



December 15, 2005

Fellow Supporters of Medical Aid for Children of Latin America:

We are about to embark on Medical Aid for Children of Latin America's 22nd year in providing free reconstructive plastic surgery and medical care for the poor. Because physical debilitating deformities and being poor can distort your view of the world and destroy your self-image, with your help, we are able to radically change lives for the better.

Since 1985 you have aided us in operating on over 5,000 patients in the Dominican Republic and Bolivia and medically treating over 15,000 more. We have the resources, our poor patients have the need, so here we go in 2006 for three planned surgical medical mission trips.

Because of a medical emergency for one of our volunteer surgeons, we postponed our inaugural ear reconstruction program in Santo Domingo. We will resume this next year and will begin this in February 2006 in conjunction with our large group's surgical endeavor. Next October another team will go to the Dominican Republic to complete these necessary ear reconstruction operations. We are also returning to La Paz, Bolivia, this summer. Dr. Dana Towle and crew visited La Paz this past summer and the country's government maintains a continual political nightmare, but our medical allies and patients want us back.

Our patients come from the cane fields of the Dominican Republic, the hills near the border, and the poor part in the middle of Haiti, to the capital of Santo Domingo. In Bolivia they come to the capital, La Paz, from the Andes Mountains and the high plains surrounding La Paz. Our patients are impoverished and always in need.

MACLA is strictly a volunteer team made up of medical personal and lay people who give their time, expertise, money and hard work. This year's medical team will come from over 15 states and MACLA will now be associated with residency programs from the University of Kansas, University of Missouri, Kansas City, Chicago, Michigan State and Texas.

Our lay and medical volunteers have been packing and crating all year in our warehouse space donated by Mike McQueeney. Our medical drug suppliers come from over 20 hospitals, six equipment companies and four pharmaceutical supply companies. Our budget expenses range from \$150,000 to \$250,000 a year depending upon the number of trips. All rooms and travel are donated by our medical teams. Our overhead is still less than 5%, and we remain on the edge every year from donation to expenses. This keeps us thankful that we do always barely make it.

It has been a year of global catastrophes and millions needing our charitable support. So please keep on giving to your trusted organizations and keep supporting this reputable charity, too. We continue to restore dignity and give hope to our patients. Blessed holidays.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Geraghty, M.D.
TEG: ml