

Report

MANCHESTER COLLEGE MEDICAL PRACTICUM, JANUARY 2003

During the 21st annual Medical Practicum in Central America, and the 11th to Nicaragua, the medical team delivered health services to 2,234 patients (1697 medical consultations, 502 dental consultations, and 35 hearing consultations) in Mulukuku 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, Fisher Scientific, and Bayer Corp. Follas Laboratories graciously allowed us to use a portable lab kit. Sanofi donated Aralen (anti-malarial tablets) for the medical team. The College received a \$1500 grant from the Gemmer Family Foundation to purchase medicines. The total cost of medicines and supplies for this year's trip was \$6,471. All of the medicines and supplies were hand carried as 22 large checked bags on our flight and all arrived and passed through customs with us. Because 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 five physicians, a midwife, two nurses, three dentists, a pharmacist, a hearing consultant, 13 Manchester College students, one faculty, five translators and seven family members. The group also set up a satellite clinic in Santa Rita, a small village about 40 minutes from Mulukuku. During our two weeks of clinic, we saw a large number of patients with malaria, parasites, impetigo, and malnutrition.

We were fortunate to be able to work side-by-side with the members of the Maria Luisa Ortiz Women's Cooperative. They have an amazing sense of organization that makes the clinic run very smoothly. They also made sure that our daily needs for food, water, lodgings, laundry and security were met. The Clinic has come a long way since it's beginnings. Last year we ate our meals in their newly finished dining hall, and this year their new office area was completed.

Dorothy Granada wrote in the March, 2003 Clinic Newsletter, *"The nearly 40-member delegation of health practitioners, students and support people did magnificent work in Mulukuku and Santa Rita in their two week annual visit. It was perhaps the happiest, most cohesive group we've ever hosted. Ed and Martha Miller came out of retirement to lead the group. The quality of health care was excellent."*

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.

Terrie Salupo-Bryant
Director, Manchester College Medical Practicum