



The RESOURCE

The Newsletter of Sharing Resources Worldwide

Winter 2005

Partnering with SRW to Bring Change in Niquinohomo

The following article is written by Lorena Kannel, a native of Nicaragua who now lives in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. Lorena's heart is in her home country, and she has found ways to help many there. She established schools for children, as well as sewing schools where local men and women can learn a skill. Lorena raises the funds here in Wisconsin to support those schools in Nicaragua, and Sharing Resources Worldwide assists her efforts by sending supplies and equipment in shipments to Nicaragua. Below is her description of the projects in Niquinohomo that SRW helps her support.

The year 2005 has been a year full of natural calamities. We have a saying that when the U. S. sneezes Latin America gets pneumonia, but this year the U. S. has pneumonia and Latin America is dying. In Niquinohomo we have felt the effects of all the hurricanes. The winds and rains have damaged our homes and destroyed our harvests, and we don't know what will happen in three months.

In spite of all these difficult assaults our projects continue to struggle to survive. In some ways they are a light of hope to face the future. The country school has 46 students from pre-school through 6th grade. Ten students have overcome their adversities and are completing their primary education next month. We keep the school going thanks to the support of Sharing Resources Worldwide. The arrival of the containers is like a blessing. Thanks to the materials we have



Jesenia learns sewing skills in Niquinohomo sewing school.

been able to ship though SRW, the only library in town now has computers and materials for reading programs, and the mayor's office has typewriters. The high school, which is the next step for graduates of the country school, has been equipped with school desks, computers, and school supplies. Now more than 100 students do not have to sit on the floor... thanks to the resources which SRW has shared with us. We have also shared a donation of computers with Protestant and Catholic churches and church schools.

The sewing school this year graduated 25 students, technically prepared in this field. One hundred percent of them found paying jobs in the "zona franca" international

business zone in Managua. There are three branches of the sewing school, one in Niquinohomo and two in our more rural communities.

The funds we (my friends and family and I) raise each year are used for teachers' salaries; there are six teachers at the country school and three sewing teachers. The teachers themselves are heads of their families who with their work support the economy of their homes. The future is uncertain but full of hope. Only with the support of all of you can we maintain the enthusiasm and energy of these people. It allows them to stay on their land, gives them the opportunity to survive with dignity, and helps them avoid the pressure to migrate from the country to the city. ▀

Circles of Life: The Wheelchair Project

Lisa Fernandez

Imagine this as your life: your house is a two-room structure with a corrugated metal roof and plywood or plastic sides, set up high on a muddy, uneven hillside. Here you live with your four children, spouse, and mother-in-law. Rooms are divided by a curtain, the cooking stove set only feet from the beds. One of your children has cerebral palsy and is unable to walk. Lacking space and chairs, this child spends most of his day in bed, without stimulation or play. His only chance to leave the house is when you carry him on your back down the muddy slope.

Can a wheelchair change this child's life, and the life of his family? Despite the obvious limitations, the answer is yes. A wheelchair provides a comfortable and ergonomically beneficial place for this child to sit. Now he has a place at the table, a view of daily life in his home, a measure of dignity. His parents, despite the hardship, can and will carry that wheelchair down the hill and take him with them into the city to do their daily business. He can now go to school with the other children.

The Wisconsin/Nicaragua Wheelchair Project (WNWP) just completed its seventh annual wheelchair distribution in Matagalpa, Nicaragua. WNWP has now distributed over 800 wheelchairs to handicapped children and adults in Matagalpa and beyond. During last month's distribution week, families came from over 12 hours away to obtain a wheelchair for their handi-

capped child. The word is out—the wheelchair workshop in Matagalpa is open year-round, providing professionally fitted and adapted wheelchairs at no cost to the recipients. A great joy of mine during the wheelchair workshop this year was to observe the nearly constant flow of people coming in to obtain wheelchairs, canes, walkers or crutches. People are coming year-round, from all around, knowing that they can get what they need at the workshop in Matagalpa. Many have traveled great distances; maybe this was the lucky day they were able to get a ride to Matagalpa, after waiting weeks or months. All are welcomed, served, and treated with respect.

The Wisconsin/Nicaragua Wheelchair Project changes lives for the better every day. The project will enter a new phase during the next year, as we explore links with other aid groups and funding sources. Our goal is to provide transportation to people in other municipalities, so they can travel to the wheelchair workshop in Matagalpa to obtain wheelchairs for their handicapped children. The cost of transportation is currently the main limiting factor for those in need of wheelchairs, and we at WNWP are confident that this barrier can be overcome. We hope that someday, every handicapped child and adult in Nicaragua will have access to the wheelchair they need. WNWP is just another way Sharing Resources Worldwide is "recycling resources, restoring hope"! ♣



Moms and kids are ready to take their new wheels on the 12 hour trip home. All agree - it was worth it!



Working together for the perfect fit.



Wilmer's smile tells it all!

UNDER ONE ROOF

At long last, SRW has consolidated its operations under one roof! In October we completed our move to our new location at 4417 Robertson Road in Madison. After three years of tremendous growth in our activities and inventory, we had far outgrown our old warehouse space. As time passed, our expanding inventory had by necessity spread into borrowed warehouse space. Juggling hospital beds, equipment and supplies between two, and sometimes three, warehouses to organize and prepare shipments was not easy, even though the warehouses were only separated by a parking lot. In winter, when the adjoining parking lot was frozen and snow covered, such tasks were next to impossible.

Now we are able to organize our inventory, sort, pack, stage and load out of our new 16,000-square-foot facility on Robertson Road. We have ample warehouse space (though it's amazing how quickly it fills up!), and a safe and comfortable environment for our volunteers to work in. Our new warehouse has two loading docks to accommodate 40-foot containers, and a drive-in overhead door. There is designated space for our biomedical equipment technician to work on donated equipment, and for the laundry and medical supply sorters to tackle boxes and bags of donated supplies. We're able to store large items like hospital beds and anesthesia machines while they await staging for shipment. There's office and reception space, bathrooms, and a pleasant kitchen/break/meeting room that's stocked with cold drinks, coffee, and snacks to keep our tireless volunteers going!

More space means more expense: there's no escaping that reality. The work SRW is doing must continue. With the space and convenience of our new warehouse, we will be even better equipped to save hundreds of tons of useful equipment and supplies from Wisconsin landfills and use them instead to bring hope and life to needy people throughout the

world.

Directions to our new warehouse at 4417 Robertson Road:

Heading north on Stoughton Road, exit east on Cottage Grove Road. Go 1 block to first stop light; take a left there onto Atlas Avenue. Follow Atlas Avenue to the right on Robertson Road. We are on the right-hand side.

Heading south on Stoughton Road, exit east at Milwaukee Road through underpass and take immediate right onto Atlas Avenue (Stoughton Road access road). Follow Atlas to Robertson. Left on Robertson to 4417.

A huge thank you to all our hardworking volunteers who made this move possible. Moving three warehouses full of equipment and supplies was no easy job! Thanks to you all for your time and energy and commitment — and your muscles! ▶

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.

Summary of SRW 2005 Statistics

Shipments and supplies went to the following destinations in 2005 from SRW.

- Nicaragua
- Panama
- Iran
- Peru
- Nigeria
- Honduras
- Cuba
- Philippines
- Nepal
- Guatemala
- Uganda
- Haiti
- Ecuador
- Bolivia
- And in the U.S.
 - Shelters for Katrina Survivors
 - Mother and Child Resource in Madison
 - Madison Shelters for the Homeless



You must be the change you wish to see in the world.

—Mohandas Gandhi

SRW's Hurricane Katrina Effort

If you live in or visit Wisconsin, you know that September is a beautiful month here. But even as we enjoyed the blue skies and crisp mornings of early fall in the Midwest, we were reminded of the devastation Mother Nature can deliver, even here in our own country. Media images revealed Hurricane Katrina's wrath, as masses of people suddenly became helpless and needy. The kind of aid SRW usually sends to people far away was urgently needed right here at home. We felt called to help our countrymen. Almost immediately, we sent out calls and emails to our partner organizations within the U.S.

Through the Sister City Outreach project in southern Illinois, SRW found a way to transport badly needed goods. We sent an SOS to our many supporters and friends here in the Madison area, asking them to collect and provide some of the simplest and most basic supplies. These items would be a huge help at shelters throughout the South, where many of the newly homeless would be living for months to come. Almost immediately, supplies began to come in: hygiene items for health kits, blankets and school supplies. SRW volunteers boxed and labeled supplies at our warehouse, where they were picked up by Sister City Outreach workers. Soon, these supplies and other items from our warehouse were en route to the South, where they were distributed by a local church group managing several shelters in the area.

Thanks to the eager cooperation of local school groups, church groups, office groups, civic groups, and individuals, SRW was able to quickly and directly help our brothers and sisters in need. We express our heartfelt thanks to all who donated items which met needs and made life a little more tolerable for those suffering the aftereffects of Katrina. ▀

Check out our new website.

There have been many changes for SRW in 2005, including a new web site, which you can check out at www.sharingresourcesworldwide.org. Though this site is still being developed, all the basic information is there and you may view our video there also. This is a secure site, so you can safely and conveniently donate to SRW, using your credit card. You can also access our newsletters there.

Thanks to Brandon Vincent of Genesis Painting, our website will contain up-to-date information and insight into what SRW is accomplishing. Visit often! ▀



Alfredo needs just a bit of help with the eye exam during a Sharing Resources Worldwide eyeglass mission to Nicaragua last year, and Mariama Balde, of Guinea, Africa, gives him that help. Mariama, a new resident of Madison, Wisconsin, will accompany and assist the Sharing Resources Worldwide eyeglass mission group to Guinea in the summer of 2006. Our missions truly have an international focus. ▀

Members of SRW's Board of Directors are:

David Mann MD- President
Natascha Wathne
Kathy Sweeney
Sylvia Boomsma
Spencer Schroeder
M. Ross Menard
John Woodford MD
Jerry Alexander

And our CoFounders / CoDirectors are:

Mary Dowling RN
Lisa Fernandez RN ▀

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

Ripples of Hope

This article, written by Mary Dowling for a nurses' magazine, will give you a glimpse of the vision that motivates our two co-founders to live sacrificially, so that others can enjoy a better quality of life.

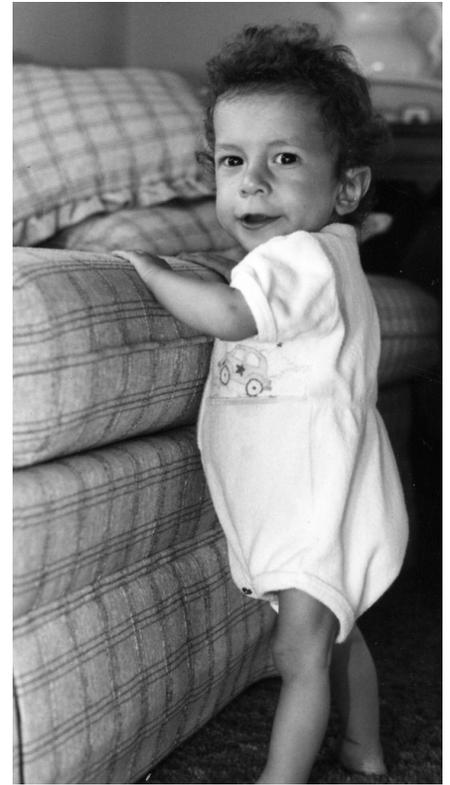
In June of 1990, I took my first trip outside the U.S. I was not alone. I was returning our foster child to his family in Panama City, Panama. Saul had lived with us for five months while undergoing treatment and surgery for a severe heart defect that nearly prevented him from reaching his first birthday. Saul's family had agreed to send their baby to Wisconsin, through a special medical-aid program, because no one in Panama could fix his heart. When he arrived in the U.S., at eight months, Saul weighed just nine pounds and could eat and drink only small amounts. As an R.N., I was an experienced foster mom and knew that Saul needed lots of TLC before he could undergo surgery. As his stateside mom, I often considered how difficult Saul's absence must be for his mother in Panama. After several weeks in our home, Saul was sufficiently plumped up and free of infection to undergo surgery, after which he spent several weeks in the hospital. Once he returned to our home to heal and grow, he truly blossomed, so that by his first birthday in June, he weighed fifteen pounds! Shortly after he turned one, I flew to Panama to return Saul to his family.

Caring for Saul was an experience that would forever change my life. Our family went on to care for six more children from other countries, while they received medical care in Wisconsin. I began volunteering for an organization that sponsored medical missions to countries where the need is great. In March of 2005, I completed my twenty-fifth international medical mission since 1993. The last several were sponsored by Sharing Resources Worldwide (SRW), which began in 2002. As an R.N., I feel very privileged to organize and take part in these missions. Recruiting local people is always a pleasure. I have known first hand that as nurses, doctors, mothers, fathers, brothers and sisters, we have much to offer in

working toward a common goal—the health and wellbeing of children and our world's future. This is my motivation for co-founding SRW, and the driving force which compels me to continue working toward the goals we've set as an organization.

Since SRW began, over 700 disabled children and adults in Nicaragua have received wheelchairs and other devices which give them a mobility that was once only a dream. Each year SRW ships more 40-foot containers of school supplies, medical supplies, and medical equipment to more destinations worldwide. Nineteen shipments in 2004 rescued 281 tons of useful supplies and equipment that was destined for Wisconsin landfills. This "trash"—sterile dressings, sterile gloves, antiseptic solutions, anesthesia machines—is now saving lives and improving health all over the world. In 2005, we sent 21 containers from our warehouse dock, accomplished two medical missions, and sent over 150 wheelchairs to Nicaragua. Even though we can't accompany every container or suitcase of supplies, we know they accomplish their mission: giving hope and life to thousands at their destination points.

In 2002, when Lisa Fernandez and I founded Sharing Resources Worldwide, we knew we could offer hope, health, dignity, and independence to children and families around the world, through the programs SRW would offer. We had found resources here in Wisconsin to share with a needy world; and with the help of our board members, friends, families, volunteers and a far-reaching network of foreign contacts, we are getting those resources out. We may not be making a huge splash, but we are creating ripples of hope. Every time we help a child, we help his family. We enable his mother to work and provide income to improve his life. We help his school and other students by empowering



Saul, age 1, ready to return to Panama

that child to attend class without fear of ridicule. We help his neighborhood, his village and his country. Basic medical supplies are only a dream in some parts of the world, but even the simplest tools save lives. A walker or wheelchair offers hope for someone with a bright mind but no mobility, trapped in a room that offers no stimulation or social opportunities. Eyeglasses provided by an SRW mission team can restore more than the sight needed for reading and performing daily activities; they can give the recipient independence and a new outlook on life. The surgeons and nurses on our mission teams—sharing skills, tools, and friendship with their counterparts in other countries—bring great benefits but also receive rewards on many levels.

Sharing Resources Worldwide demonstrates the good will of Americans that would otherwise be unknown in many countries. Ours is a people-to-people mission that crosses language barriers, culture gaps, oceans and continents. ▀

Keeping in Step with Our Vision

Steps. We don't even think about them as we hurry through our days. Sometimes it takes a miracle, witnessed in another country, to make an American appreciate the blessings of two healthy feet. A ten-year-old Nicaraguan boy has stumped around on severely deformed feet his whole life. But thanks to the generosity of an American orthopedic surgeon, part of a medical mission team, this boy can now wear shoes, walk normally and even ride a bike. At his post-op check-up, the whole room glows with his happiness and the smiles of his parents, who had lost all hope of ever finding help for their son. In a recovery room in Peru, a mother stands beside the bed of her nine-year-old son as he wakes up from surgery to correct crossed eyes. She describes how adults and children have teased him, and how a teacher hit him for not paying attention and looking at her during class. When he leaves the hospital, this child will have a new appearance, newfound confidence and a new outlook on life.

These gratifying experiences give us the vision to keep working toward SRW's goals. They give us so much enthusiasm, in fact, that sometimes our vision and dreams exceed the pace we can actually keep. As we plan surgical missions to Honduras and Peru in early 2006, to offer orthopedic and eye surgery to local children, we wonder whether SRW will be able to continue providing services to so many worldwide. Our shipments, whether in a 40-foot container or a suitcase that will accompany someone on a single mission, cannot happen without the support of many volunteers who keep our warehouse operation going. Maintaining our inventory and managing our warehouse become ever more daunting tasks as we become busier and worldwide needs become more evident. We receive more calls each month from institutions that have supplies and equipment for us. Our need for space has grown, and we recently moved into larger quarters for the second



SRW volunteers unloading medical supplies and equipment that will be donated to an appropriate facility somewhere in our world very soon.

time since our founding in 2002. With international partner organizations, we're shipping more supplies and equipment to more destinations each year.

But our requests for funding from foundations and similar sources are coming back more and more often with regrets. Our former donors are sorry, but they have fewer funds to distribute this year and cannot help SRW, even though its mission is worthy. Meeting SRW's facility expenses and shipping costs is becoming more challenging.

Just when these concerns start to get us down, something lifts us up. Last summer, as co-founder Mary Dowling drove home from the warehouse on a very hot and busy day, she was feeling overwhelmed and discouraged. Her cell phone rang and a female voice said, "This is Dr. Fatma from the CDC." A native of Kenya, Dr. Fatma told Mary she had been carrying her name and number with her for nearly two years, ever since the day she was working in a hospital in Mombassa with HIV positive mothers and children. She had noticed some newer IV poles, beds, cribs, gurneys, and other equipment and asked

where they had come from. She was given Mary's name and phone number, because the items had arrived in one of SRW's first shipments, in January of 2002. Dr. Fatma called to express her gratitude on behalf of the people of Kenya. Those items are making a huge difference in patient care, she said. For example, pediatric cribs save lives because staff cannot effectively put a mosquito net over a child sleeping on the floor, but in a crib he can be protected from disease-bearing mosquitoes while he sleeps.

These stories make our steps a little lighter! But still, we're often running to keep pace with our dreams. If you've ever wondered how on earth one person can make a difference, this is your chance to touch lives. You can volunteer in our warehouse, help SRW network, hold a fundraiser, talk to a business or group who might consider funding our cause, show them this article. We love to tell our story and can share our 8-minute video with your group. Through people like you, SRW can continue to help the world become a better place. ▀

Four Seasons of Mission: SRW Plans for 2006

As next year begins, a Sharing Resources Worldwide medical mission team will travel to Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to serve children with orthopedic needs and strabismus (crossed eyes). As before, we will accomplish this mission in partnership with Providence World Ministries of Honduras. In addition, a Madison business person has generously agreed to cover the shipment of supplies and the purchase of medications and supplies that cannot be donated, so that we can bring the best care to those we will serve.

A future base for SRW mission trips to Honduras is a clinic with two operating rooms, now being built by Providence World Ministries in the town of Seguatepeque. SRW has agreed to help set up and furnish that facility, so this too will be

part of our winter trip to Honduras. Most of our team will be veterans from the 2005 mission, but several are new to mission teams, and all are enthusiastic about the trip scheduled for January 28 to February 5, 2006.

In March 2006, a medical mission team will travel to Lima, Peru, to partner with Casa Hogar Juan Pablo 11, working at a local hospital to surgically treat eye disorders in children. Again, our team will consist of veterans and new members. This mission offers many rewards, as we deliver a new outlook on life to children who otherwise have little hope of help for their eye problems. Peru is a country of huge contrasts and friendly people. We have made many friends there, and we are committed to serve during missions and

beyond with equipment and supplies donated by institutions in Wisconsin and surrounding states.

In the summer of 2006, a small SRW mission team will travel to Touge, Guinea, West Africa, for an eyeglass clinic where our team will supply glasses to about 500 people and eye exams for even more. We are currently seeking funding to support this mission. Please contact Mary Dowling at 608-445-8503 if you can help.

Our annual wheelchair distribution in Matagalpa, Nicaragua will take place in the fall of 2006. SRW has distributed over 700 wheelchairs to local citizens through the Matagalpa wheelchair workshop, which SRW helped set up and continues to support at this time. ▀

Sharing Resources Worldwide

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Phone- 608-445-8503 or 445-8504 • Fax 608-437-7662
Email- mdowl@tds.net or pocoapocolisa@juno.com

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.

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

Some of those who donated supplies, equipment, in-kind services, reduced rate services or direct funding to support the efforts of SRW in 2005. (If we have omitted any name from this list, it was in no way intentional)

Bethany St Josephs Care Center
Sauk County Health Care Center
Madison Environmental Group, Inc.
Madison United Hospital Laundry
UW Hospital and Clinics
Dean Clinic
Dean Care Business Office Staff
St Mary's Hospital Medical Center
Meriter Hospital
Owens and Minor
Wheelchair Recycling Project
Richland Center Hospital
Beaver Dam Hospital
Hospital Sisters Mission Outreach
United Methodist Committee on Relief
Middleton Sunrise Rotary Cluh
Lions Clubs
Verona
Middleton
La Crosse Area

Penske
Roy Neuenschwander, CPA
Dean Foundation
Aljans
Valleylab Service Support
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Midwest Biomedical
Physicians Plus
Durham Bus Company
WITCO
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Olds Seed Company
Alliance Trailer Co.
Genesis Painting
Academy Electric
Entercom Communications
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Oregon,WI
Verona, WI
Mt Horeb, WI
Quarles and Brady LLP.- Paul Page
La Follette Godfrey and Kahn,-
Melissa A. Scholz
Multiple Hospice Patients and Families
Americares
Spectra Print
Grey Horse Studio/Lisa Otto

Scherer Moving and Storage
Monroe Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center
Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation
Gunderson Lutheran Hospital
Gunderson Lutheran Foundation
Sweeney Construction
Badger Prairie Nursing Home
Four Winds Manor
Heartland Country Village
Wisconsin Hospital Association
Hope Haven International, Ministries
The Diocese of La Crosse
Society for the Propagation of the Faith
Franciscan Skemp Foundation
Ethicon
Welch Allyn
Wymelenberg Foundation
Barnyard Bolson Partnership
Pizza Hut
Nursing Matters
Women's VFW Truax
Mens VFW Truax
Carol Thompson Cosmetics
Wisconsin Medical Project
Many Individuals ▶

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