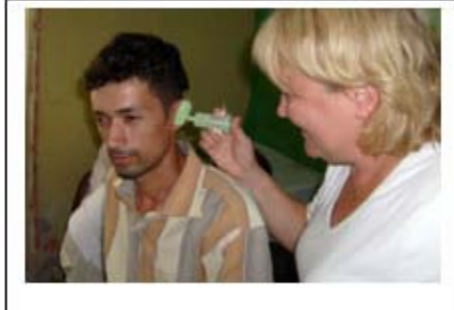


Administering Hearing aid tests



During a visit to our clinic in August, two Crossroads board members qualified more than 80 patients for participation in Starkey's Gift of Sound program in which they will receive hearing aids later this year. Dr. Bob Sumner and Karen Hoerner, RN traveled to Honduras to do the testing and to make wax impressions, the molds of the inner ear, for each patient. These ear impressions are brought back to Starkey in the US where they are used to shape and customize the fit of each patient's hearing aid.

Patients ranged in age from 3 - 80 years and all suffered from partial to almost complete loss of hearing in one or both ears. Many waited for hours each day under a tent until it was their turn to enter the hearing examination room.

Testing was a new experience for them as they had never before been evaluated for hearing loss. It was a serious, yet strange encounter in that they were going to have to don head phones in a quiet room and to raise their hand when they heard any tone at varying pitches in each ear. Patients had to continually be reminded to hand signal upon hearing a tone because their general reaction, when a detectable tone entered one of the head phones, was one of surprise or registering a big smile.



This testing would not have been possible without the kindness and generosity of Joel Mynders, an audiologist with a practice in West Chester, PA who graciously loaned our testing team an audiometer - the instrument used to establish the degree of deafness experienced by each patient. Access to audiometers and audiologists is an expensive and rare event in this part of Honduras, because of the scarcity of trained testing personnel and the prevailing poverty of the area.