



November 15, 2019

Dear Friend,

I have some amazing news to share with you. If you send in a gift by December 22, you can double your impact. When you give a gift, you will help a sick, hurting person in remote Honduras get the medical care they need this year.

On average it costs just \$17.93 to provide someone with the medical care they need at the CHHF clinics. This holiday season when you send a gift it will be doubled, up to the \$ 10,000 available to match donations.

Let me tell you a story about one special child which your gift will help – a boy named Hazmer.



**Hazmer with Honduran Director
David Kelly in 2014**

Young Hazmer needs heart surgery ... again.

In February 2014, six-year-old Hazmer and his mother Marina came to our clinic where he was diagnosed with a holosystolic heart murmur. The murmur was serious enough that the pediatrician told Hazmer he should not play soccer until he could see a specialist. Hazmer was upset that he could not play with his friends. Marina was frightened as her dreams for her son's future were now uncertain.

Within a month, the child was sent to Friends of Barnabas, a US foundation which provides pediatric cardiac care in Honduras. After evaluation there and diagnosis of a ventral septal defect, surgery was

scheduled for September 2014 in San Pedro Sula, seven hours away from their home in Plan de Flores. At that time, a mesh covering was placed over a defective artery.

Since that surgery, Hazmer has continued in the medical referral program, being monitored every six months. **Within the last year, Hazmer's case has been referred to specialists in the capital of Tegucigalpa as the mesh is no longer sufficient for his growing heart.** Marina is heartbroken as she watches her child try to run and play like a healthy child but cannot because he tires easily and has chest pains.

For this family, travel to Tegucigalpa is an 8-hour bus ride and requires at least two nights in a hotel. Bus fare, taxi, hotel and food cost \$250 or more each time. Recently the appointments have been more frequent as specialists have determined that another surgery will be required in December or January.



Hazmer – October 2018



Hazmer being seen by Dr. Baison
October 2019

I talked with Hazmer and his mother when I was in Honduras last month. A single mom with two younger children, Marina and the children live in the small home of her father. They cannot afford the travel costs to Tegucigalpa and certainly have no savings to provide for the child while in the hospital. (Remember patients in Honduran hospitals must provide their own medicines, food, sheets, and even must provide or pay for the pints of blood required for the surgery.) Hazmer's mother is extremely concerned about her son; each time a team visits she expresses her appreciation. Without your support, there would be no cardiac care for Hazmer.

As the season of giving approaches, Hazmer's next surgery is nearing. You can help Hazmer and others like him to get needed medical care. On average, it costs CHHF just \$ 17.93 to treat a patient who comes to CHHF's clinics. **Also, I am pleased to tell you that because of generous matching funds, all gifts up to a total of \$ 10,000 will be matched dollar for dollar if your gift is received before December 22! Your gift sent today will help TWICE as many people needing medical care.**

Your gift is critical. Funding to help children like Hazmer is 25% lower than it was this time last year!! Without your help, medical care for some patients will need to be postponed. Together with the generous donor matching your gift, you can make the difference in the lives of those who feel hopeless. A gift of \$71.72 will help continue the patient referral program to serve 4 people, and it can be doubled to serve 8 people if you send your donation today.

The holiday season is an especially awful time to be sick or in pain. Matters are even worse when you don't think you can afford to get the help you need. For many like Hazmer in remote areas of Honduras, that's what they would be facing without your help NOW: sick, in pain, and feeling like no one cares enough to help them get better. Marina is a proud woman and it has been difficult for her to accept the donations she needs to help her son. She believes one day she will return the gift, and that your gift will be returned to you. *"Today is for me, and tomorrow may be for you," she said.*

Friend, I know you care. That is why I am reaching out to you to ask for a special gift today. Will you help someone like Hazmer get the help they need and deserve?

The medical system in Honduras is not like that in the United States. Finding medical care there is difficult if you live in the city and have money. It's almost impossible to get the medical care you need if you live remotely and in poverty. For Hazmer and so many other people, the barriers to receiving medical care are almost insurmountable. In many cases the situation is life-threatening. These are the ones you are helping with your donation.

You can help to make a difference this year. Your gift of \$ 71.72 or \$ 107.58 will be doubled to have twice the impact and obtain for Hazmer and others like him the medicine and care they need.

When you give, you are not only providing immediate medical care, you are also providing referrals to specialists, transportation to appointments, specialized medical care, and more. You'll even help provide community programs to bring awareness and education regarding some of the most common health issues in remote Honduras. You will help provide needed medical care to feel better and stay healthy.

This time of year, you and I reflect on our many blessings. Our health and the health of loved ones often tops the list. I ask you to give that gift – the gift of health – to someone today. Your special gift will give someone in remote Honduras life-changing hope and peace of mind knowing that they have the care they need and deserve.

Please send your gift by December 22. You can go online or send it with the enclosed card and envelope. Make a gift that's right for you. Please do it now while you are thinking about it.

I wish you a warm and wonderful holiday season with your loved ones.

God bless,



N. K. Hook, Jr.
President

PS – Please don't delay, send your gift today to have it doubled now. When you do, you will provide medical care to those hurting in Honduras today and brighten their new year.