

Clinica Dulce Refugio Update

Riobamba, Chimborazo Province, Ecuador
Providing Free Health Care to Needy Children

Paul Martel Establishes Free Children's Clinic in Ecuador



In 2007, YHBIA Co-Founder Paul Martel pursued his charitable interests by opening a free children's health clinic in Riobamba, Ecuador. Located high in the Andes, the clinic has brought general health and dental care to thousands of poor children, many of whom are abandoned by people fleeing the country. YHB Charitable Endowment now plays an important role in the clinic's ongoing funding.

In June 2009, a medical brigade of Ecuadorian physicians was organized. Over 4 days, they delivered medical care to over 300 children and adults in the areas of pediatrics, dentistry and gynecology. These medical brigades continued and over 2000 individuals received treatment throughout the year.



In the second half of 2009, our clinic became an official entity in Ecuador. The official name is now Centro Medico Integral-Dulce Refugio, the first of three levels of health care institutions in Ecuador. This status helps facilitate the receipt of donated medicine and equipment within the complex customs and regulations of Ecuador. Dr. Enrique Minta returned from Cuba and officially joined the clinic as our full-time doctor. Like our talented nurse Cecilia Toaquiza, Dr. Minta speaks both Spanish and Quechua.

Our clinic has sponsored three "Medical Caravans" where we bring medical care to areas outside of Riobamba. Many of the treated children had never seen a medical doctor. The reputation of the clinic spread quickly and requests for "caravans" continue to pour in. Many Ecuadorian physicians are coming to work with the Clinic as volunteers as we continue to sponsor medical brigades.

Our bakery which was opened in late 2008, thanks to funding from USAID, continues to provide food for 250 needy children who happily wait in line after school to receive their little loaf of bread.

By 2010, our rapid growth has caused us to outgrow our space. A building was acquired adjacent to our existing location which will provide much needed space for an expanded facility. Plans include a maternity/delivery room and an operating room for basic surgeries. The hard work, dedication and compassion of our doctors, nurses and numerous volunteers remain an inspiration in the face of wide-spread poverty and need.

Permanent Charitable Fund Established

Clinic Founder Paul Martel has established a donor advised fund to provide ongoing support to the clinic. Anyone can make a tax-deductible contribution to the fund and 100% of the dollars go to support the work of the clinic. Send your check payable to "Charles Schwab-Clinica Dulce Refugio Fund" and mail to:

Paul R. Martel
YHB Investment Advisors,
29 South Main St., West Hartford, CT 06107

For more Information call: 1-860-561-7050 or visit
www.centromedicoec.com

Highlights

- Over 2000 children treated for medical issues in 2009.
- Dental clinic treated over 1000 children in first year .
- 3 "Caravans" organized at other locations in Chimborazo Province to bring care to more children.
- Clinic achieves official status as "Centro Medico", or Medical Center
- Center ready to expand into a new and larger facility.