

Vocero San Benito José



The Newsletter of the St. Benedict Joseph Medical Center

SUMMER 2012, ISSUE 13

HEALING OF THE HEART

by Fr. Francis Mary Roaldi, CFR

Some of you may remember a small patient profile we had last year featuring Noé. I want to write a little follow up for you.

Noé is a young man who was shot and paralyzed from the chest down, with whom the friars have been working for a number of years. He was operated on in San Benito to allow him to sit, and now, also through San Benito's help and your generosity, he is going for physical therapy and learning a trade.

While all of these are certainly signs of progress and success in Noé's life, there was something in particular that happened last week that I thought was beautiful. We were packing the food that we hand out to about 120 poor families in our neighborhood. It is a big operation and usually 20 or so people help us. I arrived a little after the start of the packing and to my

surprise Noé was there. He was seated in his wheelchair, helping to move the small bags of food from one side of the room to the other, all the while with his characteristic smile.

It was a hopeful sign for me for a couple of reasons. One is that Noé had been confined to the bed in his house for years. Not able to sit he almost never went out and saw few people. He was incapacitated not only physically, but socially, and after a period of years it seemed he was embarrassed or frightened to re-enter

the world. But there he was, out of the house and coming into the world again, in what must have been a true act of courage for him. The other

reason I thought it was beautiful was that he was giving. We have the experience with many of those whom

we assist that after they receive they only want more and do not wish to give to others. It is a sad fact. It is, however, something which Noé does not display. Of all the things he could have chosen to do after various years of relative isolation in his house he

chose to help. What a wonderful sign of the way that a man's body has been helped and healed, but also, mysteriously, his heart.

This seems to be a small but wonderful example of the mission of San Benito. Helping poor individuals, not only receive physical healing, but that of the heart. And, as is true many times, Noé is for me an example and a challenge. The challenge to give - however limited I am - to give and to offer, realizing that this is the simple call of God to each and every one of us. In the end it is the only important thing: to love in the small ways I can. May God grant us the grace to do so, and to do so with the joy I see in the life of Noé.



Thank You!

- Dr. Bernd Raphael
- St. Raphael Parish, Lehigh Acres, FL
- John Raymond
- Childspring International
 - Thomas Finan
 - Judy Craig
- Dr. John Kelley
- Colleen Conlon
- Josephine Twigg
- Arthur & Mary Roaldi
- Andrew & Kim Roaldi
- Dorothy Widzinski
- Christopher Galletti
 - Michael Devine
- Good Shepherd Church, N. Tonawanda, NY
- St. Joseph Collegiate Institute, Buffalo, NY
 - Gretchen Karst
- St. Francis de Sales Church, Purcellville, VA

Patient Statistics

	Medical Consults	Dental	Surgeries	St. Gerard Pre- and Post-Natal Care
average per month	2500	700	65 (per surgical brigade)	220

Upcoming Medical Missions

October 28 - November 3, 2012

December 8 - 15, 2012

Please contact us for information and requirements for visiting professionals.

The **St. Benedict Joseph Medical Center**, a free surgical center and basic health clinic for the poor, is a joint effort of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal (franciscanfriars.com) and Light of the World Charities (lightoftheworldcharities.com), and operates under the auspices of the Catholic Diocese of Comayagua, Honduras. www.sbjhonduras.com



We Need Your Help!

Medical supplies such as:

- surgical packs
- sutures
- medications
- gloves
- drapes
- nebulizers
- children vitamins
- adult vitamins
- prenatals
- folic acid

Our most urgent need at this time is for financial contributions to help meet our basic operating expenses.

If you can help, please contact us. Thank you for your generosity!

Honduras Contact Information:

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Donations may be made payable and mailed to:

Franciscan Mission Outreach
PO Box 1073, Secaucus, NJ 07096-1073
we are now able to accept credit card donations through PayPal - see our website: sbjhonduras.com
973-222-8493 • sbjhonduras@gmail.com

UPDATE!



Pedro at the airport, all smiles as he starts his adventure!

In our last newsletter, we wrote about Pedro, a 7-year-old boy with a large tumor covering the whole back of his head. Since he was unable to get help in Honduras, our hope was to bring him to the US. Well, thanks to the generosity of Childspring International in Atlanta and the doctors who have donated their time and skills, Pedro is now in Tennessee! He has had the first of several operations to repair his scalp and remove the tumor, and we expect him to be returning to Honduras in a few months.

Please continue to pray for Pedro and the doctors who are helping him.



PATIENT TESTIMONY

BY PEDRO ALBERTO AYALA



Pedro with his new hat!

My favorite thing to do while in America is to play Mario on the Wii. I have been having lots of fun and rode on a boat for the first time! I have made new friends who speak my language, and I play with them all the time. My very favorite person in America is my big sister, Shelby.

I miss my family a whole lot and can't wait to go back home to Honduras!