

Medical Needs Projects

BACKGROUND

Two Maryknoll Sisters, Doctors Jane and Mary Lou, teach volunteer health promoters simple medical care for neighbors in their communities. Some health promoters even diagnose and treat diabetes, suture wounds, and run small, humble neighborhood clinics on a volunteer basis (picture shown below). Without this help, children can die of simple causes like diarrhea. Machetes and large cutting tools can cause severe wounds. Stoves that use large amounts of wood in unventilated areas cause Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD), especially in women, who cook the meals for the family. Diseases and skin afflictions arise due to the lack of sanitary products.

The people in San Marcos do not have the financial ability to buy necessary medical equipment and supplies. These include OTC medicines and vitamins, and solar lights for the health promoters, who may not have electricity in their homes.. Pediatric and adult wheelchairs are needed for the physically disabled.

WHAT OUR DIOCESE HAS DONE

Parishes and schools have had medical supply drives for OTC medicines, vitamins, gauze, sutures, and hygiene products. Additionally, financial donations have been given to provide solar lamps, stoves that use only one wood log, and pediatric and adult wheelchairs. Contributions for water filters have also been made; these cost only \$50 and help with clean water.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- ❖ Run a drive in your parish or school to collect supplies. Needs include Neosporin ointment, Cort Aid, children's and adult vitamins, toothpaste, acetaminophen tablets, shampoo, and lotion. (Medicines should have an expiration date of at least one year from date of donation. No expired medicines can be accepted.)
- ❖ Raise funds for purchase of wheelchairs for the disabled.
- ❖ Provide funds for a stove that uses only one log of wood and helps prevent COPD in women.
- ❖ Donate to buy a solar lamp for health promoters with no electricity.
- ❖ Donate to buy water filters to provide clean water.
- ❖ Pray for the success of the work done by the health promoters.



Please contact Fr. John Hynes of St. Catherine of Siena and Chair of the Solidarity Committee (302-633-4900) for more information. Inquiries may also be directed to Mary Jo Frohlich of the committee, at maryjofrohlich@gmail.com.