

SEW HOPE

STRENGTHENING AND EMPOWERING WITH
HEALTH, OPPORTUNITY, AND EDUCATION.

2009 Annual Report



Dear friends,

“In his heart a man plans his course, but the Lord determines his steps” (Proverbs 16:9). As I prepare this letter for our annual report, this verse speaks loudly to me! This past year has once again taught us that the greatest fruits of our efforts are often unforeseen and far greater than we could have imagined. God has continually opened doors to enable our work and showed us that by serving alongside each other here and in Guatemala, we alleviate the suffering we all experience.



I recall one afternoon when we were holding a gynecology clinic and were faced with the usual long, chaotic line of patients. A very persistent woman arrived with her young son and pleaded with us to do something for him. He had been diagnosed with a brain tumor that was blinding him and the local medical care could not offer anything. I explained that our team was not prepared to handle brain tumors, but the mother was persistent as any mother would be. So with no obvious answers, we prayed together and asked God to help us. I really did not see any option for her son, but God had a different plan! After returning to Toledo, we contacted a local neurosurgeon who generously agreed to take on the young man's case. Then through the efforts of many here and in Guatemala, the young man was granted a visa, came to Toledo, and had his tumor removed successfully. During his three month stay here, he was embraced by the medical and local community, but he also provided us with a rich demonstration of what it means to have faith in God. The number of people here and in Guatemala touched by this young man was huge. His family no longer lives with the daily fear that he will go blind and die. And the many people who helped in this effort have experienced the true peace and joy of serving the Lord by serving others. You never know what can happen in a gynecology clinic!

I also think of Thanksgiving Day this year. We had just launched our new Toledo chapter of “Kids Against Hunger” a few weeks before. A good friend, Dr. Coral Matus, called me to ask if she could have people come to her house on Thanksgiving to raise funds and pack food for starving children in Guatemala. She wanted her family and others to be able to really share their gifts on such a significant day. So about 75 smiling, energetic, enthusiastic people of all ages came together, packed several thousand meals, and truly understood their blessings and the joy that comes in service. That and other packing events enabled us to send 110,000 meals to Guatemala recently.



I remember the morning last August when our bus pulled into one of the villages we work in. After months of encouraging the community to put in gardens to improve their nutrition, it was at the school where the idea took hold. The people had always believed their soil would not grow crops and that they didn't have the ability to grow a garden. But that morning when we pulled up, the school teachers and children were hard at work fencing off the garden area, turning the soil, and preparing it for planting. Children from all the grades, the teachers, members of the community, and our team worked together under a hot sun and got the garden ready for planting. The children planted radishes, carrots, tomatoes, cilantro, peppers, and other vegetables. Each grade was responsible for a garden row. When Randy Ruch went back in February, seven families had started gardens and others were planning to do so. Working with the people with God in the midst brings change.

Below is a summary of our 2009 accomplishments, but I know in my heart that our greatest accomplishments may not be on the list. Perhaps the medical students on our trips will be inspired to follow career paths that will enable them to correct injustices and inequalities in our world. Perhaps one of the people we serve or who serve with us no longer feels unloved, unworthy, or lonely. Perhaps the children in the villages we serve now have hope that they will have a real education and can fulfill their dreams. Perhaps one mom will not die of cervical cancer and will be able to raise her family. All we can do is to continue following God's call to care for those in need. We thank each of you for your generous support that enables this work. Mother Teresa reminds us, “Let us more and more insist on raising funds of love, of kindness, of understanding, of peace. Money will come if we seek first the Kingdom of God – the rest will be given.”

God bless you,
Anne Ruch

About 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.



About 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.



*We know that Shannon and Papi are with God
and sharing their stories of Guatemala!*

"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!"

- Shannon E. Wilson

SEW HOPE

- **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 spiritual growth, health, opportunity and education in underserved communities of the Petén, Guatemala

Goals

1. Eliminate parasitic diseases through installation of composting latrines, biannual de-worming, and education in personal sanitation and hygiene
2. Reduce childhood death from infectious disease through adequate immunization, promotion of breastfeeding, and appropriate use of antibiotics
3. Reduce incidence of malaria and dengue fever through provision of bed nets and other preventive measures
4. Reduce respiratory and eye disease and accidents by eliminating open fires in homes through use of appropriate stoves
5. Reduce childhood death and disability from injuries through education, first aid training, and provision of medical supplies
6. Reduce childhood morbidity and mortality from diarrhea and dehydration through promotion of breastfeeding and use of oral rehydration solutions
7. Reduce morbidity and mortality from malnutrition by providing emergency food

supplements and increasing self-sufficient food resources such as gardens

8. Improve dental health through fluoride and sealant treatments and dental hygiene
9. Reduce neonatal morbidity and mortality through education in neonatal resuscitation, provision of prenatal care, education of Guatemalan midwives in obstetric care, and improved maternal nutrition
10. Reduce death from cervical cancer through expanded cervical cancer screening, treatment of cervical neoplasia, and education about HPV and other sexually transmitted diseases
11. Reduce other types of gynecologic and obstetric morbidity/mortality by provision of appropriate medical care and training of Guatemalan health care providers
12. Reduce unwanted pregnancy by identifying obstacles to family planning, providing, contraceptive counseling, and empowering women through jobs and education
13. Support Guatemalan clergy in their efforts to meet the spiritual needs of their churches; reach out to others by being examples of Christ's love
14. Improve access to and quality of primary and secondary schools by supporting the teachers through in-service education, provision of books and school supplies, and improvements in classroom facilities
15. Enable economic development and independence by offering microcredit to community members and assistance with business endeavors

Board of Directors

- Sr. Pam Buganski, SND, MNA
- Richard Ellis, BS
- Kathleen Kolodgy, Esq
- Robert Kolodgy, MBA
- Coral Matus, MD
- Christine McMahon, MBA
- Rev. Roger Miller, MDiv, Med
- Anne Ruch, MD
- Randall Ruch, PhD, MPH
- Bill Schmidt, MBA

SewHope 2009 Accomplishments

Administrative:

- Extensive development of short and long term strategic planning goals
- Hired Ismael Martines, a Guatemalan, to help us achieve these goals
- Founding of Toledo chapter of "Kids Against Hunger"
- Ten medical students participated on 2009 trips
- Further development of relationship with the University of Toledo; upper level students now receive medical school credit for trips
- Weekly medical Spanish classes started by Deena Ellis
- Establishment of a storage facility in Guatemala
- 2nd Annual LEAP event
- 1st Miles for Missions 5K race



Health

- Five medical mission trips where over 1,000 adult and child patients were treated
- Cervical cancer screening program continues to develop and includes Pap tests, colposcopy, and cryotherapy or LEEP for treatment. Five hundred women received screening and twenty-five had significant cervical dysplasia and were treated appropriately.
- Prenatal evaluation of over 100 women including OB ultrasound, blood pressure monitoring, urine sampling, provision of prenatal vitamins and help in planning their deliveries
- Building close relationship with local clinic to advance all of the health goals in our strategic plan including vaccine administration, supplying necessary medications and education of staff
- Currently working with local community health officials to plan Women's Health Week in March, 2010 where we will be providing education for women on many women's health issues
- Developed a relationship with health officials at Hospital Sayaxche and planning a surgical trip in April, 2010
- Initiated bi-annual dental fluoride treatment for children in villages. Over 2,000 treatments given.
- Continued bi-annual distribution of de-worming medications for all villagers



Nutrition

- Started a Kids Against Hunger chapter in Toledo after receiving a grant from Zion Lutheran Church in Waterville.
- Many families, schools, clubs, churches, and other groups have raised funds, and helped pack KAH food for starving families in Guatemala. Recently, 110,000 meals were shipped to Guatemala.
- Fruit and vegetable gardens have been started at the school and by families in Pueblo Nuevo
- We have begun working with the communities to improve farming practices and identify drought-resistant, nutritious crops.
- Through the efforts of Beatrice Thaman and her organization, Give to Grow, over 300,000 vitamins were obtained and shipped to Guatemala.



Water and Sanitation

- Ten composting latrines were completed and 22 additional ones are being built in Pueblo Nuevo. The composted waste from the latrines will be used as fertilizer in family gardens and fields.
- Funds provided for well pump during period of acute drought.



Education

- Provided training and in-service support for school teachers to improve their skills and curriculum
- Collected and distributed over 400 Spanish children's books to school children
- Provided school supplies and equipment to school
- Providing daily meal and vitamin to school children
- Helped provide a festival day for the Pueblo Nuevo school children
- With community involvement, developed a plan to improve the physical facilities of the Pueblo Nuevo school and will implement the plan in 2010



Spirituality

- Distributed 500 Spanish bibles to community members
- Worked with local pastors to identify their needs and build rapport amongst denominations
- Prayed and ministered to patients, families, and medical staff at clinics and in villages



Eduardo Salas

- Eduardo Salas was brought to the U.S. to have a brain tumor removed by Dr. Ahmad Zakeri with the help of Promedica Health Systems and Healing the Children.
- Eduardo was lovingly cared for during his stay by the family of Rev. Paul and Carol Doerfler.



2009 Total Revenue – \$62,789

- Revenue for Projects – \$42,793
- Personal Contributions – \$32,793
- Grants – \$10,000
- Revenue for mission trips – \$19,996

2009 Gifts in Kind - \$16,900

2009 Total Expenses – \$64,476

- Mission trips – \$19,910
- Administrative (website, postage, bank and credit card fees, fundraising, printing, and shipping) – \$5,567
- Student travel scholarships – \$600
- Project expenses – \$38,399
 - Medical Projects – \$19,400
 - Education – \$3,247
 - Sanitation (water, latrines) – \$2,828
 - Spiritual – \$900
 - Nutrition – \$12,024

Available Funds – \$49,963

- SewHope – \$41,146
- Shannon Wilson Foundation – \$8,817



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

SewHopeSupporters (since inception)

***Founder's Circle – Original Donors to Shannon Wilson Fund**

Circulo de Platino – \$10,000-\$19,999

Drs. Randall and Anne Ruch (Founder's Circle)*

St. Paul's Lutheran Church
Beatrice Thaman – recipient of the
Prudential Spirit of Community Award

Circulo de Jade – \$5,000 - \$9,999

Mrs. Mary Towey (in honor of John Towey)
Mr. Ed and Dr. Coral Matus
Zion Lutheran Church

Circulo de Oro – \$2,500 - \$4,999

Drs. William and Seema Bonney
Dr. and Mrs. Gary and Sandra Collins
Dr. John and Georgia DeKeyser
Elmwood High School
Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Mary Mascazine
Northshore Baptist Church
Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Laura Rudolph
Mr. and Mrs. Bill and Anne Schmidt
Mr. Michael Thaman and Mrs. Lisa Gathard
UBS Financial
Mr. and Mrs. John and Cheryl Wakelin

Circulo de Plata – \$1,000 - \$2,499

Friends of Guatemala
Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Kathleen Kolodgy
Mr. and Mrs. Ray and Mary Kate Hafeman
Dr. Renee Mason
Mrs. Christine McMahon
Mr. John Orozco
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas and Colleen Perry
Ms. Melinda and Ms. Chris Rakesmith
Mrs. Anna Ruch
Mr. Carl and Mr. Mark Sass
Starbucks Matching Gifts Program
Mr. and Mrs. David and Suzanne Sobel-
Poage
Ms. Anna Wilson (Founder's Circle)*
Ms. Rebecca Wilson (Founder's Circle) *
Ms. Lauren Wondolowski

Circulo de Ónix – \$500 - \$999

Mr. and Mrs. Joe and Becky Bradac
Sr. Pam Buganski (In-kind donation)
Ms. Karen Cothren
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Jeanne Crossen
Dr. and Mrs. Lou D'Amato
Mr. and Mrs. Kevin and Eileen Kerner
Mr. and Mrs. Philip Kirk
Ms. Patricia Jacoby
Mr. Marc Levin and Mrs. Terrell Allen
Dr. and Mrs. Maurice and Carmel Manning
Mr. and Mrs. Ken and LeighAnn Meinecke
Ottawa Hills School System
Mr. Tom Olson
Ms. Julie Oswald
Dr. and Mrs. Greg and Cindy Smith
Dr. Lynette Thuma
The Toledo Clinic

Circulo de Topacio - \$100 - \$499

Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Loviah Aldinger
Mr. and Mrs. Greg Arent
Mr. William Balzer and Ms. Margaret
Lockhart
Dr. Shirley Bodi
Mr. and Mrs. Bruce and Jeanne Baker
Ms. Anne Bauman
Mr. and Mrs. Harlan and Lois Billow

Ms. Sally Binard
Ms. Laura Boomer (Founder's Circle)*
Mr. and Mrs. John and Julie Bunde
Mr. and Mrs. Craig and Martha Burns
Mr. and Mrs. Rodney and Sharon Clark
Mr. and Mrs. Richard and Cheryl Cohen
Mr. Randy Climo
Mr. and Mrs. Tim and Marie Comer
Computer Works of Toledo
Mr. Michael Craig
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Andrea Delman
Rev. and Mrs. Paul and Carol Doerffler
Mr. and Mrs. Christopher and Jenee Drage
Mr. and Mrs. Todd and Jane Durham
El Camino Real
Mr. and Mrs. Richard Ellis
Ms. Elfrieda Evanoff
Dr. and Mrs. Paul and Lori Fenton
Mr. Greg Fondren and Ms. Paula Fought
Ms. Kristen Gennari
Good Shephard Church
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Claire Guisfredi
Mr. and Mrs. John and Diane Harris
Mr. William Haupricht
Dr. Donald and Mrs. Janet Hickey
Ms. Julie Brotje Higgins
Mr. Matthew and Beth Holzemer
Mr. and Mrs. Mitchell Houck
Ms. Anne Huebner
Dr. Chris Kanios
Ms. Natalie King
Mr. R. King
Mr. John Krauss
Mr. and Mrs. Sam and Sharon Koon
Ms. Mary LeStrange
Mr. and Mrs. Dan and Jerry Lowe
Mr. Daniel Maloney
Masters in Action
Ms. Elaine L. McClish
Methodist Hospital System
Mr. Ron McKinney
Mr. and Mrs. Ken and LeighAnn Meinecke
Mr. Daniel Miller
Rev. and Mrs. Roger and Leslie Miller
Dr. James Moeller
Mr. and Mrs. Justin Mowrey (Founder's
Circle)*
Ms. Debbie Myler
Ms. Karen Nagel (Founder's Circle)*
Mr. and Mrs. John Nagel
Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Navarro (Founder's
Circle)*
Northwest Ohio Perianesthesia Nurse
Association
Ohio Spine Network
Mr. and Mrs. Do and Thaochien Nguyen
Mr. Lynn Olman
Mr. and Mrs. Gerald and Marilyn Otten
Dr. and Mrs. Hector and Waleska Ramirez
Mr. and Mrs. Gary and Barbara Phillips
Dr. and Mrs. Garth Phibbs
Ms. Sophie Plantz
Ms. Stacy Rees
Mr. and Mrs. Brad and Laura Rieger
Mr. Jeremy Robinson
St. Thomas Aquinas Church
Mr. and Mrs. Brad Sager (Founder's
Circle)*
Ms. Traci Sands
Mr. and Mrs. Greg and Sandy Schell
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Gloria Sheline
Mr. Ray Shutzman
Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Linda Smith
Mr. and Mrs. Tom and Lynn Sorg
Mr. and Mrs. Jim and Barb Stengle
Mr. Christopher Stickley
Ms. Nova Stickley
Mr. and Mrs. Dennis and Karen Stickley

Mr. Joe Theriault
Ms. Jean Thieroff
Mr. Kevin Thornton
Ms. Babs Thorson
Dr. and Mrs James and Joan Trempe
Ms. Julia Trickey (Founder's Circle)*
Mr. and Mrs. John and Kathy Trzcinski
University of Texas Medical Branch
Verizon Foundation (Founder's Circle)*
Mr. and Mrs. Michael Vines (Founder's
Circle)
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wagner
Mr. and Mrs. Glen and Marie Webster
Ms. Lauren Wondolowski
Mr. and Mrs. Tsanyen and Karen Yang
Ms. Mary Yee (Founder's Circle)*
Ms. Judy Zilka

Friends of SewHope - \$1-\$99

Ms. Claudia Alvarez
Ms. Hilary Archbold
Mr. and Mrs. Richard C. Armbruster
Mr. and Mrs. H. Daniel Bauer
Mr. Bill Boardman
Mr. and Mrs. Louis and Ruth Ann Boehk
Drs. Keith and Summer Bohman
Mr. Robert Boley and Ms. Cynthia Marsha
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Brooks
Mr. James Bryant and Ms. Cathy Wehner
Mr. Kent Buehrer
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph and Stephanie
Buganski
Mr. J. Burke
Mr. and Mrs. Shaun Bush
Mr. and Mrs. Walter Campbell
Ms. Jill Colvin
Communications Workers of America Local
4320
Dr. Kim Confer-Seely
Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Crock
Ms. Kathy Curry
Mr. Mar Daquist
Ms. Jennifer Davis
Mr. and Mrs. Desilvis
Ms. Dawn Edwards
Mr. and Mrs. Tim and Teresa Ellerbrock
Mr. and Ms Howard Emswiler
Mr. and Mrs. Alan and Bonita Fenton
Ms. Marianne Fife-Ossege
Ms. Teresa Flores
Mr. and Mrs. James and Kathleen Flynn
Ms. Erika Gaddis
Ms. Lynette J. Gibboney
Ms. Jackie Giles
Mr. and Mrs. Michael and Jeanne Guess
Ms. Ginger Gnudson
Mr. Michael Hennessy
Ms. Vickie Hill
Mr. and Mrs. Robert and Marcia Holmes
Ms. Jacqueline Hursey
Indian Orchard Farm
Ms. Kendra Kagy
Honorable Marcy Kaptur
Mr. and Mrs. Kip and Barbara Keller
Mr. and Mrs Michael and Jo Anne Killion
Ms. Teresa Kimmell
Mr. John Koon
Mr. John Krauss
Mr. and Mrs. John and Marilyn Lechman
Dr. and Mrs. Michael and Barbara Lemon
Ms. Mary Leonard
Ms. Kathleen Little
Ms. Kleia Luckner
Ms. Natalie Lupton
Mr. and Mrs. Mikkell Mandt
Mr. and Mrs. Eric Maxwell
Mr. Jack Miller
Ms. Christina Moffat

Ms. Jay Moore
 Ms. Sherri Mossing
 Ms. Virginia Nagel
 Mr. John O'Leary
 Pataskala Pharmacy
 Mr. and Mrs. Robert O'Leary
 Mr. and Mrs. David Patton
 Mr. and Mrs. Eric Ramsey
 Mr. and Mrs. Ed and Carol Ray
 Ms. Heather Rediger
 Ms. Janet Rogolsky
 Mr. Rudel Saunders
 Ms. Linda Schlaghter
 Mr. and Mrs. Ron and Pat Seguin
 Mr. and Mrs. Alan and Marianne Simons
 Sisters of Mercy
 Ms. Tina Schultz
 Mr. Ray Schutzman
 Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Simpson
 Mr. and Mrs. Steve and Linda Smith
 Ms. Judy Sterrett
 Ms. Roseanne Stewart
 Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Taylor
 Ms. DeeDee Thorsby
 Ms. Sharon Thorpe
 Walk Nationwide
 Ms. Jennifer Weber
 Mr. and Mrs. Jason Weiss
 Mr. and Mrs. Jeff and Diana Willbarger
 Mr. and Mrs. Mike and Patrician Whittington
 Ms. Heidi Young

SewHope Mission Trip Participants

Loviah Aldinger
 Bruce Baker
 Michelle Bauer
 Sr. Pam Buganski
 Kim Collins
 Gary Collins
 Sr. Colleen Cousino

Brad Crossen
 Jeanne Crossen
 Kathy Curry
 Graham DeKeyser
 John DeKeyser
 Nora DeKeyser
 Meredith Dorr
 Deena Ellis
 Patrick Fleming
 Truett Fogle
 Mary Rose Hayes
 Tom Hayes
 Natalie King
 Simon Lai
 Katherine Lee
 Mary Mascazine
 Joe Mascazine
 Coral Matus
 Alex Matus
 Lindsey Matus
 Renee Mason
 Christine McMahon
 Roger Miller
 Leslie Miller
 Ashley Misejka
 Kathryn Myers
 Alicia Ofori-Atta
 Gladys Ofori-Atta
 John Orozco
 David Podboy
 Melinda Rakesmith
 Rony Reyes
 Meghan Roach
 Audrey Roberts
 Anne Ruch
 Laura Ruch
 Ninette Ruch
 Randall Ruch
 Russell Ruch
 Tina Schultz

Bill Schmidt
 Jacob Snow
 Sue Summer
 Lynette Thuma
 Maggie Trzcinski
 Jennifer Weber
 Lauren Wondolowski

Corporate Sponsors, In-Kind Sponsors and Partners who provided SewHope with generous financial, organizational, and other support

Alaska Medical Missions
 Americares
 The Anderson's
 Border's Books
 Computer Works of Toledo
 El Camino Real
 Elmwood High School
 Friends of Guatemala
 Give to Grow
 Healing the Children
 Holigic LP
 Kids Against Hunger – Great Lakes Region
 Kingsway Charities
 North Shore Baptist Church, Chicago, IL
 The Ohio Spine Network
 Ottawa Hills School System
 Promedica Health Systems, especially the Surgery and Pathology departments
 Providence Alaska Medical Center
 The Prudential Foundation
 St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Maumee, Ohio
 Starbucks Matching Gifts Program
 Sylvania Graphics
 3M ESPE Dental Products
 The Toledo Clinic
 UBS Financial
 The University of Toledo
 Zion Lutheran Church, Waterville, Ohio

"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

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

SEW HOPE

www.SewHope.org

