

Bringing Children Health in Guatemala



Brenda, a single mother of two, is employed as a domestic worker, washing and ironing clothes. She makes just \$19 per week, barely enough to feed her and her two children, a daughter age 2, and a son age 10. Her job offers no benefits. She has no vacation, no insurance, and no job security. If she misses work due to illness, she loses her job. Neither child is able to attend school because she cannot pay the school fees.

The family lives in the area of Jocotillo, Guatemala. The land that Brenda and her children live on is located on the banks of a ravine and does not have adequate sanitation. The family uses firewood to cook. The smoke from the fire often contributes to respiratory problems.

Brenda's two-year-old daughter became so sick recently that she had

difficulty breathing. She had a bad cough and was running a fever. Brenda knew she needed help, so she made her way to the closest clinic, located 2 km from her home. Supported by the Order of Malta, the clinic also receives support from Food for the Poor and pediatric antibiotics from MAP International through its Bringing Children Health program.

At the clinic, Brenda and her daughter met Dr. Yusimil Carranza (all seen above), or "Dr. Yusi" as everyone calls her. A highly trained pediatrician, Dr. Yusi chooses to work in the clinic primarily serving some of the poorest families in Guatemala instead of taking a more lucrative job in private practice.

"I love these families," she says. "Serving them is a privilege."

When Dr. Yusi examined Brenda's daughter, she diagnosed her with acute

pneumonia and was able to treat her with pediatric amoxicillin, thanks to MAP. Brenda couldn't have paid for the medicine and was so grateful that her daughter could receive the treatment free.

"Too often children go untreated because their parents can't afford medicine," said Dr. Yusi. "This can lead to chronic, life-long problems and even death."

After taking the medicine, the little girl's condition improved and she was back to her normal self. Dr. Yusi made sure the antibiotics were used properly and that the little girl had completely recovered.

"I love these families," she says. "Serving them is a privilege."

Brenda is so grateful to the donors because she does not have the necessary resources to buy the medicine her daughter required. "May God bless everyone for all you have done for us," Brenda said.

To learn more about MAP's Bringing Children Health program, go to www.map.org. +

Obrigada for Disaster Health Kits

When Cyclone Idai struck Mozambique earlier this year, Celestina and her son Manual were left with nothing. They fled their home and made their way to a shelter with only the few things Celestina could carry. There they were overwhelmed with joy when they received a MAP Disaster Health Kit (DHK) packed by volunteers in the US and sent to Mozambique. The soap, toothpaste, wash cloth, salve, and other products in the kit meant that Celestina could keep herself and her son clean and prevent secondary infections that often occur after a disaster. She has sent a big thank you—"obrigada"—in Portuguese, the language of Mozambique. But her smile really says it all.

To learn more about hosting a packing event for Disaster Health Kits go to www.map.org/corporate-giving +



MAP's Domestic Medicine Program

Access to medicine and health supplies are a key component of essential health care in any community. In the state of Georgia, 1.8 million people live without insurance (nearly 20 percent of the state population) and an additional 1 million people qualify as underinsured.

Many patients are unable to afford a doctor visit or prescription medication and therefore forego these services until they become critically sick. Diabetes and hypertension go unchecked until the person collapses. Then they receive medical attention in the most expensive setting: hospital emergency rooms.

To date, MAP has served more than 2,000 people in the state of Georgia who are unable to afford medicine and health supplies. MAP International is partnering with 13 healthcare providers and clinics with plans to expand across the state. These clinics improve access to life-changing medicine for people with asthma, hypertension, diabetes, and high cholesterol.

More than 60 percent of all patients receiving these medicines have shown an improvement in their disease management. MAP is also working with free and charitable clinics to provide over-the-counter medications and antibiotics for the treatment of acute illnesses.

To learn more about MAP's Domestic Medicine Program, go to www.map.org/domestic. +

Meeting the World's Needs Close to Home

Clarkston, Ga. is often referred to as "the most diverse square mile in America" and "the Ellis Island of the South." With one of the highest refugee populations in America, it also has one of the highest uninsured rates and one of the lowest rates of access to health clinics. Ironically, it is less than 20 miles from Atlanta, one of the world centers of medical care and innovation.

Four Christian physicians saw it as an ideal place to start a very special kind of clinic that could minister holistically. Their dream of living out their faith while providing health care came to fruition when they established Ethne Health in Clarkston. Its mission is to deliver "comprehensive, high value healthcare through a culturally sensitive, neighbor-centered medical home that advances Jesus' love and justice in our vibrant community." Ethne comes from the Greek word used in Matt. 28:19 to describe "all nations."

With services ranging from pediatrics to gynecology and specialties such as caring for patients with HIV, the small clinic is constantly busy. Interpretation services are available and used regularly by the patients who come from dozens of different ethnic backgrounds.

Relying on donations, the clinic serves people regardless of their ability to pay. There are discounted rates for those who are uninsured and there is help available to those who need financial assistance. One of the biggest needs of the clinic is providing medicine to



those who need to fill prescriptions but can't afford to pay.

That's why MAP International has partnered with Ethne through its Domestic Medicine Program. Says Dr. Andrew Kim, one of the clinic's founders, "The MAP medicines have been essential for our uninsured patients. Many of these patients have difficulty not just paying for medications, but also difficulty getting to a pharmacy to purchase the medications.

"When we are able to dispense these often life-improving and life-saving medications, another barrier is removed in the process of getting well. It's hard to overstate the importance of these medications and the incredible differences we've seen in patients' lives already!"

The physicians at Ethne are very grateful for the support of MAP and the donors who make the medicines available. "As Christians that strongly believe in using the provision of medicine to love and serve the least of these, we are grateful for people that have come alongside us by donating much needed resources," Dr. Kim continued. "Even though we have limited earthly resources, we are amazed by God's unlimited resources that we see frequently in the oftentimes generous and timely donations from MAP. These donations allow us to be Jesus' hands and feet to our diverse population in Clarkston." +



MAP President and CEO, Steve Stirling with Dr. Andrew Kim



MAP's Chagas Program Gets High Marks

Chagas disease is common in places where you find the triatomine bug, often called the "kissing bug" or the "blood sucking bug" that transmits a parasite. It is mostly found in South America, Central America, and Mexico and infects as many as 8 million people. The disease can cause swelling and fever, and without treatment can be long lasting. Left untreated, it can cause congestive heart failure.

For nearly 30 years, MAP has worked to fight Chagas in rural Bolivia. Since 2014, the AbbVie Foundation has supported MAP's efforts to provide sustainable, human-centered solutions to combat Chagas. These efforts include community health worker training, educational public health campaigns, diagnosis and treatment support, and working with the government to improve hygiene and residential infrastructure.

The triatomine bugs often make their way into homes constructed from mud bricks or where the dwelling has cracks or openings. There they bite the inhabitants, transmitting the parasite as they draw blood.

Recently, MAP and AbbVie Foundation

asked Notre Dame's Initiative for Global Development division to evaluate the Chagas Program. Notre Dame evaluators traveled to Bolivia and met with more than 180 individuals to determine the effectiveness of the program.

Between 2015 and 2017 the program served more than **30,000** individuals, trained **500** health workers and **400** community members, and screened nearly **7,500** for the disease.

The Chagas Program "has consistently achieved its targets for program reach and service delivery over the course of its implementation," the evaluators reported. Between 2015 and 2017 the program served more than 30,000 individuals, trained 500 health workers and 400 community members, and

screened nearly 7,500 for the disease.

"We used to get very cold in our houses, but now we are warm," commented one local woman after learning how to insulate her home not only from the weather but also from the insects. "The vinchucas (blood sucking bugs) used to eat us alive, but now they don't."

One community member noted that most people were not aware of Chagas and did not know it was "a disease that causes complications in the heart and intestines...Now, with the training workshops, people recognize the 'kissing bug,' know that it carries a silent disease, and know how to perform the corresponding treatment to keep their homes clean."

Said Steve Stirling, MAP President and CEO, "We're so pleased to have an objective study done on this important work. It demonstrates that the efforts of local staff and the contributions of donors are making a huge difference in the lives of so many people." +

MAP's Mission Is Personal to Board Member



For MAP International board member Abidemi Oseni-Oyebode ("Abi"), the organization's mission is personal. The daughter of

a Nigerian diplomat, Abi has lived in a number of countries, and knows that access to quality medicine is something we take for granted in the US.

"The ability to access real, authentic, necessary medicine is very limited in many countries," notes Abi, whose own father several years ago had a reaction to medicine he purchased in Nigeria and later discovered was counterfeit. "We were thankful that he only developed a rash. But many

people receive 'medicine' that is actually toxic. That's why I'm so grateful that MAP delivers quality medicine to people in need in so many parts of the world."



Clinic in Haiti where Abi served on a missions trip

Both Abi and her husband are pharmacists and see their professions as part of God's plan for their lives. While she works at Johns Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore, her husband uses his skills at a nonprofit clinic serving a

mostly indigent population. Abi also enjoys going on mission trips where she uses her skills to help local clinics.

Originally planning to be a pediatrician, Abi became a pharmacist first so she could work and pay her way through medical school. "God had a divine plan," she says, noting that she never made it to medical school because God gave her many opportunities to minister as a pharmacist.

"There are so many ways to do God's work," she notes. "We have to meet people's needs first before we can share Christ's love with them."

Being on the MAP board is "a huge honor," says Abi. "Besides the core work of bringing medicine to the world, I'm most impressed with MAP's commitment to financial accountability," she says. +

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