Almost five decades ago, Father Tupper set out for the Central Amazon Valley in Brazil with a dream – to bring hope to children, men and women living in one of the most disadvantaged countries in the world. He writes of the need faced by these Brazilians and how he planned to help in a letter to his brother in January 1970:

"Among the tremendous socio-economic problems confronting the people in this area is that of health. The infant mortality rate – linked to malnutrition, sickness or just complete lack of medical or surgical care, runs approximately 50%! My function will be to help provide medical and spiritual care for some of the 195,000 people along the portion of the Amazon River in an effort to reduce the infant mortality and consequent suffering of the people.

In an effort to reduce the tremendous infant mortality and consequent suffering of the people, I would like to do the following:

- Construct a boat;
- Initiate a broad immunization program for the people in this area;
- In conjunction with the immunizations, conduct an educational program covering basic health education;
- In conjunction with the four hospital nursing sisters in the area, initiate a training program for midwives to serve in the interior of the Amazon area;
- Train ancillary medical personnel capable of serving as doctors’

Continued on page 3

Father Tupper dedicated his life to bringing hope to the men, women and children of the Central Amazon Valley.
A Doctor From Texas and a Doctor From Nicaragua Team Up To Bring Hope

Year after year, Dr. Custer and his pediatric surgical team from Baylor Scott & White Hospital in Temple, Texas donate their time and talent and underwrite their travel expenses to bring hope to the people of Nicaragua. Each visit, Dr. Custer looks forward to seeing his friend again, local surgeon Dr. Mejia.

During Dr. Custer’s surgical mission in Jinotega, Nicaragua during 2014, he and Dr. Mejia performed the very first laparoscopic gall-bladder surgery on a child. Recognizing Dr. Mejia’s interest in and ability to perform laparoscopic procedures, Dr. Custer invited him to travel back with him to Texas.

The time in Texas gave them both an opportunity to work cooperatively, advancing their techniques without the demand of performing over 40 surgeries during a surgical mission trip.

Dr. Mattix, a colleague of Dr. Custer’s, has been so inspired by the ongoing collaboration that she has agreed to lead a pediatric surgical mission to Nicaragua this year according to Brenda Mike, Executive Director of HealthWorks Collaborative, the sponsoring organization.

Even though Dr. Mejia’s hospital back home doesn’t have access to the same equipment, he was able to practice inside the U.S., and he will be able to perform the techniques he learned with visiting doctors who bring their own equipment.

Together, we can help Dr. Mejia save his patients much suffering and recovery time! Donations of in-kind medical supplies such as laparoscopic equipment will provide him and his fellow surgeons with the tools they need to put his newfound skills to use immediately! Contact Charlie Fulks, Surgical Program Coordinator, at 602-252-7772, ext. 114.

(L-R) Dr. Mejia and Dr. Custer relax with Dr. Mattix after another successful surgery.

Esperança Tributes & Memorials

Would you like to honor a friend or family member for a birthday or other special occasion, or make a gift in memory of a loved one? Your gift to Esperança can be designated as a tribute to or in memory of someone special.

We attempt to ensure the accuracy of our donors’ names. If you note an error or omission, please contact Nicol Emerick at 602-252-7772 x107.

Tributes and Memorials from Dec. 1, 2016 – Feb. 28, 2017

In Memory of Urban (Bud) Fisher
Therese Fisher
Patricia J. Guilfoyle
Ruth Kutsche
Dan Miller
Paul Miller
Steve Nelis
William J. Scouler
Anne Tyer
Mary Beth Walen
Paula J. Williams
Roblyn Williams
Gertrude Willy

In Memory of Beezie Kennedy
Marcia A. Kennedy

In Memory of Father Luke Tupper
Wayne M. Cobb

In Memory of Francis Barth Richards, Sr.
Barth Richards
Kathleen Shapley-Quinn

In Memory of Ray Tadeo
Michael J. Dolan

In Memory of Mike Vendola
Kathy Vendola

In Honor of the Terzic Family
Susan Wegman
assistants and capable of giving injections, changing bandages, assisting in surgical procedures, doing basic laboratory tests and keeping health records.”

In 1972, Father Tupper fulfilled his dream by traveling up and down the Amazon River in a refurbished passenger ferry he christened the “Esperança.” He pioneered a massive immunization program cutting the death rate among children under the age of one from 50% to less than 5% within 25 years.

47 years later, Esperança is still providing life-saving surgeries and medical education. In addition, we ensure that villages have safe, clean water across Central America, South America and Southern Africa. We improve sanitation to prevent unnecessary disease and suffering. We replace shacks made out of mud and tin with safe homes built to last. We provide families with training on how to grow vegetables, and raise pigs and chickens in a way that improves their nutrition and provides a renewable food and income source.

“I believe we can never do enough; he who says he has done enough has already perished. There is no end of all the many works we can do if we can only begin to love others as He loved us.”

– Father Luke Tupper
Treatment and Training: The Twin Engines of Hope

In 2017 Esperança plans to send 11 volunteer surgical teams of various specialties to help meet the surgical needs of rural communities in Mexico, Nicaragua, and Peru. In conjunction with our non-governmental (NGO) partners, doctors arrive on the first day of their mission anticipating the number of patients to be screened and the procedures they will perform.

Esperança’s Surgical Program Coordinator works with our partnering NGOs to ensure the operating room/hospital is equipped with the available medical equipment that the volunteer surgical team will need for the anticipated procedures. For medical equipment that isn’t available in the local hospitals and clinics, volunteer surgical teams pack and bring the items with them to ensure seamless surgical missions.

To reach the hospital without incident, inventories are provided in advance to customs officials who are then prepared to welcome volunteers and their extensive equipment into the country.

Working alongside physicians and surgeons who live and work in the region they are visiting means that volunteers impact more patients than the ones they see on their trip. The procedural techniques they pass on to local medical professionals will be used to treat patients long after the volunteer surgical teams return home.

Treatment and training are the twin engines of Esperança. Both volunteer and local surgical teams are empowered through Esperança’s collaborative surgical model.

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Medical supplies that are in perfect, usable condition are too often put in the trash by health care facilities, and it adds up! The National Academy of Medicine estimates that $765 billion a year is thrown into the landfill.

Kevin, a medical device representative and non-profit executive, began to take advantage of this waste. He saw materials being thrown away as soon as updated models come into the industry, and samples of products that don’t get used were being thrown away too! Kevin wanted to do something about this unnecessary waste.

After collecting the unused equipment from hospitals and medical facilities with which he worked, he stored them himself and has collaborated with Esperança by donating these supplies to bring them to parts of the world that truly need them.

Kevin has driven from Los Angeles, California to Phoenix, Arizona three times and brought with him over 1,750 cubic feet of medical supplies worth over half of a million dollars.

His last trip required the rental of a 20 foot box truck, an expense for which Esperança had not budgeted. Knowing the medical supplies would make a positive impact in the delivery of healthcare to the residents of Jinotega, Nicaragua, the expense was taken without hesitation.

Before getting the supplies to Nicaragua, they had to be sorted, inventoried and valued by volunteers. Dave is a dedicated philanthropist who has committed to volunteering at Esperança every week. He was at Esperança’s Phoenix warehouse to inventory and value donations when he heard of Kevin and the large box truck he would fill with medical supplies and drive to Phoenix.

After the valuable supplies were delivered and ready to be sorted, Dave was there to volunteer his time. But he surprised the Surgical Program Coordinator when he handed him a check from he and his wife Carmen for the truck rental.

Collaboration and cooperation are the cornerstone of Esperança and we are thankful for community champions like Dave and Kevin.

Kevin (second from left) has made three trips from Los Angeles, CA to Phoenix, AZ to get over a half million dollars’ worth of medical supplies to ship to Nicaragua.

$765 billion in medical supplies are thrown into the landfill each year, according to the National Academy of Medicine.

These critical medical supplies would never make it to the people who need it most without the dedication and generosity of volunteers like Dave.

Anchor of Hope Young Leadership Board member Marissa (left) and her mom helped unload medical supplies before the latest shipment. To learn more about becoming an Anchor of Hope, visit www.esperanca.org/volunteer/anchors-of-hope
Your Second Quarter Newsletter 2017

Bringing Hope • Providing Health • Transforming Communities

ESPERANÇA AROUND THE WORLD

PHOENIX, ARIZONA
- Health Education & Training

GUAYMAS, MEXICO
- Disease Prevention, Treatment & Surgical
  (Program commencing in 2017)

CUZCO, PERU
- Nutrition & Food Security
- Home Building & Improvement
- Disease Prevention, Treatment & Surgical

TARIJA, BOLIVIA
- Nutrition & Food Security
- Health Education & Training

JINOTEGA, NICARAGUA
- Nutrition & Food Security
- Clean Water & Sanitation
- Disease Prevention, Treatment & Surgical

MACIENE, MOZAMBIQUE
- Nutrition & Food Security
- Clean Water & Sanitation
- Health Education & Training
- Home Building & Improvement