



ANNUAL REPORT

A Year in Review

2006

Thomas Paine, the famous American statesman, once said, **“The world is my country and all mankind are my brethren.”**

As *Refuge International* continues to grow and expand, the world has indeed become our home.

Spring 2007 marks the completion of four years of *Refuge International's* work. It also marks the beginning of several new projects, including expansion of programs into Kenya. Volunteer teams working in the San Raymundo area of Guatemala continue to grow in services as well as number. A research project jointly underway with the University of Texas at Tyler and Yale University received **national recognition** when data was presented at the annual meeting of the **American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene**.



Expansion of a **cervical cancer screening** program continues. New partnerships with other organizations have been formed. *Refuge* sent a vehicle to missionaries in need of transportation for their daily work. Through our Saul Project, **medical treatment** made it possible for another little boy to walk. **Completion of a medical clinic in Sarstun** has drawn closer to a reality.

In many ways, so much has happened so fast...and yet, **there remains so much to be done**. As we travel through Guatemala and Kenya, there is a hope that over the next hill conditions will be better. But the better conditions are nowhere to be found. So the work will continue as we, like Thomas Paine, **see the world as our country and all mankind as our brethren**.

4th Annual Report

Special points of interest:

- 8 mission teams in 2006
- 9,000+ volunteer hours
- 119 volunteers traveled to Guatemala and Kenya
- 5,692+ Patients seen in Guatemala and Kenya
- 600,000 Children received worm medication in Guatemala
- 101 Lifesaving surgeries performed
- Little boy received surgery in the US to help him walk
- Major Universities form relationships in Nursing Education
- *Refuge International* and Yale University collaborate in research study

Adios Lombrices

“Adios Lombrices!” or in English, **“Goodbye Worms!”** is the name of the project begun March 7, 2007 in Guatemala. According to the World Health Organization, **worm infections cause severe illness, impair physical and mental growth in childhood, thwart educational advancement and hinder economic development**. A project spearheaded by *Refuge International* volunteers is aimed at ridding all of the children of worms in Guatemala. For two pennies a

dose, over 600,000 children throughout four different departments (states) in the country received the first dose of medication. Thanks to the Ministry of Education in each of these departments, children were given their medication through the schools, even those children

not enrolled.

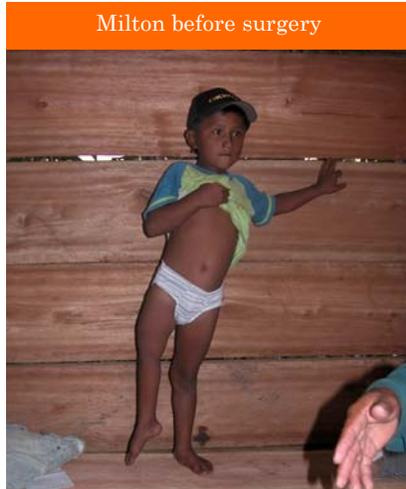
So many wonderful partnerships have been forged to bring this about, including the Mennonite Church, the church of the Nazarene, WOW (Wipe Out Worms), ADRIS, the Pan American Health Organization and our friends of the Medical/Surgical Group in San Raymundo. The second dose will be administered in August 2007 with expansion into two other departments. **Plans are to expand to the entire country**



Delivering Worm Medicine

For two pennies a child can be free of worms, for a dime, five children can be treated. The overall cost of treating 4.5 million children, six different times is \$800,000.00. *Refuge International* is currently seeking donations and applying for grants to help fund this program.

Saul Project

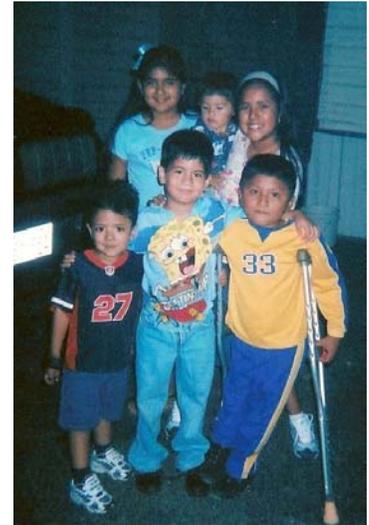


Milton before surgery

In Hebrew, the definition of Saul is 'asked'. As *Refuge* volunteers have worked throughout Guatemala, they have found many children who need extensive orthopedic surgery that

cannot be performed in the country itself. **In 2006, a young boy named Milton Caal spent ten months in the United States undergoing life-changing surgery.** When Milton was two years old he fractured his right femur. As a result of several bone graft failures and infections, he ended up with virtually no femur at all. His right leg had no support and hung loosely. After amazing work by a group of specialists at Scottish Rite Hospital in Dallas, Texas, Milton walked home. **His father called recently to say that, for the first time in his life, Milton is attending school and is able to play outside with his brothers and sisters.** He is the second child who has been helped through *Refuge's* Saul Project. There are four other children waiting to be helped through this program. **The project is in need of donated frequent flyer miles, homes where these children can stay for two weeks at a time**

and friends who can provide transportation to and from the hospital. Please contact *Refuge* if you can help in any of these areas.



Milton with his new friends after surgery

Education Project

When *Refuge* arrived in Sarstun, Guatemala, there were about 45 children enrolled in school. Now there are over 150 children attending two schools. The second school has been constructed. ***Refuge* continues to support the schools with supplies and by paying the salary of two school teachers.** *Refuge* also continues to support ten children who are enrolled in high schools throughout the Izabel area. Four of these students will graduate from school at the end of 2007. *Refuge* supporters made this possible for these students. *Refuge* anticipates expanding available educa-



New School in Sarstun

"Without education, neither the face of Guatemala nor the face of the world will change."

tion beyond 6th grade in Sarstun beginning in January of 2008. Supporters are also helping two indigenous women become nurses.

Without caring, dedicated and knowledgeable teachers, Guatemalan students in these remote areas will not receive an education. Without education, neither the face of Guatemala nor the face of the world will change. *Refuge* needs help with funding teachers' salaries at a cost of \$2,500.00 a year. Donated school supplies are needed. Individual students attending high school can be helped for \$450.00 a year.

Sarstun Clinic

Thanks to the overwhelming support of so many and the generosity of Faith in Practice, **the Sarstun clinic construction project is nearing completion.** This clinic will serve close to 15,000 people in a remote area of Guatemala that is only accessible by boat. A group of *Refuge* volunteers had the opportunity to participate in the roofing day, September 4, 2006, labor day! It was an incredible experience— watching over 200 volunteers from many villages in the area, spend the day put-

ting the roof on the surgery portion of the clinic. **Bob Farley, a missionary from Belize, said he had never seen so many indigenous people working together for a common goal.** Other groups of medical volunteers are ready to begin work in the clinic upon its completion. Recruitment of a full-time health care provider is ongoing. *Refuge* is seeking donations to provide a salary of \$10,000 a year for a Guatemalan physician.



Volunteers working on the Sarstun Clinic

Refuge International and Yale University Collaboration

Who would have ever thought? Refuge and Yale? Early in 2006, Mary Ann Brown, Dr. William Sorensen, and Deborah Bell began working on a research proposal. The objective was to find out how often children in developing countries needed to be treated for parasites. There was no definitive information in the literature regarding the use of worm medication and how often it should be given. In reviewing the literature, the researchers knew of a particular test that needed to be used. However, they could not locate a source for purchasing these kits. Mary Ann decided to call some researchers who had used them in their research. She contacted the infectious disease department at Yale. **Mary**



Ann's phone call prompted a collaborative research project. In October 2006, the initial data was presented at the **American Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene**. It is exciting to be able to share what we are learning with others. **A second research project with Yale and**

the University of Texas at Tyler is in its initial phase regarding malaria on the eastern coast of Guatemala.



Major Universities form relationships in Nursing Education

Nursing students and nurse practitioner students from the University of Texas at Tyler have been traveling to San Raymundo and Sarstun, Guatemala for the past three years with *Refuge*. During this time, *Refuge* has **facilitated a relationship between The University of Texas at Tyler Nursing School and the Nursing School in Guatemala City.** Drs. Susan Yarbrough, Barbara Haas and Debbie Mahoney have worked hard on helping their sister school in Guatemala. In February, the group from Tyler donated two computers and over 40 new nursing textbooks in Spanish to the Guatemalan



UT Tyler students and faculty with students and faculty from the Guatemalan School of Nursing

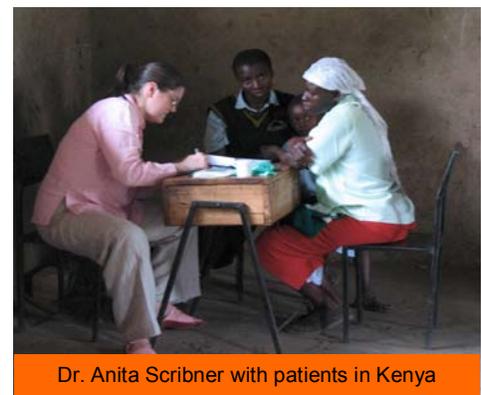
Refuge wants to continue to help create links between organizations in the United States with those in developing countries for the benefit of all.

A second relationship was started through "Survivor Guatemala"! Margaret Bobonich, an incredible participant on the show, contacted *Refuge* and went on her first mission trip in February 2006 with *Refuge*. **In October 2006 she brought a team of Nurse Practitioner students from the Frances Payne Bolton School of Nursing at Case Western Reserve University in Ohio.** Plans are in place to continue working together.

Kenya

Led by Dr. Anita Scribner, two *Refuge* medical teams have begun work in western Kenya, Africa. After working in Guatemala, Dr. Scribner realized that her expertise as an Infectious Disease specialist made her uniquely qualified to address the overwhelming problem of AIDS in Africa. Through her leadership, *Refuge* has **established a relationship with six clinics in the Kisumu area of Kenya.** Each of the teams traveling to Kenya has treated over 1000 patients during

their two-week stay. Over 500 cases of medical supplies, an x-ray machine, an anesthesia machine, and ventilator equipment have been shipped through *Refuge International* via the Orphan Grain Train. Supplies and equipment came from hospitals and clinics in East Texas and from as far way as Kerrville, Texas, and Oklahoma. *Refuge* **continues to seek donations of medical supplies and equipment to be used throughout Kenya.**



Dr. Anita Scribner with patients in Kenya

Volunteer Testimonies

Bette Jaedicke

“As a *Refuge International* team member from Montana (who doesn't speak East Texan), I was privileged to serve as interpreter in post-op. **What a blessing it was to have the unique opportunity to work with five different groups in one single area:** the Mayan patients just out of surgery, experienced nurses from the Texas team, nursing students from Texas, two Mayan health care workers from the remote area of Sarstun, and two nurses from nursing school in Guatemala City along with their instructor. The Guatemalan nurses represented two of the over twenty Mayan languages in Guatemala, Kek chi and Cakchiquel. Thus, there were four language groups present. **It was indeed a beautiful collaboration of skills, tongues, and hearts—all working toward a common goal—to provide medical care to the underprivileged Mayan majority of Guatemala.** Each one of us felt the unity of the Spirit as we worked, laughed, cried, supported, encouraged, and prayed in that small post-op room in San Raymundo, Guatemala.

Bette Jaedicke in San Raymundo



Seven-year-old surgery patient

Deirdre Leung

“I was the nurse in charge of pre op and we had a seven-year-old boy come in for a hernia repair. He was very well-behaved, very clean and neatly dressed. **His mom told us they had walked two hours to get to the clinic that day.** Since it wasn't a “serious” surgery he would be able to leave that afternoon, but the doctor told his mom not to let him walk much today or the next day. She said, “That's okay, I will carry him.” Hearing her say that really touched my heart and helped me realize how much the Guatemalans value us and our services, that they would travel so far, even carry their children so we can care for them. They trust us so much. It is a good feeling, and **it was an honor for me to help care for them.**”

You must be the
change you wish to see
in the world- Gandhi

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Mission and Vision Statements

Refuge International is a 501(c)3 compassionate volunteer organization dedicated to the goal of improving the lives of families and individuals through the collaborative development of sustainable programs in areas where health care, adequate nutrition, clean water, and education are lacking or non-existent.

We believe that all of humanity is of equal worth and should have their essential needs met without regard to culture, ideology, or religion. When people reach out to meet a need, those who choose to help benefit as do those who are in need. Working within these basic tenants, we hope to improve the lives of all.

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