



Celebrating Recovery – House Number 100 !!

Over ten years ago, a group of people were dreaming of a rebuilding and recovery for the community of La Ceiba, Honduras. The community was struggling to recover from the utter devastation of hurricane Mitch that caused thousands to become homeless. With little to no resources to rebuild, these poverty stricken people built make-shift homes out of any material that they could find. Many of these homes provided shelter only until the next severe storm destroyed it.

Under a program we call “Total Home” (now formally consolidated within Total Health), a modest block home was designed that could be constructed locally for under \$5,000. A program was launched to provide these homes to families in need by soliciting missionary partners willing to fund and participate in the construction. The first home was built in the early 2000's. Now, all these years later, I am excited to report that in April, 2016 a major milestone was reached with the construction of the 100th home!

This home was built for the Vasquez family made up of three children, the mother

and stepfather. The parents earn money by sometimes selling ice cream, acting as a security guard, and cleaning houses. Eleven year old Nancy takes care of eight year old Ninrod while the parents work to provide for them. The family previously lived in a house constructed of adobe mud and scrap tin roof material that they had found.



This new home was made possible in generous partnership with Christian Assembly, located in Columbus, Ohio. Led by Sr. Pastor Torry Gligora, one of Christian Assembly's core principles is serving others. In April 2015 they partnered with Total Health on a short-term mission trip to La Ceiba (see the July 2015 newsletter). Upon returning from this trip, Christian Assembly made plans to raise the funds and return in 2016 with the goal of providing a home for one of the families that they had met. Little did they realize it would be a milestone home



Dedication of Home Number 100

in the community.

The home dedication ceremony was a time of great celebration. Many in the community showed up to help the family move and to welcome them into their new home. Not only did Christian Assembly raise the funds for the new home, but they also were able to provide new beds made in the local wood working shop.



While the celebration was a specific event for this home, it also represents the celebration of the fruits from the long-term recovery efforts of all those involved in serving, encouraging and enabling this impoverished community to break and overcome the cycle of poverty.

The Work of Recovery and Rebuilding



Jay Flinn, Dr. Valencia, Pastor Victor, Dr. Jay Martin in Soyapango

Poverty can be caused suddenly due to natural disaster or can occur over time through declining economic conditions. But regardless of how it occurs, recovering from the cycle of poverty is a long-term endeavor requiring dedicated efforts from organizations working in partnership toward common recovery goals.

Total Health began over ten years ago with a long-term goal of partnering with Latin American churches in their work toward alleviating the cycle of poverty in their communities. We envisioned our part of the equation to be providing

primary care for those in the community who would not otherwise receive it, as well as improving the living conditions through modest housing and improvements. We believe this allows the working adults to stay healthy, enabling them to provide for their families, which in turn allows children to remain in school to achieve their much needed education.

“While natural disasters capture headlines and national attention short-term, the work of recovery and rebuilding is long-term”

Sylvia Mathews Burwell

Total Health now has three fully functioning healthcare clinics serving three impoverished areas in Central America. Fully staffed with a local doctor and assistant these clinics provide practically all of the patient primary care needs for under \$5 per patient visit.

The Total Health clinic model of primary care is cost efficient and effective, and most importantly it is easily replicable. As a result, we have been asked to support and serve other areas in need. We recognize however our long-term commitment to the communities we serve, and seek first to ensure the stability and continuation of our existing clinics.

Funding for the existing clinics comes from a combination of partnering U.S. churches, charitable foundations and generous individuals who have faithfully supported us for years. We work ardently to maintain adequate funding in order to avoid any interruption in medical care. Thus far, thanks to our generous partners, we have been able to do so.

In the October we wrote of the need in Soyapango, El Salvador. We are excited to announce that



Christian Assembly Construction Crew on the 100th home

Soyapango is now poised and ready for a clinic. However, new committed funding sources are needed in order to move a clinic into the area. This clinic would provide the community with a local doctor, assistant and a year's supply of meds and supplies at an annual cost of only \$35,000. If you or your organization are looking for a way to be involved in this ministry, now is your chance. We would love to come talk with you to explore this and many other opportunities to serve.

If you would like more information about [Total Health](http://www.totalhealth.org):

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