

Press Release
Serving at the Crossroads

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Manos Amigas Clinic Recipient of Award for Medical Assistance to Barrios of La Entrada

Manos Amigas de Honduras is the recipient of an award from the Institute for Technology in Health Care, a foundation based in Washington, DC, for their work in using technological applications to benefit patients at their healthcare clinic in La Entrada. The award was presented by Dr. Michael Tysowsky, chairman of the Board of Directors for Serving at the Crossroads, a charitable organization from the USA and sponsor placing the clinic in competition for the award. The presentation was made at the Project Honduras Conference in Copan Ruinis. This prestigious award carries with it a certificate of accomplishment and a cash prize of \$1,000 (US). Dr. Tysowsky said “it brings great satisfaction to SATC in seeing their Honduran partner rewarded for their creative efforts in making certain that healthcare reaches into every barrio of La Entrada.” He added that “seeing physicians give their own free time, working at the clinic and serving without pay, is recognition that they are truly doing God’s work.”

The award, given in recognition of an innovative solution at the clinic in solving a patient care problem with the aid of computers, was accepted by Dr. Sonia Bustamonte, president of the Board of Directors of the foundation, Manos Amigas. This award is provided in memory of Julian R. Caceres, who was the First Ambassador of Honduras to the USA, and his wife Mariana.

The award is made on the basis of a project or effort that demonstrated, practical and appropriate application of engineering, computers or technology for the solution of a problem in clinical patient care. The award goes to recipients who are innovative, creative and committed to fundamentally improving the health and well being of the world's population.

Nearly 18 months ago, Manos Amigas opened a medical clinic in the community with one doctor and healthcare workers who went up into the barrios to conduct an enquire or survey. In introducing themselves and the clinic, they identified people who were too poor to provide for their own medical care. They registered the number of respective family members, their illnesses and those who were incapacitated at the time because of their medical condition. They collected patient medical histories, created computer databases, and provided patient access cards for treatment at the Manos Amigas clinic.

Dr. Bustamonte remarked that “it seemed like just yesterday when we opened the clinic doors and now we have five doctors who volunteer, serving without pay to relieve the pain and suffering of patients in the community. So far we treated more than 10,000 people at our clinic.” She said that “a new, modern clinic with more medical equipment will be built soon on property the foundation owns near the edge of town that will relieve some of the crowded conditions and offer additional services like dentistry and eye examinations.”

Accompanying Dr. Tysowsky in the presentation was Dr. Robert Sumner, President of the Board for Serving at the Crossroads, who told Sonia he was certain “if Mariana & Ambassador Caceres were here today, they would be very proud of your record of accomplishment. So it is with great honor and heart felt thanks I give this award to you on behalf of the Institute for Technology in

Health Care, recognizing the benefits that you and your organization unselfishly bring to the community of La Entrada.”

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