

Trident Health System

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News Release

For Immediate Release

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Trident Health System Employees Heal Hondurans With Hearts and Hands

August 21, 2007; Charleston, SC: On July 15th, a group of seven employees from Trident Health System began their week long mission journey with Rivers of the World, a not-for-profit ministry that targets remote river basins. The employees, who included recently named CEO of Summerville Medical Center, PJ Johnson, endured a week of assisting medical clinics in remote providences and areas without running water and electricity. They also taught Vacation Bible School and worked on construction of a new clinic.

“At the clinic we saw 808 patients and poured 45 feet of concrete! This entailed mixing up the cement with water from the ditch,” said Terri Lawhon, Medical Care Coordinator at Trident Health System. “We also served food to approximately 3000 people, played games and coordinated VBS activities.”

The medical clinics were held in elementary schools, under trees, and in the homes of the local villagers. The locals welcomed the employees from Trident in, although the furniture was sparse and the floors were packed with dirt. Nevertheless, the group treated patients with pneumonia, infected wounds, chronic cough and headaches, along with GI parasites.

“Sunday we flew home, tired and worn... it was bittersweet; we missed our families and home, but came to love this country and the people who were so grateful for all that we did,” Lawhon said. “We wanted to do more, but unfortunately we ran out of toys and medications. Many of us left clothes behind along with other items we no longer needed to be shared with the people of Honduras.”

The consensus was unanimous. The “health missionaries” learned many lessons, especially how blessed they were coming from a country that has so much. “Many things we take for granted like running water, electricity, bathrooms...The simple act of picking up a phone and ordering a pizza just isn't done in Honduras,” said Lawhon. “One thing for sure is that all of us cannot wait to go back to Honduras, with plans of doubling the amount of people we saw and a very long list of medications and supplies that we need for our next trip!”

Trident Health System is an HCA hospital system comprised of three acute care hospitals – Trident Medical Center, Summerville Medical Center and Colleton Medical Center – as well as Moncks Corner Medical Center and diagnostic centers throughout Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton and Dorchester counties. For more information, please visit our website at www.tridenthealthsystem.com or call 843.797.7000.

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