



December 12, 2007

Dear Medical Aid for Children of Latin America Supporters:

What a busy, exciting and crazy year it has been for MACLA—our medical/surgical teams returned to La Paz, Bolivia in July. Our second annual ear reconstruction mission in Santo Domingo in September was twice as busy as last year and our February larger surgical group at the Padre Billini Hospital in the Colonial Zone was the busiest ever.

In total we operated on 287 patients, medically treated and consulted with over a 1,000 more patients. Our successes in providing free reconstructive plastic surgery and medical care to the poor happen because of you generous donors.

Now we are ready to attack this upcoming 2008—our 24th year of MACLA's existence. Our clinics are expanding and we've increased our teaching capacity with the residents even giving lectures to the Dominican Plastic Surgical Society in February. We're also trying to get the Dominican and Bolivian plastic surgeons interested in the international organization—The Smile Train. Our photo page displays a few patients in their postoperative states with family members, our nurses and a few Peace Corps volunteers. Most appear happy. All are alive and well.

Rather than sharing some stories about our patients, I would like to thank and honor our medical team volunteers who work so hard in making MACLA a success by providing excellent medical care for our patients. Not only do our team members use their vacations to take these mission trips, but they also spend their hard earned cash paying for themselves and other group members allowing them to travel abroad. Many of our team members work in the warehouse here in Kansas City to help pack, procure and ship our medical equipment and also work in our warehouses in both countries. I'd like also to thank Mike McQueeney in giving us free warehouse space as he and his dad have for the last 17 years. We wouldn't exist without these great medical team volunteers and your support. Note some of our volunteers for the last 3 years listed on the back of this letter.

Please continue to support MACLA and the patients we serve. You help change the lives of thousands of patients and you help us accomplish our humble tasks. Many thanks.

Sincerely,

Thomas E. Geraghty, M.D.