

SEW HOPE

STRENGTHENING AND EMPOWERING WITH
HEALTH, OPPORTUNITY, AND EDUCATION.

2010 Annual Report



Dear Friends of SewHope,

The apostle Paul wrote, "Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever." (2 Chronicles 20:21)

As I look back on 2010, I can only consider giving great thanks to God for His love and mercy on us and on those we work with. I thank Him for sending people of humility and faith and for continually giving us wisdom to proceed down the right paths. There have been just too many "coincidences" to not see that God is leading.

In Romans 12, Paul describes love in the most perfect way. It is this type of love that guides us in all we do. "Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. Be devoted to one another in brotherly love. Honor one another above yourselves. Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer. Share with God's people who are in need."

In the pages that follow, you will see the results of the efforts of so many people, both here and in Guatemala. You will see a list of our "accomplishments" as we try to improve health, sanitation, education, and nutrition of the poor in the rural communities where we serve. But what I am personally most grateful for are the people who have continued to work for equality and justice for the oppressed. It has been personally humbling to witness the energy and enthusiasm that so many of our supporters display every day. So often in life, the greatest efforts go awry because people act like people and refuse to turn to God for guidance, forgiveness, and love. But the obstacles we have faced this past year have turned to opportunities, and what seemed before like moving a mountain is now just a bearable load that we are moving forward.

A most heartening change is that many of the people we serve in the Petén have become like family to us. They care as deeply about us as we do about them. We laugh and cry together and help each other in discovering the joy of following God's command to love one another. Our strategic planning has always focused on creating "self-empowerment" and "sustainable programs". These communities are creating their own hope by taking on the responsibility and work of improving their own lives. But more importantly, we are experiencing growing friendship and love for one another as we are rooted together in God's mutual purpose for our lives.

The Chinese prophet, Lao Tzu wrote: "Go to the people. Live among them. Learn from them. Love them. Start with what they know. Build on what they have. But of the best leaders, when their task is done, the people will remark, 'We have done it ourselves.'"

It has been a privilege to work with others who are willing to no longer remain silent about the lives of the oppressed, and who are willing to not just start something, but to see it completed. It has been a privilege to have gained the friendship and trust of the people in these villages. I thank each one of you who have contributed to this service of love, and I pray that one day we will no longer be needed in these communities.

God bless you,

Anne



In Memory of Three Very Special Supporters of SewHope...

Shannon

SewHope also signifies the HOPE of Shannon E. Wilson, a young physician who had an abounding compassion for the people of Guatemala and who participated in several medical mission trips to Guatemala. Her goal was to become a full-time medical missionary following the completion of her training in Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Texas. Before her dream could become fulfilled, Shannon died at the young age of 26. However, her enthusiasm and love for the Guatemalan people and her desire to serve them inspired the creation of SewHope and has remained an inspiration to our members. Shannon wrote, "Guatemala was where I found my purpose. It was overwhelming. So many kids. So little equipment. Knowledge, even less. Spanish - none. All I had was my arms, my smile, my lollipops. Young mothers and swollen bellies. Abused and bruised bodies. My whispered prayers of hope that eventually, one day, I would be able to do something besides hand out cough syrup and antibiotics. In Guatemala I learned about patience. I can't save the world. I can't even save this person. I don't have to - they only want a hug. They need HOPE. They need someone, somewhere to say, YES, you are worth my time, my expertise, my training, my God. Even though you have no money, you can have HIM and you can have me. CHRIST'S HANDS AND FEET. Finally, a meaning connected to those words. LET ME BE YOUR HANDS AND FEET! USE ME!"



Papi

In 2009, SewHope also lost one its greatest inspirations and supporters, "Papi" Carl Sass. Papi was a retired Maumee school teacher who developed a passion for all things Guatemalan. His love for the Guatemalan people, especially the children, and their love for him were legendary amongst the communities he visited. He was a frequent traveler to Guatemala and was ceaseless in his support for the people and our efforts there. Although he knew little Spanish, his broad, warm smile and twinkling eyes were all the communication the children needed before they jumped and danced and raced into his arms.



Karen

On Feb. 11, 2011 Karen Cothren left this world to be with Lord whom she so dearly loved. While she never visited Guatemala and had limited financial means, Karen came to be one of our greatest supporters. Always apologizing that she wished she had the means to do more, she never failed to remind us that real change comes from the Lord above when we act as His hands here on earth. She would send us daily encouragement and always knew the right words to keep us fortified in times of struggle. Always giving from her heart, she recognized that she was one of the wealthiest in her spirit and soul. She once wrote that she and her sister were "two pairs of praying lips for our team and our work." Karen continuously humbled us by giving her "first-fruits" and not her "leftovers" for those in greatest need. We will miss her greatly.



SEWHOPE

- **SewHope** is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization based in Toledo, Ohio
- **SewHope** promotes spiritual growth, health, opportunity, and education for the underserved and largely indigenous people of the Petén, Guatemala
- **SewHope** was founded in 2007 by Christians who were involved in short-term mission trips to Guatemala after they realized that long-term solutions were needed to address the many needs resulting from extreme poverty
- The mission of **SewHope** is to enhance health, opportunity, education, and spiritual growth in underserved communities of the Petén, Guatemala

SewHope's Goals

1. Reduce extreme hunger and poverty by

- a) Provision of high quality, nutritious meals through our "Kids Against Hunger" food program
- b) Family home garden program

2. Improve education through

- a) High school sponsorship program
- b) Improved infrastructure in the existing government primary school
- c) Provision of books and supplies and in-service teacher training
- d) After-school enrichment program
- e) Community library
- f) Adult literacy education
- g) Solar lighting in homes

3. Promote gender equality and empower women by

- a) Improved education for girls
- b) Community education programs
- c) Microcredit opportunities and home vegetable gardens

4. Reduce childhood and maternal morbidity and mortality by

- a) Eliminating parasitic diseases through installation of composting latrines and biannual de-worming, provision of clean water, and education in personal sanitation and hygiene

- b) Reducing dehydration through education regarding oral rehydration solutions and providing clean water
- c) Reducing infectious disease by promoting breastfeeding, adequate immunizations, and appropriate use of antibiotics
- d) Reducing the incidence of malaria and Dengue fever through provision of bed nets and other preventive measures.
- e) Monthly visits from American medical teams with goal to train and hire local health care providers and midwives
- f) Improving nutrition through vitamin supplementation, KAH food, and increased access to vegetables through garden program
- g) Improving dental health through dental hygiene education and fluoride sealant application every six months.
- h) Providing prenatal care as outlined by the Safe Motherhood Initiative
- i) Reducing respiratory and eye disease and accidents by eliminating open fires in homes through use of appropriate stoves and chimneys
- j) Reducing death from cervical cancer through expanded cervical cancer screening, treatment of cervical neoplasia, and education about sexually transmitted diseases
- k) Reducing unwanted pregnancies by removing obstacles to family planning, providing contraception, and educating and empowering women with job skills

5. Promote spiritual growth by

- a) Supporting village clergy with training and worship materials
- b) Demonstrating God's love in all we do

SewHope Board of Directors

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2010 SewHope Project Accomplishments

Administrative

- SewHope's long term strategic goals realigned to fit with U.N. Millennium Development Goals.
- Hired Orfelinda Guerra Martinez as project supervisor. She is the wife of our current Program Director, Ismael Martinez.
- Rapid growth of Kids Against Hunger in Northwest Ohio with over 300,000 meals packaged and sent to Guatemala by local churches, schools, families, and other organizations.
- 3rd Annual LEAP event was held at The Pinnacle with over 200 in attendance.
- 2nd Annual "Miles for Missions" 5K and 1st Annual "Oak Openings Stampede" 25K trail race fundraisers.



Medical

- Eight medical mission trips where adults and children were treated.
- Medical clinic temporarily housed in donated community building as SewHope and the community work toward establishing a permanent clinic and community center in 2011.
- Prenatal care including OB ultrasound.
- Bi-annual children's health week which included physical exams/treatments, monitoring of growth and development, sanitation/hygiene education, distribution of de-worming medication, and dental fluoride treatments.
- Cervical cancer screening program continues including Pap tests, colposcopy, appropriate treatment, and women's education about HPV and risks.



Nutrition

- Distribution of pre-packaged nutritious meals (rice, soy, dried vegetables, vitamins, minerals) from "Kids Against Hunger" and vitamins from "Give to Grow" to children in eight elementary schools on a daily basis and to families in greatest need.
- 120 large family fruit and vegetable gardens planted and harvested in conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture of Guatemala and CATIE.



Education

- With community support and labor, constructed a new classroom in the Pueblo Nuevo primary school.
- New desks and chairs added to school.
- Provided 400 books in Spanish for children and teenage readers.
- Provided primary school teachers with supplies, instructional materials, and equipment.
- Started a sponsorship program for high school students to attend the regional high school; program includes tuition, books, uniforms, shoes, backpacks, and transportation.
- Started an adult program for basic education, finance, and job skills.



Water and Sanitation

- Forty composting latrines now completed
- Continued community education about the importance of clean water and sanitation and assisted with water purification methods for families using unclean water sources.



Spirituality

- Continued working with the local pastors to identify their needs and build harmony among the denominations so that they work together for the good of the community.
- Continual prayer for the people of the Petén and seeking of God's guidance as we work on these programs.



Floriselda Martinez

- Flori, a beautiful, 28 year old Guatemalan mother, came to our clinic and was diagnosed with Stage 2B metastatic cervical cancer. Normally such a case in Guatemala would be a death sentence since there is no adequate cancer care for the poor. But through the help, cooperation, kindness, and generosity of Congresswoman Marcy Kaptur and medical staff of the Hickman Cancer Center of Promedica Health Systems, SewHope brought Flori to the U.S. for radiation and chemotherapy treatment. Although the treatments were difficult, she persevered and is currently cancer-free! Flori was lovingly cared for by Mary Towey and many others during her stay in the U.S., and is now home with her beautiful children and husband. She has become a great spokeswoman amongst her fellow Guatemalan women about the need for cervical cancer screening and has also become like a sister and daughter to all of us!



2010 Total Revenue – \$194,488

2010 Total Expenses – \$151,526

- Administrative (website, postage, bank and credit card fees, fundraising, printing, shipping, storage, salaries) – \$12,625
- Project expenses (medical, nutrition, education, water, sanitation, spiritual – \$138,901

Available Funds – \$55,137

SewHope is a 501(c)(3) organization. Contributions are fully tax deductible.



2010 SewHope Supporters

\$25,000 and above

Dell Corporation
Anne and Randall Ruch

\$10,000 to \$24,999

Edward and Coral Matus

\$2,500 to \$9,999

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Melinda and Chris Rakesmith

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Hologic LP
Ottawa Hills School System
Promedica Health Systems, especially the Hickman Cancer Center and the Surgery and Pathology Departments
St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Second Sole Running, Toledo
Shear Designs Hair Studio
Sisters of Notre Dame
The University of Toledo Medical Center
The University of Toledo Medical Mission Hall of Fame
Zion Lutheran Church

Kids Against Hunger Donors and Supporters

\$10,000 to \$20,000

St. Paul's Lutheran Church

\$5,000 to \$9,999

Kraft Foods NF689

\$1,000 to \$4,999

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Edward and Coral Matus

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Vickie Hill
Karen Karcher
Alex Matus
Coral Matus
Ed Matus
Lyndsey Matus
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Renee Schultz
Benjamin Singer
Linda Smith
Becky Thorsby
Puja Venkat
Lauren Wondolowski

To all of our supporters... Thank you and God bless you!

"This service you perform is not only supplying the needs of God's people, but is also overflowing in many expressions of thanks to God. Because of the service by which you have proved yourselves, men will praise God for the obedience that accompanies your confession of the gospel of Christ, and for your generosity in sharing with them and with everyone else. And in their prayers for you, their hearts will go out to you because of the surpassing grace God has given you." 2 Corinthians: 9:12-16

