

Shared Beat

ANNUAL REPORT

DECEMBER 2006

...Each heartbeat shared, every life a gift. Each heartbeat shared, every life a gift. Each heartbeat shared, every life a gift...

Shared Beat ... Beginnings

Education is the key to ending world poverty. With this in mind, Shared Beat's goal is to empower individuals through health and wellness education and to provide the fundamental tools needed for well-being.

Our current programs include: 1) vitamins & anti-parasite medications for 550 school children living in the Guatemala City dump area, 2) medical, dental and visual screening clinics for the children, their families and people living at the dump and 3) health and wellness education.

Shared Beat became a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit in May 2006. We are dedicated to making the world a better place for those less fortunate. Join us by sharing your hearts with others. Make every beat count. Make every beat a Shared Beat.



Screening Clinic June Pachalun 2006

Hop in the back of a pick-up, with four Shared Beat volunteers, a tarp for rain, and a couple boxes of medications and hold on while we take you for a ride to Pachalun.

Pachalun, Guatemala is a beautiful mountain pueblo 2 1/2 hours northwest of Guatemala City. The scenery along the way includes breathtaking fields of Calla Lilies, people in native dress, Mayan ruins, a soccer field full of children, chickens and ... cows.

Our mission is to screen local people for an upcoming, minimal cost, medical/surgical clinic 90 minutes away. For those identified as needing surgery, it's very important because the availability of that service is otherwise nonexistent, substandard and/or expensive.

The approach into the town is a 30 degree hill with cutbacks.. The clinic is held in an office area, part of a local church/school building. A school desk serves as the admissions, pharmacy, and lab area. Two folding chairs

serve as the exam table for the physician. Everyday, there is an audience of school children. They teach us songs in Spanish, we teach them the names of body parts in English. One little boy stays all three days, not going to school. We learn later, his mother had gone to the US to work for 3 years to be able to support her children. The children are living with friends.

In three days we examine over 200 patients, dis-



Pachalun 2006
Dr Hartsell with 3 patients

pense 300 prescriptions, perform 50 lab screens and referred 68 patients to the upcoming medical and surgical clinic. Diabetes and high blood pressure were common medical disorders identified and all children were treated for parasites. Three women were able to hear their babies heartbeat for the first time.



WHY GUATEMALA?

- Guatemala has the highest rate of child mortality in Central American.
- The literacy rate is less than 50%. The lowest in Central America
- The maternal death rate is the highest in Central America
- There are over 900,000 child laborers who generate nearly 20% of the countries gross domestic product
- 25% of the population is undernourished
- Average annual income is \$1500



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Medical/Dental Education Trip to Guatemala City October 2006

October 22-29, 2006, 15 Shared Beat volunteers traveled to Guatemala from Texas, Kentucky, North Carolina & Ohio to participate in a medical/dental/educational support trip at Safe Passage in Guatemala City.

Riding into the city we enter a graveyard where thousands of vultures sit in wait above the massive Guatemala City dump. Below, thousands of people scavenge through garbage for food, household goods and items to sell. Others line up behind garbage trucks. These people, and their families are our patients. One half mile down the road, we arrive at Safe Passage, a supplemental education program, sits on the edge of

the Guatemala City dump. The school is a safe haven to 550 children whose family members work in the city dump. Here they receive refuge from the streets, a hot meal and educational and social support 6 days a week. Before starting clinic, we tour the school and surrounding community with Safe Passage founder, Hanley Denning, a school teacher and US native. Walking through the streets we see thousands of homes constructed of found scrap materials. They have no floors, running water, or appliances. Some have 1 or 2 twin beds for 8 family members. Homes sit adjacent to hillsides layered in trash. This level of poverty is hard to imagine.



School children and their family patiently wait to be seen in clinic

We understand why many patients complain of cough... no chimney... no stove... only an open fire.

The first 2 days of clinic we examine children from the project. Eye, dental and physical exams keep our team busy, especially when the entire preschool class came in at once! The last three days of clinic, we invite the children, their family, volunteers and staff from the project to be seen in the clinic.

The last day of clinic a 16 year old came in to have stitches removed from a hand injury he received 3 weeks prior while working in the garbage dump.

The stitches were embedded deeply into his infected gangrenous hand. He had no concept that he might lose his hand. All he could think about was

getting back to work in the dump for \$3 a day so that his family could eat. There were numerous people with similar stories of no money and no access to medical care.

In 5 short days, we examined 400 medical patients, screened & performed dental procedures on 170 patients, performed over 160 eye exams and dispensed 1200+ prescriptions.



A young mother waits at the pharmacy for her babies medication

In addition to the clinic, volunteers conducted sex education classes and a new mother class for the students. Volunteers taught a Drug Abuse Recognition and Prevention class for the teachers. Volunteers mentored in carpentry, art and classroom activities. Shared Beat shares this vision: education and acquisition of basic life skills provides a view beyond the dump.



Shared Beat Medical Trip Volunteers Front: Osmin Vargus, Erin Berkenkamp, Genie Redding, Jenny Hartsell, Wright Hartsell. Back: Cala Coleman, Jack Coleman, Vianca Gutierrez, Torri Wilson, Marie Berkenkamp, Richard Redding, Kim Henderson, Annie Carico, Brandt Miller, Rick White

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Donations

Thanks to the generosity of our donors. Shared Beat:

- Gave 1200+ pounds of medications and supplies to Camino Seguro in Guatemala City
- Supplied 550 school children with a years worth of vitamins and anti-parasite medication
- Provided 150 Hygiene Kits & 150 First Aid Kits to the San Antonio chapter of StandUp For Kids, a national organization assisting runaways and street children
- Contributed 50 boxes of supplies to a nonprofit serving Guatemala & Kenya
- Donated 20 boxes of supplies to Medisend



Shared Beat Volunteers

Shared Beat is an all volunteer organization. There are no salaried administrative staff or board members. Medical trip volunteers cover their own travel and lodging expenses. This means donations go directly toward helping those in need.

Our group depends upon the generosity of the time and expertise of our volunteers.

This year, our volunteers gave over 2600 hours to serve those less fortunate.



Nonprofit Friends

GlobaleMed and MedPharm

Medpharm is a USA licensed pharmaceutical company. Medpharm manufactures and supplies over 500 generic drugs, and supplies over 2000 US FDA approved pharmaceuticals all at a significant savings.

www.globalemed.com

MediSend

Medisends global mission includes distribution of medical supplies and equipment in long-term medical projects, disaster relief campaigns, and educational programs. A 501(c)(3) organization .

www.medisend.org

Equipping The Saints

A 501(c)(3) organization helping ministries find the materials, equipment and vitamins they need at minimal cost.

www.etsusa.org

Americares

A 501(c)(3) organization providing immediate response to emergent medical needs, as well as supports long-term humanitarian assistance programs.

www.americare.org

Lazos Fuertes Hotel

Antigua, Guatemala

A charming, safe hotel with reasonable rates. The hotel is a future hotel/restaurant management training site for Safe Passage youth. Profits from the hotel are donated to Safe Passage.

lazosfuertes@yahoo.com

Vine International

A 501(c)(3) United States based organization as well as a legal association recognized by the Guatemalan government to receive, account for, and distribute relief aid.

www.vineinternational.org

We appreciate the support of our donors, volunteers and nonprofit friends!