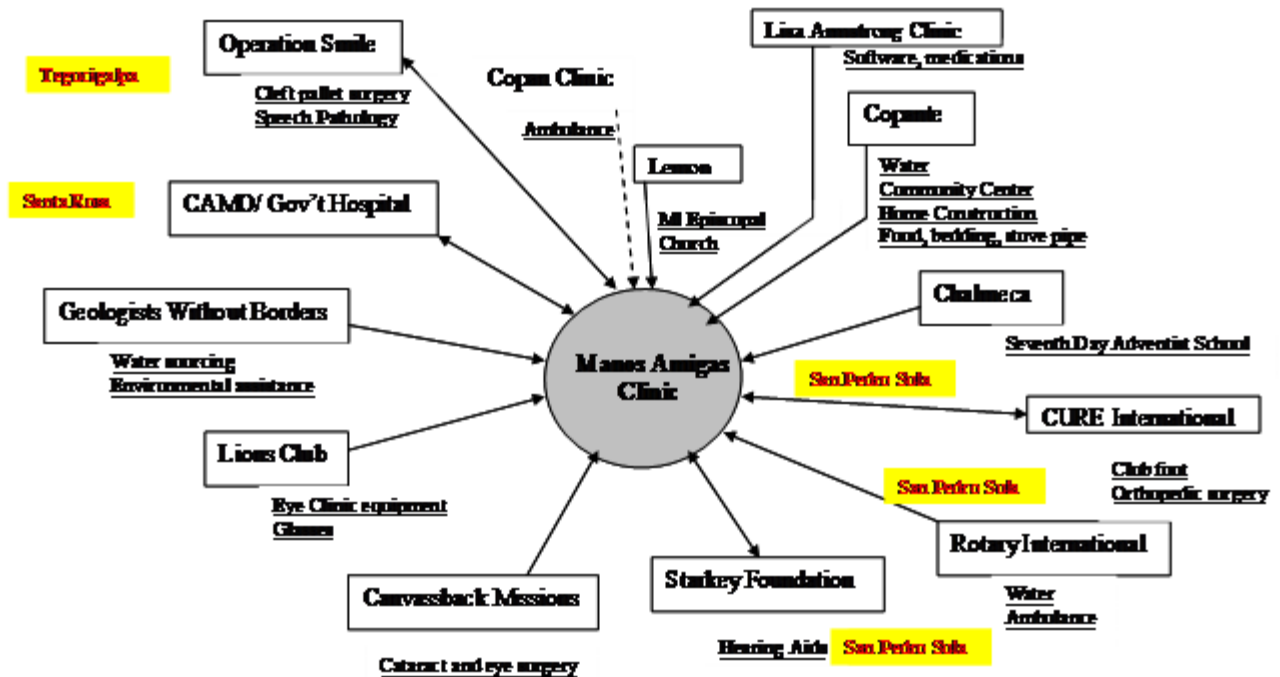


Honduras' Newest Medical Network

Participation in nets and business networks is common for us in North America, but no so in Honduras. Most of us are aware of them through our insurance plans of medical practices which participate “in the network” or plan and those who are “outside the net.” Through mergers and acquisitions, we have also seen assimilation of medical networks, but what do you do when you live in a part of the world where medical insurance, plans or networks don’t exist? You create one! That’s just what SATC did with *Manos Amigas* (MA) in Honduras.



In networking and building relationships, because of a miraculous set of circumstances during our last visit to the country, SATC was able to put together one of the first medical networks in Honduras, servicing the Copan Region and the people of La Entrada. This would not have been possible through brigade-type visits from medical teams. Because of the permanent nature of our mission, we were able to share our strategic plan and link up with other “full-time” missions and foundations with similar visions of service to the poor. Here are some groups with whom MA will work:

Starkey Foundation – one of the largest makers of hearing aids in the US. They donated \$1.0 M worth of hearing aids to assist children and adults. Approximately 1,000 devices are available without charge on a first come, first served basis. MA has registered qualifying patients at its clinic and publicized the program in adjoining barrios and on national television. A team from the foundation will be in-country beginning in February to make ear mold impressions and plans to return again in April for fittings and to make certain the devices work properly. Our clinic will be a testing and service center for the foundation.

Geologists Without Borders – an international organization of hydro-geologists from Italy, Switzerland, England and Australia who are in the country with specialized equipment and satellite technology and are capable of analyzing rock strata and locating underground streams or aquifers. MA has a need for their services and this foundation has agreed to help them site a well on the new clinic property where we can obtain high quality water for the clinic and the adjacent community. With their technology and expertise in rock porosity, they can determine the precise location where a strong flow of underground water can be tapped and brought to the surface through the drilling of a new well.

Operation Smile – this international foundation has a new clinic in Tegucigalpa where they



perform reconstructive surgeries on children and young adults with cleft palates and other facial and oral deformities. They will accept our patients, provide our medical staff with continuing medical education and the MA clinic will take care of the post operative cases in the Copan region. Parts of the Tegucigalpa clinic were without sufficient medical equipment for some of its medical suites, so SATC provided dental operatories and allied surgical equipment shipped from our inventory here in the states.

Water Missions International – this group has the capability of taking polluted river water and within a few hours, cleaning it up and transforming it into quality drinking water. This mission has supplied us with an electrical generator provided at dealer cost for our clinic. This generator is capable of supplying electricity for our well and all of the electrical backup needs for our clinic, including future expansion on the seven-acre campus. They will be working with us as we expand our public health program and attempt to bring clean water to those communities in which we work.

CURE International – operating in a number of countries around the world, this mission group



based in Harrisburg, PA is sending a physician from Penn State's Hershey medical center to work in San Pedro Sula at their new children's orthopedic clinic for two years. Working with a local surgeon, the clinic has agreed to accept patient referrals from our clinic and provide MA with the necessary training for post operative patient care of children from the Copan Region.

Rotary – Honduran chapters are willing to help with well drilling and bringing quality water to



needy communities. In addition, the West Chester, PA Club will provide the instrumentation and labware for equipping our blood and analytical lab in the new clinic.