

# BUILDING THE DREAM

*“Not only is another world possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can hear her breathing.” Arundhati Roy*



Javier Sevilla Mártir, MD watches his dream take shape. The Las Lajas Cenro de Salud,(2006).

***There is a clinic being built at the base of several mountains.***

Looking up the mountainside is a checkerboard of small plots, staggeringly steep, that grow sugarcane, bananas and coffee. The 24,000 people that live in these remote villages scattered throughout the mountain slopes surrounding the central Honduran town of Taulabe are *campesinos* - subsistence farmers. They live a hard scrabble, scratch-it-out, isolated life.

The challenges faced by these communities are many. A major challenge is access to health care.

Imagine being sick, in pain and walking 10 miles downs a steep mountain road then waiting in the blazing sun for a passing bus to take you on a 2 hours trip to get medical care. Infant and child mortality soars; adult life expectancy plummets; treatable diseases both routine and more complex go undiagnosed; unnecessary suffering and deaths continue.

***But there's a clinic being built at the base of these mountains.***

A clinic that has been long in the making. A clinic envisioned years ago by Honduran born physician Javier Sevilla Mártir and his friends, Reverend Israel Gonzalez and his wife Dra. Floripe Hernandez de Gonzales. Together they dreamed of creating a place of health and healing to those most in need. They dreamed of bringing health care providers from different countries and different disciplines together to learn from each other and to give back. They dreamed that others would hear about this clinic and want to play a part. They dreamed of land enough for a clinic site, dormitory housing, nutrition education, gardening and job retraining.

***And there's a clinic being built at the base of these mountains.***

The clinic at the base of these mountains will serve many purposes, not the least of which will be to bring hope to those who have none; to bring care to those who feel forgotten; to bring perspective to those who may have lost theirs. The land is bought. The plans are drawn. The first floor is almost complete. The second floor waits to be started. The dream has taken shape. The partners are coming together. Masters in Public Health students map remote villages, work with the elderly, and champion a drive to raise enough funds to provide all 35 households in the village of Sabanas with functioning stoves to decrease respiratory illness and disease. Medical students set up clinics in one-room school houses that lack water and electricity while the clinic walls continue to rise.

Help write the final chapter to this story:

**There's a clinic BUILT at the base of these mountains**

# WRITING THE FINAL CHAPTER

*The Las Lajas Centro de Salud will provide a broad array of affordable and accessible primary health care and social support services to the 24,000 individuals living in the remote mountain villages surrounding Taulabe, Honduras.*

## LAS LAJAS CENTRO DE SALUD

### I. Construction Costs \$85,000 US

Complete 1<sup>st</sup> floor construction of building: \$30,000

Complete 2<sup>nd</sup> floor construction of building: \$30,000

Construction details: \$25,000



### II. Equipment Costs \$100,000 US

4 Exam Rooms

1 Surgical Room

2 Diagnostic Rooms

    Ultrasound Machine

    X-Ray Equipment

1 Laboratory

    Blood chemistries

    Microbiology

    Hematology

    Pathology

4 Emergency Rooms

1 Delivery Room



### III. Medicine and Supplies Cost \$35,000 US Year One

Surgical Supplies

Emergency Room Supplies

Pharmaceuticals

IV Medications

Office Supplies/Medical Records

