor and wealthy alike to bring food and clothes and whatever they can to keep the Hogar going.

His passion and commitment compel a response from his neighbors and friends. He and other workers at the Hogar have a deep love and respect for these vulnerable people, and know them as individuals with



rich histories. He shared some of their stories with us: The formerly rich businessman who lost his family, wealth, and reputation to alcohol and ended up destitute and alone on the streets. The dignified, college-educated man who has traveled the world and still reads and speaks English, but was found wandering the streets of Jinotepe, unkempt and homeless. The 105-year-old woman who was the first person to find refuge in the Hogar.

She was about to celebrate her birthday on the day I visited, and complained tearfully to Guillermo that her roommate had been rude to her.

Guillermo listened, stroking her arm, and assured her that he would resolve the problem. Combine such tender, loving care with the resources SRW can provide to help meet physical needs (a comfortable mattress, a blanket, an adult diaper, a commode...) and the world becomes a better place, one person at a time.



Donations: We thank Sylvia Boomsma for editing; Lisa Otto, Grey Horse Studio for layout; and SpectraPrint for printing this issue of the newsletter.

Brian's Project



Brian (in center) and friends

There are many ways to support SRW. Our needs include funds, volunteer services, and everything in between. Occasionally, people we have never met approach us with their own creative ideas for helping SRW and needy people around the world.

Brain Bak of Glenview, Illinois, was just such a person. Brian heard about SRW through a friend, and decided he could help us while also earning his Eagle Scout Badge. He contacted SRW, asking if we could use crutches and walkers for our shipments. These

items are always in demand around the world and can be easily included in almost any shipment. Brian had an idea that many crutches and walkers were gathering dust in the garages and basements of his community.

Eagle Scout projects require much planning before implementation can begin. Once Brian's plan was approved, he began his collection. Shortly before Christmas 2005, he delivered the following to our warehouse, in vehicles driven by friends and family from Illinois, all of which he coordinated.

- 70 pairs of crutches
- 82 walkers
- 60 arm and leg braces
- 8 wheelchairs
- 36 commodes
- 8 shower seats
- 35 canes
- 42 different therapy items
- 1 respirator
- 1 therapy board

Brain's collection far exceeded even his expectations. The items he delivered to SRW were sent to Elista, Russia, in January 2006. One person's efforts will improve healthcare for many halfway around the globe. We thank Brian and congratulate him for thinking about his brothers and sisters worldwide!

Successful Mission to Peru (con't)

- "Learning that our supplies were released from customs only 4 hours before our arrival...all's well that ends well!"

- "I was just not prepared for no toilet seats anywhere in the hospital!"
- "I wish I could have spoken more Spanish."

Once again, a successful mission to Peru. After our team screened 62 surgical candidates, 47 children had surgery that week. The value of that mission is estimated to be \$300,961, and it cost SRW \$2,143 to accomplish the mission. So for every donated dollar that went toward this mission, \$140-worth of goods and services were provided. Thank you to the diocese of La Crosse for funding the shipment of medical supplies and equipment needed for our week of service, and to Father Sebastian for getting it through customs!

Thank you Casa Hogar Juan Pablo 11 staff. Without all of you, we could not even dream of attempting such a mission.

Added note: Father Joseph Walijewski, Founder of Casa Hogar Juan Pablo 11, passed away a month after we left Peru. How fortunate we were to see and spend time with him while we were there! His legacy is an improved life for many, many children, and his vision is the very reason our missions are successful in Peru. He will be missed, but is forever in many hearts.

Team members were:
John Alameida, RN—La Crescent, WI
Mary Dowling, RN—Mt Horeb, WI
Mary Dudley, CRNA—Onalaska, WI
Robert Bechtel, MD—Hollidaysburg, PA
Robert Groshek, MD—Onalaska, WI
Donna Hundt, Administrative Assistant—Cashton, WI
Mark Kernan, CRNA—Beaver Dam, WI
Stephanie Skogen, RN—Onalaska, WI
Shelley Wilker, OR Technician—Madison, WI
Mark Lucarelli, MD—Madison, WI
Heidi Lucarelli, RN—Madison, WI
Carol Ginter, RN—Lodi, WI
Jennifer Herb, RN—Monona, WI

Founded in January 2002, Sharing Resources Worldwide makes surplus and recycled medical supplies, durable medical equipment, and related items and activities available to needy populations around the world. SRW endeavors to improve the health and quality of life of its recipients and to empower them to live with increased dignity, independence, and hope.

We do this through three areas—medical missions, shipping and the wheelchair project.

All donations are tax deductible. Please make checks payable to Sharing Resources Worldwide.

Sharing Resources Worldwide is incorporated in the state of Wisconsin and is a tax exempt charitable 501 (c) (3) organization.

Freeing My People From Their Limitations

by Luis Figueroa

Imagine being a middle-aged handicapped man with a family to support in one of the poorest countries in the world, your job choices limited by polio that left you with a deformed foot and leg. Luis Figueroa is such a man, and his life, like so many others, has been changed for the better by the Wisconsin/Nicaragua Wheelchair Project. Luis was key to the inception of the project, and he remains central to its success. He has been the director of the wheelchair workshop in Nicaragua for the last six years, responsible for overseeing all aspects of its operation and training young workers in wheelchair fitting and repair. He is a skilled, inventive and resourceful wheelchair technician who can adapt a wheelchair to fit any situation. I interviewed Luis about his work. Here is some of what he has to say about how the wheelchair workshop has changed his life

In Luis's words:

The work we are doing is very humanitarian, very humane. You have to see the needs of a person; you have to see the sadness of many families who have a handicapped member, a person with limitations. What we want to do is help people—with a wheelchair, cane, a walker—so they can mobilize themselves and not be so dependent on people doing things for them. The team that works here is a team of poor young people, all committed to helping others. They want to learn, and they know that this work is not just for themselves, but for others.

We try to resolve some small part

of the problem their handicap brings them. There is much poverty in Nicaragua, and this limits people in many ways. People don't have any money to buy a wheelchair—it is very expensive, and the people who need them are usually very poor. Many live in the country. Sometimes to try to resolve a bit of the problem they have to travel very far. They don't have access to therapy, to help.

The cheapest wheelchair that is manufactured here in Managua costs 355 dollars. [Note: Average annual income in Nicaragua is about \$790.] Hardly anyone has that money. Here we adapt and condition a wheelchair for whatever handicaps the person has. What do we learn doing this work? We learn that it is not just about giving a wheelchair, but about being sensitive to the person and their family. We try to convey that a handicapped person has value. They are not worthless—they need a chance to learn, to work, to overcome whatever obstacles life presents them with.

I want to help in a way that makes a person feel important, to change their way of thinking, so they know they can do lots of things, so they have the will and the heart to do things. We have to sensitize people to the issues of handicapped people. I feel committed to helping people with problems worse than me and this work is very important. The team I work with are people who have limitations, and we work collectively to help others. It



is not just a problem of wheelchairs, it is a problem of thinking - we need to have more solidarity, more patience, and more sensitivity to the handicapped.

The percentage of handicapped people in Nicaragua is 12 percent according the government, but in reality it is more like 27 percent. The war killed so many and injured so many others with mines and guns. There are so many accidents; car and bus, work accidents, accidents in the houses, with fires, from horses, bikes. There is malnutrition of mothers and children. The problem is that there are not places to treat people, to rehabilitate people, to figure out what is wrong. The doctors deal only with general problems. There is not a place to get the proper diagnosis unless you are in Managua. There is no prevention.

This work has made me stronger. It is hard but satisfying. For me, as a Nicaraguan, I feel an obligation to do this work. People from outside like Sharing Resources Worldwide--you do so much to help us. We also need to take responsibility. That a child, an elderly person, can be comfortable in a wheelchair, can go the clinic, go to school, and go to the park. That a child does not need to be held by the mother all the time, but has an opportunity to learn and grow. This has a great value that goes beyond money--it has a value in humanity, in solidarity. It is beyond price.



SRW Helps Stock a New Orleans Clinic

In April of 2006, SRW teamed up with Two Men and a Truck (a Madison moving company) and High Point Church of Madison, to send a 26-foot truck loaded with donated basic medical supplies and equipment to St Bernard's Parish in New Orleans. These materials were used to help establish a clinic in that part of New Orleans. The clinic serves residents returning to their homes, as well as volunteers helping to rebuild in that area.

SRW and The FBI

Since our beginnings at SRW, Al Thompson and his wife Carol of Middleton, Wisconsin, have supported our efforts financially and in spirit. We knew that Al was a former security administrator for Pizza Hut in this area. What we did not know was that he was a retired FBI agent!

At their May convention in St. Louis, the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI honored Al for his work on behalf of SRW. This honor included the trip to St. Louis and a \$2,000 donation to SRW from the Former Agents of The FBI Foundation.

Thank you, Al and Carol! It is very special to have support like yours for SRW. Congratulations on being honored by your colleagues.

New life for your old eyeglasses...

Do you have a few pairs of no-longer-needed eyeglasses or hearing aides in the back of a drawer? You can recycle them through Lions Foundation collection containers at your local pharmacy, library, grocery store, and other convenient locations. Lions Foundation members refurbish, repair and sort used eyeglasses, which find a new life—and provide a new life to their owners!—in needy parts of our world. It is the Lions Foundation that provides SRW with eyeglasses to dispense on our medical mission trips. Your simple donation of a needless item can change a life. If only all good deeds could be this easy!

Furry Ambassadors

Every mission organization depends on ambassadors to spread good will and trust to the people it serves. Some of SRW's most effective ambassadors are soft, furry and huggable. Plush toys, so plentiful in the United States, are invaluable to our mission teams and mission partners working with children in other countries.

Students from the CHAMPS group at Sugar Creek Elementary school in Verona, Wisconsin, made a very special collection this spring by gathering 1,166 stuffed animals for SRW. SRW can assure that every stuffed animal will find a loving new home. Some of these plush toys go to Nicaragua for distribution through

the wheelchair project there. Our medical mission team members give others to children who have surgery, along with a blanket to keep. Stuffed animals comfort frightened children, and provide security, entertainment, and enjoyment for patients and parents alike. A tearful countenance can brighten into a huge smile when we present these gifts and tell our young patients they are from their friends in Wisconsin.

The efforts of the Sugar Creek CHAMPS group reflect true caring for others, no matter where they are. SRW thanks you, and so do the children and their families who will receive these cheering toys. Have a great summer!

Since our beginning in 2002

- Fourteen missions have been completed by SRW teams.
- Over 700 wheelchairs have been distributed.
- 3,900 eye exams have been completed by our eye teams.
- 3,131 pairs of glasses were distributed after those exams.
- 736 children were screened on our medical/surgical missions.
- 366 children received surgical services by our surgeons on our fourteen missions—117 of them on our missions thus far in 2006 to Peru and Honduras.



Facts and Figures

In 2005

- Twenty-two shipping containers left SRW docks for worldwide destinations that included:

- o Iran
- o Peru
- o Nicaragua
- o Honduras
- o Cuba
- o Philippines

- o Guatemala
- o Haiti
- o Panama
- Other items were hand carried to the following destinations:

- o Nepal
- o Uganda
- o Ecuador
- o Bolivia
- More than 368 tons were shipped from

our docks, recycled worldwide and saved from Wisconsin landfills.

- The combined value of the our products shipped, carried and our services on missions totaled at least \$2.5 million dollars.
- Volunteers at SRW donated 3635 hours.

Those contributing inventory or other support for SRW programs

Thank you all!!!

Many Individuals

Beaver Dam Community Hospital

Madison United Hospital Laundry

Pinnacle Pharmacy

Ingleside Nursing Home

Karmenta Nursing Home

UW Hospitals and Clinics

American Cancer Society

Mercy Health System

Norseland Nursing Home

Waukegan Manor Health Care Center

Fort Atkinson Care Center

Owens and Minor

Remedy Program at Children's Hospital

of Wisconsin

UW Foundation

Entercom

Genesis Painting

Penske Truck Rentals

Sunny Hill Health Care Center

Oak Park Nursing and

Rehabilitation Center

Good Shepard Nursing Home

University Square Dental Association

Madison Environmental

Wheelchair Recycling Program

Oakwood Lutheran Homes Assoc.

Pizza Hut

Meriter Hospital Pharmacy Missions Program

St Vincent DePaul

Midwest Biomedical

Albany Lions Club

Verona Lions

Whalen Academy

Stoughton Hospital

Capital Newspapers

Good Neighbor Clinic

Gunderson Lutheran Health Systems

La Crosse Wisconsin Technical School

Black River Falls Memorial Hospital

Hope Haven International Ministries

Orchard Ridge United Church of Christ

Koschkee Transfer



Donated items from SRW shipment arrive in Sierra Leone.

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Your Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Fax _____ Email _____

Donation checks should be made out to **Sharing Resources Worldwide**.

Please return this card with your donation to the address above.

Your donation will help Sharing Resources Worldwide provide the following:

___ \$50 will fund postoperative glasses or casting material for a child we serve on a medical mission.

___ \$100 will fund medications needed for a child's surgery on a medical mission.

___ \$200 will fund the shipment of 4 pallets of medical supplies in a shipment.

___ \$250 will fund wheelchair parts for several wheelchairs that need repairs in Nicaragua.

___ \$2000 will fund the medications needed for 40-50 children receiving our services during one of our upcoming medical missions.

___ \$4000 will fund the cost of a shipment of wheelchairs, medical, and school supplies to Central America.

___ This the amount I can send you at this time. \$_____

___ Please contact us about a presentation to our group or an appointment with me to discuss how I can help SRW in other ways.

___ Please include me on your mailing list for future newsletters and information about SRW.

We accept donor gifts of appreciated stocks and mutual fund shares. Your gift qualifies for a tax deduction based on full market value of your stock or mutual fund shares; plus you avoid the capital gains tax that would otherwise arise from the sale of this stock or mutual fund shares.

Presenting SRW...

If your group or organization would like to hear about the projects and mission of Sharing Resources Worldwide, please contact one of our founders, Mary or Lisa, to schedule a presentation. SRW's short video is very informative, and Mary and Lisa have entertaining personal experiences to share with your group. Their contact information appears on the back of this newsletter.

Help SRW provide Independence, Improved Health, Mobility, Dignity, and Hope worldwide

Wish List

In addition to funding for SRW we are also in need of the following items for our shipments and medical missions/wheelchair missions programs:

- Hospital equipment and supplies
- Volunteers to sort medical supplies
- Sponsor for a volunteer appreciation dinner/event
- Volunteer with technical assistance/computer skills for our programs
- Microwave
- Computers that work for word processing
- School supplies and back packs (no 3 ring binders, please)
- Sewing supplies and sewing machines



*What lies behind us and what lies before us are small matters
compared to what lies within us.*