

La Mora Health Clinic Cooperative Plan

Resurrection Catholic Parish

La Mora Clinic Outreach Committee Members

Canton, Michigan

Committee Adopted July 7, 2009



After a 2005 trip to El Salvador, parishioners from Our Lady of Good Counsel Catholic Church decided to explore having a sister community relationship with a rural community in El Salvador. The parish gave permission for a small group of members to visit El Salvador to explore this possibility. Mr. Wayne Titus, a member of Resurrection Catholic Church joined the group to explore a similar relationship for his parish.

Several communities were visited and discussions about community life were developed. The OLGCC community eventually selected the community of Haciendita Uno to develop a sister community relationship with. On this trip, Wayne Titus learned of the La Mora Health Clinic which serves 28 communities around Suchitoto, El Salvador. He believed along with Deacon Don Leach, permanent deacon at Resurrection parish, that given the smaller size of the Resurrection parish that sustaining a sister community relationship may be more difficult. A proposal was made for the Resurrection parish to give on going support for the La Mora Clinic.

The parish agreed to do just that under the catholic social teaching principles of solidarity. The clinic is supported by a local non-governmental organization and the parish has worked through this group to aid the clinic and handle on going planning. The Committee for Socio-economic Development and Reconstruction of Suchitoto, CRC is a local grassroots organization comprised of former combatants and refugees, the CRC caught the attention of the international community in 1992 due to its bold role in local reconstruction and reconciliation processes in the highly conflictive area of Suchitoto. Facing a dangerous climate in 1998 which claimed the lives of various NGO workers in the zone, the CRC initiated the organization of a municipal public security committee. This committee was able to bring about a purging of the police force and the unification of churches, NGOs, local government and the justice system to create a preventive as well as punitive public security program.

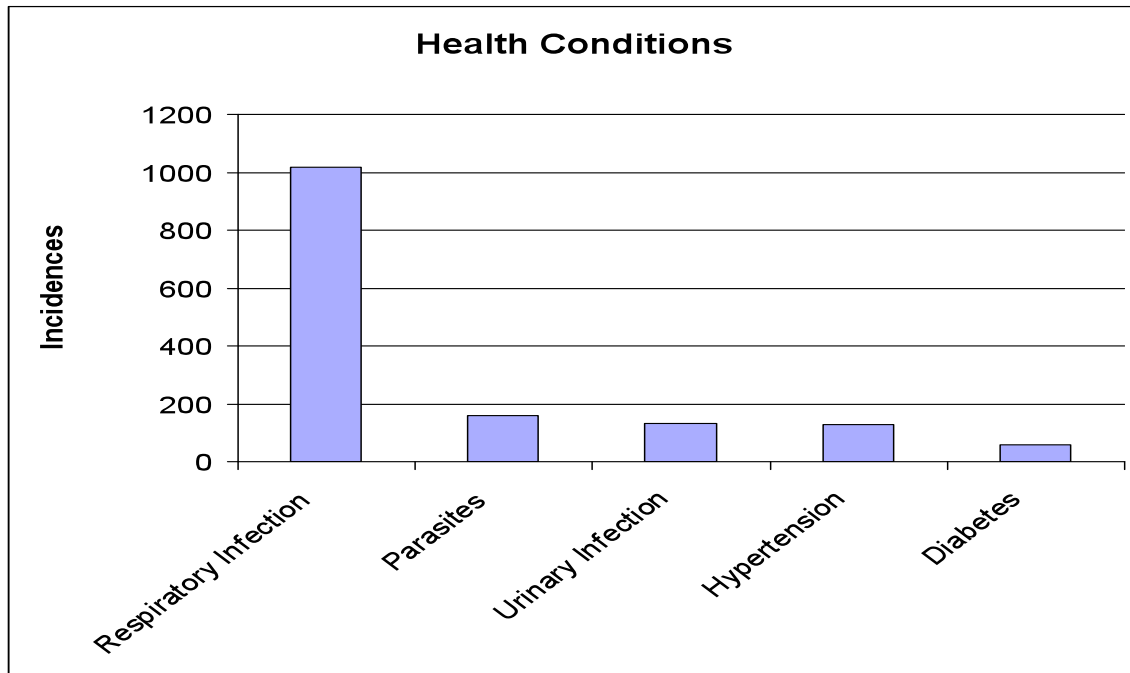
Solidarity continues to be a fundamental value and driving force of the CRC. In addition, the CRC has shared its capacities with other affected municipalities as well as expanding operations in the department of Cuscatlan, accompanying local population and governments to enter into joint planning. Today, the CRC continues to accompany 28 local communities in Suchitoto in political advocacy, organization, social communication via Radio Suchitlan, education and health, and economic alternatives.

Resurrection parish has been able to develop funding to support the hiring of two full time physicians and one full time physician's assistant. They have supported the development of a high security fence at the complex. Over a two year period, they have been involved in youth trips to El Salvador and the groups have accomplished two significant projects. First, the group replaced several coconut trees in the grounds area of

the clinic to provide much needed shade. Secondly, they completely painted the clinic. These projects have helped to create a warmer and more welcoming atmosphere around the clinic. The parish is currently working to complete a \$16,000 capital project at the clinic to clean up the laboratory, storage and worker's lunch areas. The community has been very generous in supporting the collection of medications for the clinic which have been delivered by delegations to El Salvador over the last four years.



The primary focus and commitment of the Resurrection parish is and will remain to be the establishment and maintenance of a functioning medical clinic in support of the communities served by CRC in the Suchitoto, El Salvador area. However, we believe that we have been successful in making those efforts come true and are seeking to be of assistance to the communities around the clinic by helping develop projects and contacts that address health issues in the communities. These projects are aimed at hitting the base causes of many of the long term health problems seen by the medical staff at the La Mora Clinic.



We have two examples of what can be accomplished by the ongoing determination of the members of the Resurrection community in support of these kinds of projects. By far the highest level of service need at La Mora is respiratory infections. These develop mostly from the fact that traditional cooking in the surrounding communities is done over open indoor fire stoves. The Our Lady of Good Counsel community in support of its sister community of Haciendita Uno completed a project of building stoves in each of the homes that used burning firewood in an enclosure that vented the smoke from the home. It has been a very successful project and the women of the community have called it the “No More Tears” program. The project was funded by the OLG community at a cost of \$11,250. Imagine the impact if we could get an infrastructure started in the Suchitoto area to build, install and maintain these stoves in the local communities.



Secondly, Wayne Titus through the Northville Rotarians has been involved in water projects in El Salvador. One of their projects is in the community of Zacamil Dos which is served by the La Mora Clinic. Parasites and intestinal diseases are the second

ranked illness seen and treated by the La Mora Clinic. The Rotarians have developed a \$50,000 grant project to take the current water system in Zacamil Dos and have it become a clean and efficient water system for the community. We suspect the instances of parasites and infection will drop dramatically when this project is complete.



The Resurrection community desires to leverage the information we gather from the local health clinic and work with CRC in the various communities to identify and address major health concerns. We intend to approach and try to get the cooperation of a large number of various organizations and institutions in our local area of the United States to handle a wide variety of projects. All of this work and service is done out of our understanding of catholic social teaching which states we must stand in solidarity with

our brothers and sisters throughout the world. It is also a response to the call of the US Bishops letter to the United States churches about our connection and role with the churches and people in Latin America.

Resurrection Catholic community will handle all financial commitments to the La Mora Clinic through fund transfers to CRC in Suchitoto, El Salvador. An annual accounting of funds collected and dispersed will be made for the Resurrection Parish Council at the end of the parish fiscal year. Donations will be made to Resurrection parish and be placed in a designated account fund for the La Mora Clinic project. Individual and corporate donations will be recognized and accounted for tax purposes. We also understand that some organizations or institutions cannot make contributions to faith based organizations but may be willing to assist in the La Mora Clinic Cooperative Project. A fund named AMDG Financial International Cumpati Fund has been established by Wayne Titus with the Renaissance Charitable Gift Foundation to accept donations for projects in and around the La Mora Clinic. The Advisors of the Cumpati Fund have agreed to act as a non-faith based charitable fund in support of the La Mora Clinic cooperative plan, and to account for designated donations toward La Mora Clinic projects. The Cumpati Fund has been structured in order to fund transfers to the La Mora Clinic project and will account for these transfers as part of the overall Resurrection Catholic Parish La Mora Cooperative Project. Fund transfers will also funnel through to CRC in El Salvador.

Resurrection Catholic parish cannot reasonably believe that it can handle and support all the initiatives needed to address these health concerns. However, we believe we can be a voice and advocate in the United States for these people who are our brothers and sisters.