

**Report**  
**MANCHESTER COLLEGE MEDICAL PRACTICUM, JANUARY 2001**

During the 19<sup>th</sup> annual Medical Practicum in Central America, and the 9<sup>th</sup> to Nicaragua, the medical team delivered health services to 1714 patients in El Horniguero and the surrounding areas. We are extremely grateful to those who contributed to the success of this program.

Medicines and supplies were provided at reduced costs by Interchurch Medical Assistance, Inc., Blessings International, MAP International, Roche Laboratories, World Dental Relief, Oral Health Products, Fisher Scientific, and Bayer Corp. Sanofi donated Aralen (anti-malarial tablets) for the entire team. The total cost of medicines and supplies for this year's trip was \$10,722. All of the medicines and supplies were hand carried as 21 large checked bags on our flight and all arrived and passed through customs with us. Because of our friends in Managua had diligently processed all necessary official papers, not one bag of medicines or personal items was opened for inspection. All medicines not used during our two weeks of clinics remain at the Maria Luisa Ortiz Clinic in Mulukuku, Nicaragua.

Our team consisted of six physicians, a midwife, a dentist, a pharmacist, 14 Manchester College students, three faculty and two family members. Our delegation had a great deal of excitement on this year's trip. The Women's Clinic in Mulukuku was temporarily closed by the government due to new changes in health regulations. Also, our friend Dorothy Granada, a U.S. nurse who coordinates the clinic, was unable to work with us because she was fighting a government deportation order brought on by false charges against her. During our time in Managua, our group met with the President of the Nicaraguan Human Rights Commission during a national press conference to show our solidarity with Dorothy and the Women's Clinic. We appeared on Nicaraguan national television and in the two major newspapers in Managua. We are happy to say that recently the clinic reopened, the government lifted Dorothy's deportation order, and the 30,000 people in the Mulukuku area now have a place to go for health care.

We were fortunate to be able to work with the health promoters of the Women's Clinic in a more remote but beautiful site in Nicaragua. During a brief visit to Mulukuku, we saw construction of a new dining hall and offices at the clinic. They recently acquired several dental chairs and an army ambulance. We plan to return to the Women's Clinic in Mulukuku for next year's medical practicum.

The medical practicum experience for students and professionals is priceless. The majority of people in our group had never before seen life in a third world country where health care is unavailable to a large percentage of the population and the average age is 14 years old. We are fortunate to be able to continue working with a community that cares deeply for its people.

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