

Clinic JAN. - DEC. 2007		Caminos Mediation Center a combined Program of the Nicaragua Supreme Court and the Cooperative <b>CAMINO's 2007</b>	
Women	5,291	<b>Status of cases end of year</b>	
Men	613	Resolved	91
Adolescents	1570	Transfer to the court	76
Children	1885	Failure to complete process	75
Dental	1,020	Counseled	3
Natural Medicine	516		
TOTAL	10,895		
		<b>Legal Office Cases Processed Jan. - Dec. 2007</b>	
		Including:	
Fam. Plan.First Visit	441	Rape	39
Fam. Plan.Follow-up	785	Family Violence	39
Pre-Natal First Visit	584	Child Support	49
Pre-Natal Follow-up	634	Property Disputes	44
Pap First	740	Homicides	3
Pap Follow-up	1,261	<b>Total cases for year:</b>	<b>316</b>
Births	67	Legal Office Consultations:	4846
Malaria	158		

*Errors in last Newsletter: incorrectly gave 4 as the number of homicides from Jan to Sept the correct number is 1 homicide. Also Legal Consultations were recorded as 1574. The correct number is 2276.*

#### Volunteers

Dr. Susan Lee, 3rd gr OB/GYN Resident Univ, Washington Med. School  
Nov 01-29 2007  
Dr. Wendy Lorentz 3rd gr OB/GYN Resident Univ, Washington Med. School  
Jan 22- Feb 28 2008  
Video Film team: Bryan Porras, Liana López, María Murillo, John Sullivan  
Feb 06-24 2008  
Drs. Genevieve Reid y Mark Schulein performed 15 tubal ligations  
Feb 04-28

#### MEMORIALS AND HONORINGS

- In memory of Mary Ann Fiske, may her spirit live on in your work from C.A. Kiegel, Ky Stoltzfus and Tany Ortman, Majorie Williams, Virginia Kotler and Melinda Price.
- In memory of Ruth Smith from Carol Weinstock.
- In loving memory of Kathleen Anderson from Linda and Dan Price
- In memory of granddaughter, Mary Ann Reynolds, from Dennis and Dolores Zaro
- In memory of my husband, Frank Cinquemani, from Dorothy Cinquemani
- In honor of Juanita Swedernberg from Cynthia and Chris Wolfe
- In honor of Richard and Ellen Wolfe from Cynthia and Chris Wolfe
- In honor of Chryl, Charlene, Dede and Julie Decker & Lorie Staniak from Robert Decker
- In honor of Jane Yett from Marcel and Cynda Collins Aresenault
- In honor of Connie Adler from Babbie Cameron
- In honor of the Adler/Rowland family from Sarah Hagen
- In honor of Connie Adler and Mike Rowland from Barbara Leonard and Daniel Marra
- For the wonderful Dorothy Granada, Happy Birthday from Patricia Poulos
- Merry Christmas, Anna, from your Grandparents Bernie and Pat Harvey
- In honor of our fond memories of Joanne R. Neff from Amy, Eric, Ava & Laurel Neff
- In recognition of Dr. Luisa Silva-Healing Work. From Deborah Maloney and Marchello Bigliardi
- In the name of Jean Kliewer from Peter Kliewer
- In honor of Noel's 50th from David Belt
- In honor of Bill and Pat Spicer from Bill and Jeanne Sanford
- In honor of my father, Bob Kenyon. From Glenn Kenyon
- In honor of Susan Howe from Roger and Carolyn Howe
- Happy 60th Bridget Dumas

Tax deductible donations may be sent to:  
Women's Empowerment Network  
PO Box 7652  
Olympia, WA 98507

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Dorothy Granada  
Coordinator of Health Services  
Clinic of the María Luisa  
Ortiz Cooperative  
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Managua, Nicaragua  
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www.mulukuku.org

#### Dear Friends,

Warmest greetings to each of you. Since our last Newsletter work with the Ministry of Health (MINSa) has moved forward rapidly. A new plan for Community-Based Family Health Care has been adopted by MINSa nationally. This model has been successfully used in Cuba for many years. In the urban area clinics of Mulukuku physicians will attend to patients in the mornings and, in the afternoon, will visit communities house by house. These visits are being done by our Health Promoters and young Promoters-in-Training. The home visits identify unmet health needs of residents, evaluate basic living conditions and teach prevention of illness. Persons requiring medical attention are seen by a physician the following day. In the countryside, one physician treats patients in a central location



*Man with diabetes on home visit. Dr. Horacio Monge of Mulukuku, newly graduated from medical school in Cuba.*

while a second, accompanied by Health Promoters, visits homes for evaluation and health teaching. This work requires close coordination with Community Health Workers and other leaders to assure that children under 5 years, persons with chronic diseases and women of child-bearing age (pregnant and family planning) are identified and receive adequate care on these community visits. In an agreement between the Nicaraguan and Cuban governments, Cuba is sending experienced health workers to help implement the new model. All of us in the Cooperative are delighted and grateful for this new way of doing health care and are putting all our efforts to making it work well.

Wendy Lorentz, 3rd year resident in OB/GYN, University of Washington Medical School, spent one month with us teaching staff, delivering babies and treating women in the Clinic. Wendy, also, visited homes practicing the Community-Based Family Health Care plan and writes:

"From the road in front of the brightly painted red house we could see a man resting in a hammock inside. As we reached the door and introduced ourselves he turned towards us. He was an elderly man, frighteningly thin. We explained our purpose of going door-to-door to create a

census while trying to identify persons who are ill or in need of help. He nodded and said estoy enfermo. He invited us to sit down and his wife of over 50 years entered the room accompanied by their granddaughter.

The inside of the house was also painted a cheerful shade of red and lining the walls were multiple family photographs. One in particular struck me. It showed him and his wife approximately 30 years ago. In stark contrast to his now thin face and distant eyes, the photo showed a healthy younger man with a full face and big smile. We asked him to tell us about his illness, which he said was sugar. He is currently 77 years old and diagnosed with diabetes 6 years ago. He received treatment in Managua once, but due to the cost of transportation and medications he did not feel he could continue prop-

er treatment. He reported feeling chronically weak. As we asked more questions about who else lived in the house, whether they cook with wood or gas, and whether they treat their water, I noticed a dog sleeping in the corner and a pig trodding through the kitchen. At the end of our questions we talked further about the chronicity of diabetes and the importance of lifelong treatment to prevent complications. We asked whether he could come into the clinic the next day for a consultation and exam. He nodded. We said goodbye and said we would be waiting for him.



*Clinic Health Promoters and MINSa doctors board dugout Canoe to cross river where horses are waiting for a severalhour trip to Suba, a distant community.*



*Dorothy Granada and friend.*

He did come into the clinic. He received an evaluation and treatment, and a few days later when we were back in the neighborhood we stopped to check in on him. He was sitting in his hammock, and was in good spirits. He reported feeling a little better and seemed pleased that there were people looking out for him!"

#### NATIONAL NEWS

From the Nicaragua Network Hotline March 11 "The high level International Monetary Fund (IMF) mission which was in Nicaragua monitoring the implementation of the government's 3 yr. economic program between Feb. 25 and Mar.7 issued a statement expressing satisfaction with the government's progress...aims of Dec. 2007 were fulfilled reflecting the implementation of sound tax and monetary policies. Also the National Assembly approved a budget for 2008 which is consistent with the aims of the economic program and which provides space for an increase in spending on social programs and public investment.

"The IMF is certainly singing a different tune these days. It has seen its influence in Latin America waning as its loan portfolio rapidly shrinks and countries pull out in rejection of IMF failed structural adjustment policies. The Ortega government has ended school fees, increased spending on health care, raised minimum wage, raised salaries of teachers and health workers above IMF mandates, subsidized food, increased credit to small farmers, and given peasant families seeds and farm animals intended to give them food sufficiency as part of the Zero Hunger Program. All these measures fly directly in the face of past IMF demands. The significance of the IMF not only accepting the importance of poverty reduction, but actually praising it, cannot be overestimated. The efforts by many, including the Nicaragua Network, to challenge IMF and World Bank neoliberal policies that first gained attention with the formation of the 50 Years is Enough Campaign 14 years ago are showing significant gains after years of intransigence by the international financial institutions."

The cost of basic food prices such as corn, beans and rice has risen dramatically due to inflation. Poor families are consuming less calories than a year ago. In our local pulperia (mom and pop store). A few weeks ago beans cost \$1.05 a pound. Today they are \$0.63. Rice is \$0.47 (national) and \$0.52 (USA) a pound. An agricultural day laborer earns \$1.58 a day, when he can find work. This young man may have a wife who cares for their young children and, thus, is not a wage-earner. I cannot imagine the struggle and anguish of trying to feed this family. The government's response to this crisis: "Director of the Nicaraguan Basic Food Company (ENABAS) announced on Mar. 6 that, as a result of the government's program Food for the People, prices of beans, rice and corn at the 342 distribution points supplied by ENABAS will be drastically reduced....

ENABAS has signed agreements with 50,000 small and medium farmers and 72 cooperatives to purchase their produce which will then be sold in poor neighborhoods and communities at below market prices."

#### WEN BOARD MEETS IN MULUKUKU

"February 25-27, the Women's Empowerment Network held its Board meeting for the first time ever in Mulukuku. WEN is the US-based nonprofit formed to support the work that Dorothy Granada and the Maria Luisa Ortiz Cooperative do in Mulukuku. Our Board members traveled from Washington State, Texas, New Mexico, Oregon, Missouri and Maine to learn from Cooperative members directly about their plans and dreams, their progress over the last year, and the obstacles they foresee.

Esperanza, Deyling, Jahaira and other young coop members presented the very compelling work they are doing in human rights, mediation, anti-violence and health outreach both in Mulukuku and reaching out to remote areas with the radio program and the brigades. Grethel provided the context and background for the cooperative's work and her vision for future cooperation with WEN.

Dorothy explained the extensive changes she has accomplished through cooperation and coordination with the Ministry of Health (more of this in other articles). And, of course, with Dorothy, we conducted the usual business of budgets, plans, elections.

Although all of us have been to Mulukuku before, it was very moving to be there together, to share this time with the women and men who work there daily, to hear people's stories, and to demonstrate our solidarity with the dynamic women of the cooperative. The celebration of the dedication of the Casa Materna was icing on the cake, both figuratively and literally. We send a huge thank you to the Cooperative for putting us up, to all who helped educate us, to Dorothy for all her time and work, to Noel and Grethel for a beautiful evening by the lake, and to Dorothy and Michael for great food. And I, personally, thank all the Board members who contributed their time, creativity, and personal expense to make this happen."

*Connie Adler, President, WEN*



*Board of Women's Empowerment Network and Cooperative Leadership.*

#### Residents of the Casa Materna.



#### VOLUNTEER NURSE MIDWIFE

"The best way to describe my trip to Mulukuku this year was change, as there were many: the Cuban doctors and nurse, the close cooperation between the clinic and MINSA, a new plan for family medicine and community health, the Casa Materna, and new programs being developed. Yet one thing remained the same: the quality of care provided to the women of the RAAN. During the first week, a first-time mother gave birth to a premature baby with severe facial anomalies. The mother and baby both required assistance and I was very happy that a MINSA doctor was in the Sala de Parto (Birthing Room) with me. Together, we were able to take care of both and mother and newborn were transferred to the Regional Hospital in Matagalpa within a couple of hours of the birth to receive the additional care that they needed. Today, I saw 41-year-old woman who had been coming to the clinic since 1991. She received regular pap screening from the clinic and in 2000 developed her first abnormal pap smear. Her repeat screening was also abnormal and at that time, she had colposcopy and cryotherapy. Her exams returned to normal and she continued to be followed by the clinic. In 2005, she was found to have moderate dysplasia (precancer) and LEEP (electrocautery) was performed at the Clinic. Her biopsies and pap screening have been negative since that time. The clinic staff should be commended for their aggressive follow-up of abnormal pap screening and thorough education of women regarding the need for this follow-up. The two weeks passed much too quickly. It will be very interesting to see the changes that will occur over the next several months!"

*Susan Studebaker, RNC, CNM, MS, CHES*

#### INAUGURATION OF THE CASA MATERNA

"Hoy, damos a luz un hogar para las madres" "On February 26, 2008, friends, supporters, community leaders, and mothers to be gathered to officially "give birth" to Mulukuku's Casa Materna and Birthing Center. The event was celebrated with singing, a prayer of dedication, speeches, good food, dancing, colorful decorations, and a warm welcome to all.

From the dreams, hard work and generous donations of many, women in the region who are at high risk of complications during pregnancy and childbirth now have a beautiful, safe place to await the birth of their babies. The opening last month of an additional 12 beds to the 4 bed facility marked the final phase in the development of this caring and nurturing home away from home, as well as the beginning of a new partnership between the MLO Cooperative and MINSA. The concept for a waiting home for mothers and a well equipped birthing room was developed in response



*Opening the Casa Materna: Grethel Sequeira, Dr. Janice Smith and Dr. Connie Adler, WEN President.*

to the MLO Cooperative's longstanding struggle and commitment to reducing the tragic deaths of women, which in the RAAN is twice the already high rate of maternal death in Nicaragua. A needs assessment was done in 2005, including interviews and focus groups with community leaders, health workers, cooperative members, mothers, men, teens, parteras (local midwives), and religious leaders. Backed by a generous donation and the gift of a modern, well equipped birthing room (Bethel Presbyterian Church of East Columbia) and a 4 wheel drive ambulance (Dr. Connie Adler and friends), an expanded program of prenatal care, education, outreach, deliveries attended by well trained personnel, and an emergency transportation system have been developed. The Casa Materna, or waiting home, serves as the focal point of this expanded maternity care program. According to world health experts, three main factors have been found to significantly reduce maternal deaths: access to safe abortion, having a skilled attendant at birth, and access to emergency transportation. Two of these 3 factors have been addressed by this new program that has been gradually phased in since 2006. In 2007, 84 pregnant women stayed at the Casa Materna, and the Municipio of Mulukuku saw an increase in safe institutional births, including 235 babies delivered at the Maria Luisa Ortiz Clinic, Mulukuku's Ministry of Health Center, or at a regional hospital following emergency transport from MKK. As more and more women from further away learn of the services of the Casa Materna through extensive outreach and educational components, it is the fervent hope that no woman or her newborn child in the region die needlessly. A special thanks to Sue Howe, who served as on-site project coordinator, and to Byron Luquez, general contractor responsible for the beautiful new facilities. Their vision, constant attention to detail, diligence, and stewardship of resources were critical to its success. And none of this would be possible without the incredible women of the MLO Cooperative and Clinic who have dedicated their lives to saving the lives of others."

*By Janice Smith*