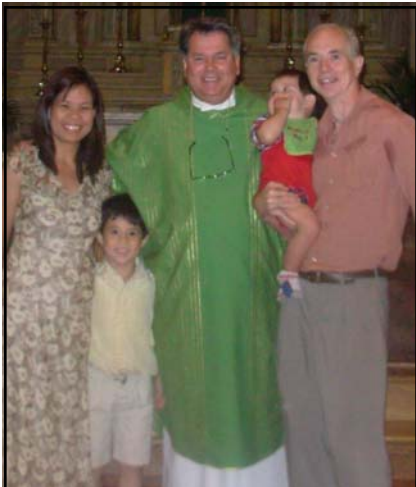




HILLSIDE HEALTH CARE INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

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Headed to Belize to Serve God’s People



The Fox family with their priest from St. John the Evangelist after a church-wide send-off blessing

Jeff and Ivory Fox are moving their family to Belize for a year to serve as mission volunteers at Hillside. Jeff’s degrees are in business; Ivory is a physical therapist. This couple is certainly mission-minded, having spent ten years working with Mother Teresa’s Missionaries of Charity to help start the MOC house in Gary, Indiana. They also visited the MOC houses in the Philippines, Haiti, France, and Germany. The Fox’s are inspired by the way the MOC serve the poor with great joy. Jeff and Ivory were also members of the Maryknoll Affiliate in Chicago. At the parish level, they have made two mission trips to Haiti, and Jeff initiated a parish (and diocesan) partnership with Haiti. When asked about their reasons to serve at Hillside, Jeff said, “The question should not be why are we going, but what has taken us so long? My oldest son Sean just graduated from Notre Dame and is headed to graduate school. Our other two sons are pretty portable—so if we are going to do long-term mission, this is the time.”

Luke’s Gospel resonates strongly with Jeff and Ivory: *From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.* “As we look at our lives, we know we have been lavishly blessed and need to pass on the blessings. We hope in some small way, we can be God’s instruments of love to the people of Belize.” Hillside is richly blessed by the Fox’s decision!

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From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded.
Luke 12:48

Construction of a New Dorm in Memory of Abigail Brinkman

Abby Brinkman was an Indiana University medical student from Columbus, Indiana and was serving at Hillside when she died in a boating accident while on a weekend break. Her parents, Jan and Roger Brinkman, made the decision to turn this tragedy into a blessing for other students coming to Hillside by chairing a capital campaign to raise money for a much-needed dormitory—The Abby House. They have partnered with their Rotary Club and church (First Presbyterian), both in their hometown of Columbus, Indiana, and are excited to announce that the campaign is nearly complete. Construction should begin by September.



Abby, second from left, with other students and volunteers

Hillside expresses deep gratitude to the Brinkman Family and all those who have contributed to The Abby House.

WHERE ARE THEY? Our staff wants to track down some of our former students who volunteered at Hillside. Since most have graduated and moved away from the school addresses they put on file at the Hillside office, we’ve lost track of them. If you know of any, please ask them to email our Director of Operations at jahartman@wisc.edu. And...if we have only an email address for you, please let us know your street address, so we can keep you updated on Hillside happenings.

A Few Words from our Chair, Dr. Russ Robertson

Hello to all our supporters from the Robertson family! I was fortunate enough to be able to spend a week in Punta Gorda (PG) this past June with my wife, son, and daughter who just finished her second year of medical school. We all pitched in at the clinic. My wife even emergently ran a stool sample (in a plastic bag) to the lab at the hospital in PG as we were caring for a three year old with bloody diarrhea and terrible abdominal pain. It turned out she had both giardia lamblia and whipworms. She's much better since we treated her. We also had the pleasure of working with our volunteer physician for the month, Marguerita Nunez MD, a general internist from Tampa who had brought along her 16-year-old son, 14-year-old daughter, and her attorney husband.

I met with several of the local Ministry of Health officials under the helpful tutelage of Joyce Lopez, our capable administrator. I learned that data she had submitted to the MOH in Belmopan from our clinic showed us to be performing exceptionally well. Hillside is committed to maintaining a good relationship with the people of the Toledo District and with the Ministry of Health.

I was also able to lay the groundwork for the construction of The Abby House, our new dormitory for our volunteers. We have found an individual with strong ties to the community who has a great working knowledge of the construction trades in the PG area who seems willing to act as our contractor. While we continue to work with the board for final approval, it is our hope that Rick Mallory, who along with his wife Darla are the proprietors of the Coral House Inn, may serve in that capacity. This is all the more poignant as he and Darla have fond memories of Abby who they knew from brief respites in their pool.

Last month, we were hosts to three delightful students from the UK—Tom, Katy, and Rowena from Wales, England, and Scotland respectively. They were having a deeply meaningful time at the clinic and found the experience exceeding their expectations. Their presence underscores our commitment to medical education and its international popularity. I also learned that our slots for medical students are fully booked through June of 2008!

Although our time was far too brief, we returned convinced that what we are doing is absolutely essential to the community to which God has asked us to serve and for which it is a privilege to do so.

Dr. Russ Robertson and family

Hillside's New Stateside Director of Operations



Jeff Hartman, physical therapist,
with a young patient

Meet Jeff Hartman. He is a physical therapist and Hillside's new Stateside Director of Operations. Jeff first got involved with Hillside when he was looking to fulfill his MPH requirements for graduation last year. Hoping to do the work overseas, he connected with Jim Shropshire and Jeff Nicholson from Hillside's Board. The next thing he knew, he was heading to Belize to do research and a needs assessment regarding people living with disabilities in the Toledo District. Several were so impressed with his work at Hillside that they recommended him to the Board as Hillside's new Director of Operations.

He recently explained: "I never expected to be in this position, but I think it was just meant to be. I gave it lots of thought and prayer and finally felt that God was opening a door for me. I decided to trust Him and go for it. I haven't regretted that decision! It's often been like that in my life. Things just fall into place, and I don't understand why until later. I am trusting the same is true with this position! I try to be God's vessel wherever I can and lead by example."

Jeff is a wonderful fit for Hillside, because he has a true heart for the people of Belize, trusts God to direct his work, and believes in Hillside's mission.

The Volunteers—From Hillside’s Medical Students and Volunteers

The medical volunteers and students are the backbone of the Hillside project. They bring medical manpower and caring hearts to every person they encounter during their service. In turn, they leave Belize with a new perspective on global healthcare and the manner in which they approach their own careers. It is not unusual for them to return to Hillside time and time again!

COMMENTS FROM RECENT STUDENTS

Tommy: There was lots of autonomy...but with plenty of direction from the doctors. The Hillside staff was excellent; they couldn’t have been better! I came to Hillside because I wanted to practice medicine in an environment totally different from what I’m used to and to help people who really needed it. This experience delivered on all counts. As a cultural experience, it was excellent. Now I’m planning to take time out after I have more experience, and do this for a year somewhere.

Kelli: I really enjoyed traveling to the villages with the mobile clinics and relying on the patient’s history and physical exam. We made the most of the supplies we had at hand. I had to wait a year for an open spot. I’m not sure what Hillside could do to change that...the program seems very popular.

FROM DR. MARGARITA NUNEZ (regarding her service at Hillside in June)

Where do I even begin? This was my first experience doing medical mission work, and I feel it has truly changed my life. As soon as my family and I arrived in Punta Gorda, we were made welcome both by the staff and the long term volunteers. I was very impressed at how well the clinic runs—considering the very limited resources. The staff is competent and dedicated. They really care! It quickly became apparent that the need in the District is greater than what Hillside can meet.

It was an amazing experience to practice medicine in a place where even your most basic routine treatment recommendations are challenged. Telling a patient to ice a painful joint or to drink more water is challenging or impossible when they don’t have a refrigerator or running water...and possibly no electricity! Telling them to rest a painful foot is difficult when they walked a very long distance to the Clinic and will turn right around and walk back again.

I am grateful that my children could contribute too. They had a similar life-changing experience working at a nearby school and joining us on a mobile visit to the villages. Hillside has definitely opened our hearts to serve in any way!

A Mission Trip to Belize

*In Conjunction with the
Dedication
of The Abby House*

Jackie Schmidt, Hillside’s Public Relations Director, lived in Belize managing the Hillside project for three years and has a broad understanding of the region and its cultures. She will share the Hillside experience with others when she leads a mission group there in 2008 in conjunction with the dedication of Hillside’s new dormitory, The Abby House.

Participants will have an opportunity to serve, to play, and to see much of this extraordinary and diverse country. Most importantly, volunteers will join in the festivities as the dormitory is dedicated to the memory of Abigail Brinkman!

Jackie explains, “This trip will suit new or seasoned volunteers. We will post trip dates, costs, and details of the project in the next newsletter. I expect the trip to fill up quickly with medical and non-medical volunteers.”

Thank You, Amelia...for all you do for Hillside!



Joyce Lopez, Hillside’s Executive Director, praises Amelia:

She always has a smile on her face and is loved by everyone! She is quiet, kind, and gentle; yet she demonstrates great strength in her work. She exemplifies a true spirit of love and service. Amelia began with Hillside as one of our first employees. She is responsible for keeping the clinic,

community center, and all dorms clean and organized. She also prepares the Doctors’ Residence, our Volunteer House, and the Grace House for new volunteer arrivals. Amelia is married and the dedicated mother of one son and two daughters. Thank you, Amelia, for all you continue to do for Hillside!

A Well for Hillside!

"When the poor and needy search for water and there is none, and their tongues are parched from thirst, then I, the Lord, will answer them. I, the God of Israel, will never forsake them." Isaiah 41:7

In America, we take much for granted...like water.

For years, water has been an uncertain commodity at Hillside. The village turns it off at some point in the evening and on at some point in the morning—and the times vary greatly. Often the water mains have broken, and the Clinic has been without water for hours—or in some instances, for days. The staff resorted to storing utility and drinking water just in case. This was all very inconvenient...and made running a clinic nearly impossible at times!

But now—thanks to the **Columbus, Indiana Rotary Club** and **Life Outreach International**—Hillside has a well! The staff, the board, and all our volunteers are incredibly grateful for the kindness and generosity of these two organizations.

Joyce Lopez, Hillside's Executive Director, says: "It has been such a challenge in the past! But now we have a well! It is 95 feet deep, and gives us 30+ gallons a minute. I want these wonderful people to know how thankful we are for their support!"



HILLSIDE NEEDS YOUR HELP! **OVER-THE-COUNTER MEDS AND SUPPLIES**

Will your church or group help us re-stock our pharmacy's low reserve of over-the-counter supplies?

Email jahartman@wisc.edu about drop-off centers near you.

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| ⇒Aspirin (ASA) 325 or 81mg | ⇒Calcium supplement 500mg |
| ⇒Tylenol 80mg/0.8ml | ⇒Folic acid 1mg |
| ⇒Ibuprofen 100 or 200 mg | ⇒Iron 324mg |
| ⇒Antibiotic ointment | ⇒Folic Acid 1mg |
| ⇒Lice shampoo | ⇒Stool softeners |
| ⇒Antacids (Tums) | ⇒Multi-vitamins with iron for adults, children, or infants |
| ⇒Pepto Bismo | |

Hats Off to the Hillside Staff... Dedicated, Caring, and Professional



Front row: Executive Director Joycelyn Lopez, Sophia Coc
Second row: Evert Mangar, Andy Mangar
Third row: Orlon Mangar, Ernest Romero, Kimberly Leonardo, Maurice Bahadur, and Amelia Ramclam

Our mission couldn't go on without our staff's commitment!

Considering A Donation to Hillside?

Hillside Health Care can't accomplish its mission of serving those in need of medical care without the support of people like you. If you want to offer financial support, donations can be sent to:
Hillside Health Care International, P.O. Box 151, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53008-0151.

Thinking Of Volunteering?

If you are a medical professional with a desire to volunteer, Hillside may be the perfect match for you. Opportunities can be short-term (a week to one month) or long-term (several months to a year).

Imagine an environment off the beaten path—jungles and rainforests dotted with small villages along a remote river or at the ocean's edge.

Visit our website: www.hillsidebelize.org

No one can help everyone, but everyone can help someone.

Dr. L. Scott