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DGH's Mission is "To improve health and foster other human rights with those most in need by accompanying communities, while educating and inspiring others to action." DGH is fairly unique in its inclusion of art as a human right, believing the soul needs nourishing as much as the body does. This issue of the *DGH Reporter* offers examples of how art and human rights are inexorably linked in the work of DGH and elsewhere in the world.

PRESERVING A VILLAGE'S ORAL HISTORY: EL SALVADOR

By Amitte Rosenfeld

Salvador as a DGH volunteer with *La Asociación de Campesinos para el Desarrollo Humano* (Peasants for Human Development, CDH), DGH's local partner organization. His plan was to provide the youth in this rural community with tools to express their thoughts, fears and dreams through art. Garrett had the idea for the project and spoke to DGH members about it at a DGH event. They were very receptive to the idea since it fit in so well with DGH's Principles of Action, one of which states: "DGH integrates artistic expression that promotes healing and celebrates all life into its activities." Afterward, Garrett began working with the DGH Volunteer Committee to find an appropriate site for the project. Together, in consultation with DGH's local partners, they settled on El Salvador in the rural area of Estancia, where CDH works.

In the summer of 2010 Garrett Braun, at the time a university student at Soka University of America in California, spent three months in El

“...soon many of the stories from *la tercera edad* (the third age) would be forgotten and a lot of that first-hand knowledge of what life was like before El Salvador's brutal civil war (1980-1992) would be lost.”

In five of the *caseríos* (rural hamlets) in the area served by CDH, he set up weekly meetings with the youth to do art projects focusing on their values, views of the community, hopes for the future, along with many other themes. As he worked with the youth and got to know the larger community, he was introduced to its rich history and the stories that the elders in the *caseríos* carry with them. It became clear to him that soon many of the stories from *la tercera edad* (the third age) would be forgotten and a lot of that first-hand knowledge of what life was like before El Salvador's brutal civil war (1980-1992) would be lost because many of the traditions and stories remained only in the oral histories of the elders. Many of the youth Garrett worked with were the first in their families to learn to read and write and he realized they could use this skill to preserve the histories and memories of their grandparents.





Photos: (PREVIOUS PAGE) Students and community elders work together to record oral stories and memories through interviews. (ABOVE) Youth group members drawing illustrations of scenes from the oral histories told by community elders.

With the help of members of CDH, he recruited elders from all the *caseríos* to describe their childhoods and recount the history of Estancia. He encouraged youth from the groups to interview their elders and write down the information. Garrett and Juan Carlos (doctor in Estancia, the son of one of the first local health care promoters trained by DGH members) set up times for the interviews and held training sessions with the youth to familiarize them with the questions Garrett had written out, and to teach them how to conduct an interview.

participate in interviews or did not yet know how to read and write. Over the next few months I spent several of the weekly meetings focusing on these illustrations. Each group member chose a scene from an interview to illustrate. Some were apprehensive about having their drawings in a book, but many were very excited; all spent a great deal of time working on them. Garrett is currently working with an NGO called Project CREED (www.projectcreed.org) to publish the book. They will give him five percent of the proceeds from selling the book to further fund his trip back to Estancia to teach history classes using the book. He is working with native Spanish speakers to help him transcribe the interviews and edit the grammar, and is working on laying out the stories and illustrations.

Working on this project was an amazing experience for us, as well as an opportunity for the youth to learn new skills. We hope that this project will be not only an exchange of ideas, memories and skills between the generations, but a way for the community to preserve its history for its descendants and for people outside of the community to learn about Estancia's rich history. 🌿

By the time the interviews began taking place, it was almost time for Garrett to leave. I had just arrived in Estancia for a two-month stay and had the pleasure of attending a few of those first sessions. I felt privileged to witness how they were filled with collaboration and moments of great connection between the generations. This project interested me greatly since I was studying Liberal Arts with a Concentration in Humanities. I first decided to volunteer in Estancia because I knew I wanted to take a semester off from college and had heard my cousin talk about his experiences in El Salvador as a DGH volunteer. I began talking with the Estancia team and it became more and more apparent that it would be a great match for me. After hearing what Garrett was doing there, I was even more excited because I have worked with youth groups a lot in the past and really loved doing so.

It was decided that I would take over the youth groups from Garrett and work on any other relevant projects. Based on the interviews, we chose events, traditions and stories that could be illustrated by the other, often younger members of the youth groups who had either not chosen to

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ARTS: BOOKS

BEYOND HOMO SAPIENS: ENLIGHTENED FAITH

Humans beings are social animals infused with the light of Spirit. Individual growth is tied to societal progress. One cannot be separated from the other. That is the thesis of Mariu Suarez's trilogy, *Beyond Homo Sapiens*, a mystical-political interpretation of the historical events of the last 5,000 years. The last book in the series, *Enlightened Faith*, completes this thought-provoking retelling of the clash between the progressive and reactionary movements throughout history; a perpetual battle against our primordial selfishness that has brought humanity to its current crisis point. It sheds light on the evolutionary reasons why Homo Sapiens are corrupt and demeaning to each other, and cuts to the heart of today's vital issues with a plea for effective change that can save humanity from self-destruction. (From *BeyondHomoSapiens.com*)

BAD SAMARITANS: THE MYTH OF FREE TRADE AND THE SECRET HISTORY OF CAPITALISM

The people referred to in the title of Ha-Joon Chang's book, *Bad Samaritans: The Myth of Free Trade and the Secret History of Capitalism*, are advisers from rich nations who tell poor countries to embrace free-trade policies that rich nations themselves never practiced. Quoting a 19th century German economist on the British, Chang writes that today's rich nations are effectively "kicking away the ladder ... in order to deprive others of the means of climbing up" after them. But the history of capitalism has been so thoroughly rewritten, Chang says, that most of these "Bad Samaritans" suffer a form of "historical amnesia" and "do not even realize that they are hurting the developing countries with their policies." (From *SFGate.com*)

HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ARTS: FILM

NOSTALGIA FOR THE LIGHT

Chile's self-appointed one-man Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Patricio Guzmán, has devoted the last four decades to chronicling the short-lived Allende administration and the Pinochet dark age that followed. No one has dedicated themselves to portraying their homeland as relentlessly as Guzmán, who as a comfortable middle-class Santiagoan was enchanted with Allende socialism—and then rocked by the 1973 Pinochet coup.

Since then, his entire career has been committed to rendering onto film the exact dimension of that disastrous betrayal and its protracted fallout. In film after film, Guzmán yowls alone in the wilderness of a national culture still unwilling to face the Pinochet era's cost in corpses and vanishings.

Guzmán's new film, *Nostalgia for the Light*, and a career retrospective surveying more than three decades of his work will both wend their way through US theaters this spring and summer. The proper place to begin is where Guzmán began, with *The Battle of Chile* (1975-79), arguably the most vital piece of actual history ever put on film—if only because entire nations don't normally plunge into homicidal autocracy on film.

The Battle's three parts total more than four hours and document the ascension of Allende and the subsequent CIA-fueled coup that bloodied the streets (and, famously, killed one of Guzmán's cameramen as he was shooting). The film is a scalding lesson in orchestrated class disaster and power-mad malice that should be required viewing for high schoolers everywhere. It remains underseen, and that's probably not an accident. (See the industrial campaign against the Oscar nomination for the eco-activist film *Gasland*).

Guzmán completed his epic in exile in Spain, returning a few years after Pinochet ceded power to show the film for the first time in Santiago. That trip was recorded as *Chile, the Obstinate Memory* (1997). It's a desperate document, as Guzmán picks at scabs no one wants opened, bringing *The Battle* to schools where children were taught a bizarre version of 1973. Guzmán's films were by now marked by head-shaking stupefaction—how could history, especially when it's filmed, cease to matter?

But history does Guzmán's work for him next, with Pinochet's 1998 arrest in Great Britain on human rights violations charges. *The Pinochet Case* (2001) tracks the case from Madrid prosecutor Carlos Castresana's discovery of a loophole in Spanish law enabling him to charge Pinochet with human rights violations, through Pinochet's safe landing in his homeland—at which point the sleepwalking Chilean judicial system suddenly smells the carrion.

Time is split between the regime's traumatized survivors and a minute-by-minute account of the British court's extradition chess

game. Pinochet would die in relative comfort a few years later, but Guzmán never loses sight of the bones in the ground or the hypocrisy of world leaders (Margaret Thatcher comforted the house-arrested Pinochet).

He returned to the past again with *Salvador Allende* (2004), giving the lost socialist icon the biography no one in Chile has written. In

“It's all about memory and guilt, or the lack thereof. In a contemplative mode that comes with age (he is now 69), Guzmán free-associates all over the place.”

contrast, *Nostalgia for the Light* seems at first blush to detour in an odd new direction—toward astronomy and philosophy, landing in the Atacama desert, the elevation and dryness of which make it one of the globe's optimal observatory locations. Guzmán uses the stars' distance to ruminate

on the nature of time, but eventually he again finds his sociopolitical mojo, speculating about how time has treated the ghost town-turned-concentration-camp of Chacabuco: its ex-prisoners, the dumped bones of disappeared Pinochet victims and the old women who still scour the desert for body parts.

It's all about memory and guilt, or the lack thereof. In a contemplative mode that comes with age (he is now 69), Guzmán free-associates all over the place. But the film's philosophical musings slowly funnel down, as we knew they would, to a silent yowl of rage and a desperate plea for remembrance.

Often stark and ravishing, *Nostalgia for the Light* is most moving as a manifestation of the filmmaker's stubborn righteousness. Chile needs this artist because it seems that once he's gone, the selfish forgetfulness he's been combating all these years will swallow his work altogether, and Pinochet will finally win for good.

—Article by Michael Atkinson, reprinted with permission from In These Times (www.inthesetimes.com), May 2011 issue.



A solitary moment from *Nostalgia for the Light*, Patricio Guzmán's latest film about Chile. (Photo courtesy Icarus Films.)

REPORT BACK FROM THE 2011 DGH GENERAL ASSEMBLY IN LA

By Linda Sharp

This July, people from all across the US and from DGH partner communities gathered in Los Angeles, CA for the 16th Annual Doctors for Global Health General Assembly (GA). The weekend was filled with eye-opening community visits and inspiring speakers, as well as lots of time to meet and converse with other people interested in health and social justice. This year's theme was *Community Action for Health and Social Justice: Health Begins Where We Work, Live and Play*.

While the speakers and panels focused on health issues, they also delved deeper by addressing important social determinants of health. DGH understands that good health does not come only from well-equipped and staffed clinics; it is also affected by community policies and resources. That is why DGH welcomed medical professionals as well as community organizers, social activists, university professors and a state senator to speak at the GA. The variety of presenters provided a diverse education and thought-provoking conversations. In addition, Continuing Medical Education credits were available.

Since DGH is community focused, it strives to introduce attendees to the community where the GA is held. Therefore, the weekend kicked off on Friday afternoon by loading everyone on a yellow school bus to leave the Loyola Marymount University campus, where the GA was being held, to explore Los Angeles. Our first stop was Homeboy Industries, a gang intervention program created by Father Gregory Boyle. Los Angeles is the gang capital of the world, resulting in a lot of violence and too many deaths. Father Boyle has created a safe environment where past gang members can take job-readiness classes and, since their motto is "nothing stops a bullet like a job," they are offered employment in the organization's bakery, café, merchandise store or silk screening shop. Each person can work there for 18 months; then they are expected to get a job

outside Homeboy Industries using their new skills, letting others take their place. Homeboy Industries also provides social services and tattoo removal.

Our subsequent stop at Skid Row was in sharp contrast to the uplifting environment of Homeboy Industries. Skid Row, located in downtown Los Angeles, is the largest homeless community in the US. The immediate area has several of the social service providers in the city, which we saw along our tour. The guide of the tour was a previously homeless man who had lived in the area years ago. One of our primary visits was to a community clinic that offers free health care as well as basic dental care. After seeing Homeboy Industries, this visit brought us back to the harsh reality experienced by the many homeless in Los Angeles.

The next day the conference began with Saturday's keynote address given by Dr. America Bracho, Executive Director of Latino Health Access (LHA), a center for health promotion and disease prevention in Santa Ana, CA. Dr. Bracho embodies the concept of a community organizer. When she has a vision, she develops the support needed to achieve it. In 1993 she had a vision to bring the health promoter model to the Latinos of Orange County and, under her leadership, the LHA was created. Dr. Bracho believes whole-heartedly in community engagement and thinks it is the single most important behavior for good health. LHA starts promoting community engagement at an early age. She asserted that, "LHA serves as a factory for voice creation." She recognized that, while there will be barriers in their path, community groups must get creative to achieve their goals. For example, if they do not have the funding, they can capitalize on what they know, such as holding a 'bake' sale with community-specific foods like *tamales*, *pupusas* and *arepas*.

Later, the Migrant Communities panel focused on the health and well-being of Latino immigrants. The panel was diverse and offered great insight into the migrant experience. Dr. Steven Wallace provided facts and statistics regarding immigration. Most interestingly, he examined the immigrant paradox and used facts to dispel the myth that Latino immigrants come to the US to use our welfare system and take advantage of the free healthcare. In fact, Latino immigrants use the ER less and are healthier when compared to their US born Latino counterparts. His conclusion was that immigrants are here to stay, so it would be in our best interest to address their needs in health policy. Arizona State Senator Kyrsten Sinema, another speaker on the panel, focused on education opportunities for immigrant adolescents and how our system keeps students who are at the top of their class from continuing into secondary education by making them ineligible for financial aid. Many of these young adults have spent most of their lives in the US and aspire to contribute to society by going to college and becoming a doctor, engineer or perhaps a social worker. This is the reality for panel speaker Carol's Montes, an inspiring young lady who moved to the US from Honduras when she was three years old. Her entire education has been in US public schools and, like many of her classmates, she dreams of going to college and medical school. However, because she is a child of undocumented immigrants, she has found many obstacles along the way. Higher education is expensive and nearly impossible to pay



for without the help of student loans, so these aspiring adolescents suffer and cannot get the financial help they need. Carol's and others have been working tirelessly in Los Angeles and around the country to pass the DREAM Act, which would allow undocumented students in good standing the ability to attend college and professional school like their peers.

After lunch, we had the pleasure of listening to members from DGH partner communities share stories from, and the accomplishments and goals of, their work. Community representatives from Mexico included Dr. Juan Manuel Canales from Chiapas and Dr. Irma Cruz from Oaxaca. Visiting from El Salvador were Brenda Hubbard, Erundina Velis and Antonio Pacheco from Santa Marta, and Ramiro Cortez Argueta from Estancia. The community partners' presentations ended with a powerful theater presentation by Ilcian and Mayquel from the *Asociación Comité Contra SIDA* (CoCoSI, Association Committee Against AIDS). CoCoSI is a group of adolescents that work to prevent the transmission of HIV, defend the rights of those with the virus and promote a change in the youth attitudes using various methods, including theater.



PHOTOS CLOCKWISE: America Bracho delivering the Saturday Keynote Address; GA participants listening to panel discuss immigration issues; Migrant Communities Panel speakers; Sunday's Keynote speaker Blase Bonpane at the podium.

Sunday started off with an inspirational presentation given in tandem by Theresa and Blase Bonpane. They are a dynamic couple and have dedicated their lives to working for peace and social justice. Much of their attention has focused on promoting human rights and exposing illegal and immoral aspects of US domestic and foreign policy. They challenged us to think for ourselves, because education trains us for conformity and often conventional wisdom is

nonsense. They recounted the delegations they have led to Central America with participants of all ages. Afterwards, they said, people returned changed, realizing that we are one world, we are all human beings and every time we kill we create another enemy. In order to help educate the public about foreign policy, peace and justice, the Bonpanes founded the Office of the Americas (www.officeoftheamericas.org) in 1983, which continues to serve as an important source of information on current international events.

One of the most basic elements of health is nutrition. Therefore, next on the agenda, was a panel discussion addressing the global food crisis and how it affects people's health. The panelists shared the shocking reality of farmers in India, Africa and the US. Anuradha Kavuri, a human rights activist working for farmers in India, explained how India's agriculture sector reform promoted private enterprise leading to devastating consequences for local farmers. Without help from the government, local farmers were pushed into impossible situations, leading many farmers to commit suicide from the stress and distress. Anuradha Mittal spoke about the land grabs happening in Africa, where some hedge funds supported by even our major universities, will buy vast areas in Africa and force thousands of people off the land. Foreign investors promise new jobs and economic development but instead have brought enormous environmental and social problems to the poorest countries. Like the situation in India, the African governments are busy pursuing a policy of mindless industrialization in the name of development. Large chunks of land are being handed over to industries so that thousands of acres of cultivable land are being allotted for highly polluting and hazardous thermal and nuclear plants. These stories help explain how privatization can result in the famine now occurring in Africa. Finally, the discussion highlighted the

struggles of the South Central Farmers of Los Angeles, who have been working to regain the right to farm on what was once the largest urban garden in the US.

During the GA, DGH always strives to find time for socializing, entertainment and fundraising. Friday night's band, La Chamba Cumbia Chicha came to perform and, in natural Latin style, everyone had a great time letting loose and dancing. On Saturday we gathered for a wonderful dinner followed by our annual silent auction fundraiser. The variety of items gave the buyers a feeling of traveling across the world while they perused the tables and bid to fund DGH projects.

This year's GA was made possible by the hard work and leadership of board members Jyoti Puvvula and Linda Sharp. We greatly appreciate the enormous amount of time they put into making this GA so memorable and inspiring. If you would like a more detailed view of the GA, visit our website and read the real-time blog written by DGH members as the GA was taking place (www.dghonline.org/news). For those of you who were able to attend, I hope the GA inspired you to become even more engaged and socially active in your local communities and in DGH. Remember: our health begins where we work, live and play. For those of you who could not attend, think about joining us August 2012 for the next DGH Annual GA in Boston, MA.

DGH Reporter

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DGH has no paid employees in the US. DGH is administered by a volunteer **Board of Directors** whose members have volunteered with DGH in the past and are elected by DGH **Voting Members**. The Board is assisted by an **Advisory Council** composed of over 200 physicians, students, retirees, artists, nurses, business people and others. A diverse group of volunteers provides the vital core of DGH's resources, including this newsletter. Incorporated in the state of Georgia and registered with the IRS as a 501(c)3 not-for-profit, **DGH welcomes your donation, which is tax deductible.** To donate, please make your check out to *Doctors for Global Health* and send it to the address above. You will receive a letter stating the amount of your gift for tax purposes, and the very good feeling of having helped make a difference.

DGH MEMBERS DESCEND ON THE ARIZONA CAPITOL

By Linnea Capps

On May 5, 2011, 300 doctors, along with local immigration and health activists “descended on the Arizona capitol,” in the words of a local newscaster. The physicians

were protesting Arizona’s immigration policy and demanding the repeal of SB 1070, the controversial state law that has been called one of the “toughest legislations in the nation.” The law mandates that all immigrants in Arizona must carry their alien registration

documents and allows police to “determine the immigration status” of individuals whom they have “reasonable suspicion” to be in the country illegally. It also creates tougher penalties for people who knowingly hire illegal immigrants or who transport them. (Some of the law’s provisions have been temporarily blocked by a federal court.) For more information visit www.aclu.org/what-happens-arizona-stops-arizona.)

This rally was organized by a group of physicians from the Society of General Internal Medicine (SGIM) with the help of several Phoenix health and immigration activists. The idea started at the previous annual conference of SGIM, where there was an agonized debate about boycotting Arizona after the passage of SB 1070. The 2011 conference had been planned prior to the passage of the law and the leadership was concerned about losing the many thousands of dollars in deposits already paid for the conference. Many members argued for canceling the meeting despite the financial losses. In the end it was decided to hold the meeting in Phoenix and some members began to think about a demonstration. Dr. Oliver Fein, of the Weill-Cornell School of Medicine and the leader of the SGIM Social Responsibility Interest Group, led the planning of the demonstration. I partic-

ipated in the demonstration and was a member of its planning committee. Fellow DGH board members Jonathan Kirsch and Lanny Smith took part in the protest as well.

On the day of the demonstration, six busloads of physicians gathered outside the hotel where the conference was being held. On the sunny 100-degree day, they gathered on the lawn of the statehouse to listen to health activists who talked about the adverse health consequences of this law, which has made immigrants fearful of seeking medical care. For example, someone with untreated tuberculosis poses a public health danger. Physicians from other parts of the country added their voices. Dr. Fein noted that many physicians oppose legislation like

“ We are here—some 300 of us as I look about with other busloads still arriving—from the Society of General Internal Medicine National Meeting to say “enough” racist, hateful laws. We are all human beings, and no matter where born, we all have the right to health, education and all the basic Human Rights detailed in the Declaration of Human Rights, essential to our human dignity. ”

SB 1070, realizing the consequences for immigrants and for their communities if the sick are reluctant to seek medical care.

DGH founding president, Dr. Lanny Smith, also addressed the demonstrators, speaking in both English and Spanish:

“Looking around I see we are in a circle, a good metaphor for the interconnectedness of our struggles and lives; a circle of fire that tells us to be loyal and gives us hope for unity despite oppressive laws imposed out of fear

and prejudice... As many of us are physicians and other health care professionals, let’s remember that it was an out-of-state doctor called Tanton who initiated these hateful laws, together with his buff-credentialed sidekick lawyer named Kobach, stirring the poison of hate and scapegoats, lobbying financed by the Corrections Corporation of America and similar groups. We are here—some 300 of us as I look about with other busloads still arriving—from the Society of General Internal Medicine National Meeting to say “enough” racist, hateful laws. We are all human beings, and no matter where born, we all have the right to health, education and all the basic Human Rights detailed in the Declaration of Human Rights, essential to our human dignity.”

The local press was there and a sympathetic report appeared on local television. It showed Dr. Mark Ernest of Denver who noted that physicians strive to do no harm. He said: “We have done harm when we blindly lay blame for our problems at the feet of the poor and vulnerable.” The television journalist narrating the story continued: “Donning their white coats as a sign of solidarity with the poor and vulnerable, hundreds of doctors and nurses descended on the capitol to protest the avalanche of anti-immigrant legislation.”



Dr. Lanny Smith, DGH Founding President, speaking at the rally against AZ immigration law SB 1070.

REFLECTIONS ON BECOMING A DGH VOLUNTEER ABROAD: PART I – BEFORE GOING

By Natalia Sampedro

“A volunteer is a person who decides by their own free will to dedicate part of their time towards an altruistic pursuit, in solidarity, without receiving remuneration.”

That is the definition I have just read on the internet. I am definitely a volunteer. Over 10 years ago I decided to dedicate my time to an NGO every week, without receiving any type of remuneration, namely to the Spanish Red Cross and, more concretely, in emergency services.

It is easy to define yourself as a volunteer. What is harder is to find an answer to the question people ask you time and again...“Why?” There are plenty of reasons but I believe it is difficult to truly explain what compelled me to take the decision to become a volunteer. Sometimes I think only another volunteer can sincerely grasp the answer to that question—the driving force, the impulse, that makes you believe you have to do something to make a change, as small as it may seem. To paraphrase Mother Teresa of Calcutta: although it sometimes may seem as if what we are doing is just a drop in the ocean, the ocean would be less because of that missing drop.

I have experienced a restlessness and a sense of need that has made me want to be a part of all this, a restlessness that deprives me of my hours of sleep every week in order to help others and leaves me with a great sense of satisfaction. And this is what the altruistic pursuit of that definition really consists of: to **give** and **receive**. Give time, work, resources, etc., and receive experience, satisfaction, learning, human bonding and so much more. I have dedicated a lot to this pursuit and despite having lived through several tough moments, accidents, brawls, illnesses and even terrorist attacks, I would not change this experience for anything in the world because I have received thankfulness, hope, smiles, friends and even many fun moments.

So, after 10 years of “giving and receiving” in my home country of Spain, again I have felt the restlessness, the need that has made me want to cross borders and continue with my “altruistic pursuit” in a foreign country. Why not give it a go in a different country, with different people? And, if on top of this, I could be given the opportunity of carrying out my profession as a physiotherapist, which I feel to be my calling and the area in which I can give most, why not give it a try?

After thinking it over a million times, letting the idea mature, looking for an NGO to volunteer with and finding the right time to do it, it seemed destined that the theme of the 2010 Conference for the World Physiotherapy Day at the Professional Board of Physiotherapists in Madrid was “Physiotherapy, International Cooperation and Volunteering.” I did not think twice about attending the conference, where I learned about DGH for the first time.

What I especially liked about DGH was the emphasis on community accompaniment, cooperating in the broader sense of the term ‘health’ and the idea that the word ‘health’ encompasses much more than simply the absence of illness. What made my participation possible was DGH’s variety of projects, which include physiotherapy. The



Natalia Sampedro (right) volunteering with the Spanish Red Cross in emergency services.

video *Las Manos y el Maiz* (The Hands and the Corn, www.dghonline.org/es/content/las-manos-y-el-maiz) and a talk with Isabel Quintero, a DGH Board Member and fellow physiotherapist who was at the conference, finished convincing me that DGH was the NGO with which I wanted to collaborate. I decided the Rehabilitation Center in Santa Marta, El Salvador, with its solid physiotherapy project and other rehabilitation techniques, was the place I wanted to work, hand in hand with the local health promoters.

“ Sometimes I think only another volunteer can sincerely grasp the answer to that question—the driving force, the impulse, that makes you believe you have to do something to make a change, as small as it may seem. ”

It took a couple of months of contact with DGH and going through its international volunteer application process, as well as intense work cre-

ating a manual, looking for donations and trying to convince my family that this journey was going to make one of my dreams come true. Now, in just two weeks, I am finally going to embark on a new experience as a volunteer. It will be different to what I have done until now, but I expect it to be motivating, stimulating and unique. I know I will find the whole episode very moving.

As if this were not enough, destiny was on my side again and I had the luck of receiving a cooperation scholarship from the Professional Board of Physiotherapists. Once again, the Board was there for me when I most needed them by helping me cover the costs of my trip, which I really needed.

Don’t you think this project is just full of good omens from the start? I do. I think I will continue my “altruistic pursuits” in Santa Marta with the same good luck even though I know from experience that the final result will be that I will receive much more than I will have given. I am sure the path that will lead me to that result will be thrilling but that path is another story that I will tell you about in detail when I return.

—*Watch for* Reflections on Becoming a DGH Volunteer Abroad: Part II – After Returning *in the next issue.*



DGH Announcements

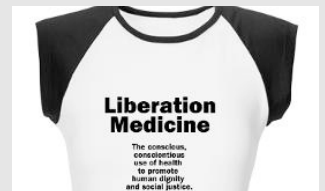
► **Mark Your Calendar!** The next annual DGH General Assembly will be held August 2012 (most likely the weekend of the 3rd) in Boston, MA. Join us and renew your enthusiasm for the struggle for justice.

► **DGH Board Member Jennifer Kasper Honored.** Dr. Jennifer Kasper is the recipient of the 2011 Dean's Community Service Lifetime Achievement Award given by Harvard Medical School for her work with Doctors for Global Health. This Award was established to recognize Harvard Medical School/Harvard School of Dental Medicine faculty, staff and students who have made outstanding efforts to serve the local, national and international community. As part of the award, Harvard Medical School made a donation to DGH in the amount of \$1,000 in honor of Dr. Kasper.

► **The DGH 2011 Clements Award Goes to Laura Turiano,** for her work promoting Health for All, NOW! Among the Co-Founders of DGH in 1995 were Hal and Cherry Clements, both 82 at the time. To honor their memory and innumerable contributions to health and human rights, DGH created the Hal and Cherry Clements Community Service and Social Justice Promotion Award (for details visit www.dghonline.org/content/dgh-inspirational-awards-and-scholarships). This year DGH honors Laura Turiano, MA, PA-C, of Oakland, CA. Laura has been a tireless advocate for community health and social justice. Trained as an anthropologist and a Physician's Assistant, Laura has used her skills to work with women in underserved populations and with

persons in addiction treatment and with chronic disease. She accompanied the people of El Salvador as a trainer and health provider before the disarmament and immediately after the war. She has, through scholarship, including publication and national as well as international teaching, been an advocate of the Right to Health and a teacher of Activism toward the Right to Health, particularly through the International People's Health University program and the Global Right to Health Campaign of the global People's Health Movement (www.phmovement.org) and Global Health Watch (www.ghwatch.org). Her work has energy, inquiry, creativity and substance, in the vein of the Clements' own inspiration, for which DGH would like to recognize and thank Laura as we continue in the struggle toward Health for All.

► **Show Your Support for Liberation Medicine and DGH with Liberation Medicine T-Shirts.** DGH works to set an example of how medicine should be practiced by promoting Liberation Medicine: "The conscious, conscientious use of health to promote human dignity and social justice." (Learn more at www.dghonline.org/content/liberation-medicine-health-justice). Visit the DGH store to browse merchandise: www.cafepress.com/dghonline. Proceeds support DGH's work.



DOCTORS FOR GLOBAL HEALTH
Promoting Health and Human Rights
"With Those Who Have No Voice"

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