

Thank you for your interest in the Honduras Mission Trip. The trip is associated with OCHO and The Church of the Redeemer. Please read this introductory information and feel free to contact us with questions. If you would like to apply to go on the trip please complete the appropriate application and send the application and a \$250 deposit to Cathy Bennett, 521 Piccadilly Road, Towson, MD 21204. If you are a new student please include your recommendations with your application. The trip is rigorous and the rewards are monumental.

For more information on the trip please check out the OCHO website: www.ocho.org or www.redeemeronline.com/honduras

Medical Brigade

The trip to Atíma, Honduras is a memorable experience. It is a unique opportunity for youth, non medical adults and medical personnel to work together to provide medical care and education to 2500 – 3000 people in Atíma, Honduras and the surrounding countryside. The medical team is comprised of roughly 25 health practitioners in pediatrics, internal medicine, emergency medicine, obstetrics/ gynecology, ophthalmology, dentistry, podiatry and nursing. An additional twenty five adult and high school volunteers work alongside the medical team in the clinic. The team works and lives at the local elementary school during the mission. All expenses are assumed by each member of the team.

Since 2000, the medical team has organized a clinic each June at the elementary school in Atíma, Honduras. The team treats 2,500-3,000 patients each year during the five-day clinic. Each year, a variety of medical issues are addressed ranging from routine healthy checkups, simple colds, skin rashes, back pain and upset stomachs to more serious medical problems such as hypertension, diabetes, asthma, congestive heart disease, rheumatoid arthritis, dehydration, injuries and congenital disorders. Gynecologic services include pregnancy testing, prenatal exams, birth control, and education on HIV prevention. Referrals for subspecialty care within the Honduran health care system are facilitated and financed. In addition, all children ages 1-10 are treated to eliminate worms and parasites.

Health education teaching sessions are held for patients as they wait to be seen, covering such topics as water purification, hand washing to prevent disease, and proper dental care.

Vitamins, toiletries, toothbrushes and health-education materials are distributed to each family. All equipment is shipped by Dole Ocean Freight from the USA to Honduras. Equipment includes medications, IV fluids, surgical supplies, reading glasses, clothing and shoes. In addition, the project has shipped medical hardware such as X-ray and ultrasound machines, pediatric ventilators, cardiac monitors,

dental chairs, defibrillators and a fully equipped ambulance. At the end of the annual medical brigade, unused medications and supplies are distributed to local clinics, hospitals, schools, prisons, as well as police and fire stations. Since 2000, medications valued at over \$1,000,000 have been distributed to the local community.

Each year, 20 high school age students are selected to participate with the brigade team. These students assist in every aspect of the project's efforts. They serve as translators, assist with medical procedures, help manage the pharmacy, teach dental hygiene, distribute clothes, install stoves, and most importantly- make connections with families, children and teenagers in the community. The youth who come to Honduras gain a greater appreciation of how the rest of the world lives and of the privileged lives that they lead at home. As they lose themselves in their service to others, many of the teens describe this experience as life-transforming. Our student volunteers assume the costs of their transportation, food and housing. The tour of duty includes sleeping on the floor with ten other students in an unused school room, going without showers when the water runs dry, helping to keep toilets unclogged, working from 6am to 7pm – and funny—almost every one of them return for another year!!

In preparation for the trip we will meet weekly from February – May. At our meetings we will organize and pack clothing and medicines. Our meetings are held on a weekday evening and they are about an hour long. At the end of May we will pack the container. This is usually done on a Thursday morning. Volunteers are needed for the packing. We will ask that everyone solicit clothing, diapers, shoes, medicines, sheets, towels...etc

In addition to these meetings we will have an Immunization Clinic that everyone is required to attend. All participants 18 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult. If you do not need immunizations it is still important that you attend the meeting to receive recommendations from Dr. Coomes as to what to expect when we are in Honduras. We want to make sure that everyone is well prepared for the conditions.

The youth portion of the team will meet to set goals, to realize expectations, and to be educated as to what the expectations will be when we are in Honduras.

It is imperative that we move and work as a team. The days are long and hot, the conditions are basic and the work is hard but it is also rewarding and invigorating. We need 100% participation in preparation for the trip as well as while we are there.

To learn more about the **Medical Team** contact:

John Wogan jmwogan@mac.com

Pat Hauptman plhauptman@aol.com

To learn more about the **Youth and Non Medical Adult** component of the trip contact:

Cathy Bennett cplears@aol.com

Youth Requirements

- Please complete the application
 - Please get the recommendations if you are new to the trip
 - Please let us know what skills and abilities you bring to the trip and why you want to go on the trip
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- We will set up group norms and requirements for behavior when we are in Honduras
 - The laws of the United States will govern even though we will be in a country with different laws. There will be no drug or alcohol use.
 - Each student will be assigned to a chaperone/mentor
 - Parents and students will be expected to sign behavioral standards

Schedule

Friday, June 17th depart BWI and fly to San Pedro Sula, Honduras. We travel from the airport to Atima on buses. The trip is about 4 – 5 hours. We set up our living spaces and the medical clinic

Saturday – Wednesday we hold the clinic in Atima and organize day trips to give medical care, clothing, build stoves, install water purifiers etc to the surrounding areas.

Thursday – Saturday we will be in Tela enjoying some R and R after the long rewarding week.

Saturday, June 25th we arrive in Baltimore