



December 17, 2003

MACLA celebrates its 20th year of existence in 2004 as a trusted organization with a unique focus providing free reconstructive plastic surgery and free medical care to the poor in developing countries. We are committed to this endeavor and you have helped keep this organization alive and well. Once again this February, we are returning to the Dominican Republic at the Padre Billini Hospital in the poor section of the Colonial Zone of Santo Domingo. Over 300 patients will benefit from surgery and hundreds more will be treated medically with the supplies, medicines and equipment we leave for them.

The medical mission trip to La Paz, Bolivia for the Children's Hospital was postponed this past November because of civil unrest, tanks in the streets and the potential danger. Calmer times are ahead so we have rescheduled that trip for the summer. It will be MACLA's fifth year in Bolivia working in poor hospitals. The La Paz Children's Hospital has few supplies and their burn center is deplorable. We are trying to help improve this.

Over 75 medical volunteers will be traveling with MACLA next year, and even with all the worldly strife, we do not feel endangered. Our host countries welcome us and respect us for the care that we have given. You have helped provide this care for those who would, otherwise, never have received medical treatment. To date, we have operated on over 4,000 patients and helped another 10,000 with their ongoing medical treatments.

Continued thanks to all of you who have selflessly helped MACLA provide this care by your donations of medicines, expertise, cash, toys, warehouse work, medical gifts, et cetera, et cetera, to allow others to live better and to be healed.

Please keep supporting MACLA as you have made a huge difference.

Blessed holidays to you,

Thomas Geraghty, M.D.

Of Note: This year we have lost two wonderful friends. Dr. Mike Delaney, an anesthesiologist from Children's Mercy, died of cancer at the age of 59. He worked with MACLA for years providing his anesthesia expertise on our young patients. Also, Dorothy Cargyle died at the age of almost 102 this last spring. Through her sister's foundation they have provided tens of thousands of dollars in the last eight years. We miss and loved these two wonderful people and have appreciated their commitment to serving the poor.