

## **Starkey Foundation**

This foundation, one of the largest makers of hearing aids in the US, is sending \$1 M worth of these devices to Honduras. They are available to patients without charge, except for a small examination and testing fee. MA has registered qualifying patients at its clinic and publicized the program in adjoining barrios and on national television. So far, based upon the number of patients who are in need of them, our clinic will have accounted for 10% of the donated hearing aids.

Prior to receiving the device, patients must first have a hearing test administered by an audiologist. Unfortunately there are very few of these testing specialists in the country, and testing instrumentation is difficult to come by. There is only one in our region, about an hour and a half away. The majority of clinic patients have no means of transport and most are too poor to afford the bus ticket to reach the testing site. MA arranged for the audiologist to come to La Entrada to test some of our patients, but at the expense of slowing down the qualification process and subsidizing the fees for testing.

Communicating with patients about coming to the clinic on designated days is very difficult because of the lack of electricity, telephone service and the remoteness of many of the homes in the various barrios. Under these circumstances, the scheduling of two one-day visits by the audiologist was the best that could be done, but it still leaves many patients who have registered for the program without the required evaluation and validation testing.

## **Donation of Audiometer**

Now you might say that we are in the middle of a miracle! Just a few days ago, SATC received a Maico audiometer from Steve Clark, a donor in Texas who heard about our situation and wanted to help. This is a significant gift because it will enable patients to receive the gift of sound. Because of people like Steve, SATC continues to be the recipient of blessings and a participant in miracles. We are now searching for an audiologist to travel to La Entrada to expedite the testing and to train clinic staff in the operation of the instrument.