



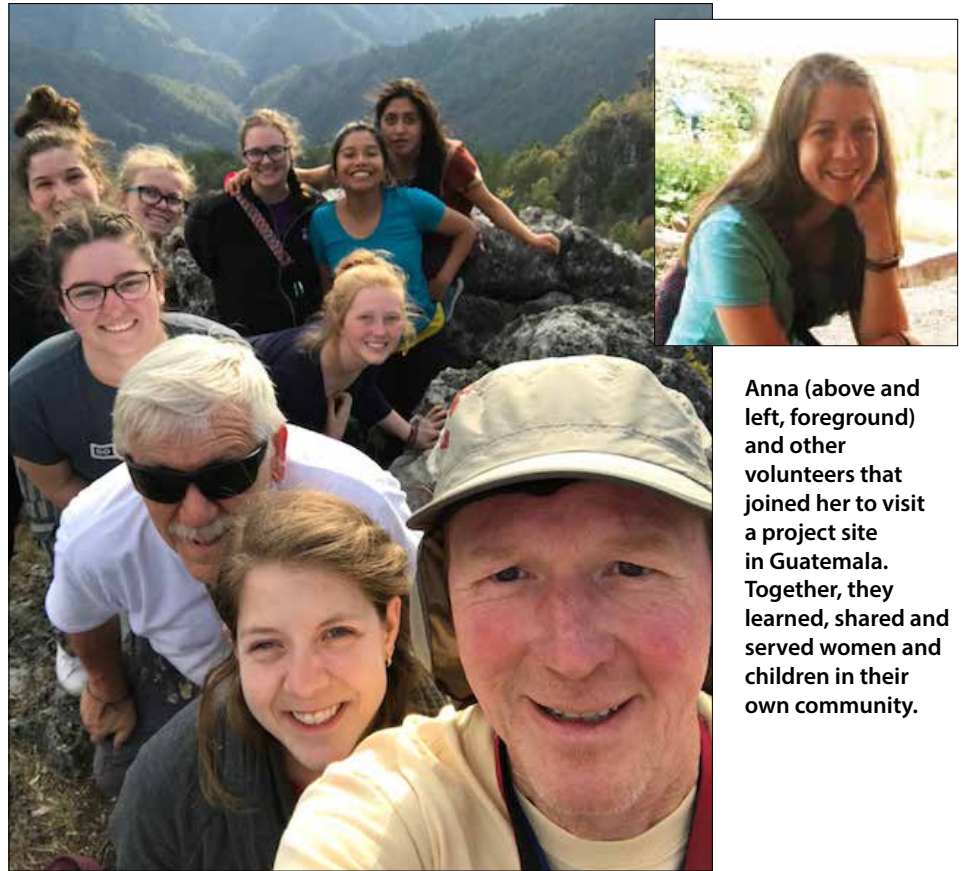
Curamericas Global is Inspiring One Woman to Pursue Her True Passions

For Anna Brown, pursuing a major in Human Resources at North Carolina State University Poole College of Management was a smart move. “My dad told me it was a good strong business degree and in all areas of business, you have to have the Human Resources aspect to it,” she explained. Anna would soon realize just how important the “human” aspect would become to her.

Anna grew up in Greensboro, N.C. attending Christ United Methodist Church. At a young age, she started going on the church’s mission trips, serving communities and meeting new people. When she was 16, Anna graduated to international trips and spent her first mission abroad in Bolivia. “I fell in love with the Latin culture, also my eyes were opened to immense poverty,” said Anna. “I think I knew – halfway through my trip, I knew this is what I wanted to do with my life, and that it was my passion.”

Anna loved the Latin culture so much, she minored in Spanish in college and became fluent. However, after her second trip to Bolivia, the project became sustainable. “It was amazing, but also sad for me because they didn’t really need us to come back,” Anna remembered.

In 2016, Anna had a new calling to the mission field. Her church had deep ties to Curamericas Global, thanks to the founder and longtime church member, Dr. Henry Perry. “Curamericas knew how much our church had supported the mission, and Executive Director Andrew Herrera called looking for someone who could speak Spanish and attend a trip to the project site in



Anna (above and left, foreground) and other volunteers that joined her to visit a project site in Guatemala. Together, they learned, shared and served women and children in their own community.

Guatemala,” explained Anna. So, the church volunteered Anna and she gladly accepted.

Anna’s first trip to Guatemala was unlike any other mission trip she had taken part in before, mostly because of Curamericas Global’s community-based approach to the people. “It wasn’t people coming in and telling people, ‘this is what we think you need to do’, instead Curamericas built relationships with the community and asked, ‘what are your needs, what do you see working, what is the best way to approach

this?’ We focused on their actual needs and not what we thought was best for them.”

Anna worked at Curamericas’ Casa Materna, a culturally-adapted birthing facility that provides women with vital health services during pregnancy, delivery and after birth check-ups. The Casas are strategically built to provide access for multiple communities and, in order to ensure long-term sustainability, members of the community lead and facilitate operations there.

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As Anna continues to work with Curamericas Global, she's also focusing on other ways she can help serve her own community. She's currently working with two friends interested in starting their own nonprofit, focusing on children in foster care. "I just have such a passion for these

children who are in need and hurting," Anna said. "Being on these trips makes you realize how lucky we are to have access to health care. We don't have to worry about something as minor as a cold turning into something devastating, and these communities do, it's their reality."

Since her first trip, Anna has organized and led two more trips to Curamericas' project site in Guatemala, and she's already planning another trip for next spring. "These trips are so important to me, I'm already counting down the days to the next one."

Curamericas Global News:

Board of Advisors

Curamericas Global has a Board of Advisors of over 15 members and growing. This group of dedicated volunteers work directly with the Executive Director on special projects. Learn more about our members at www.curamericas.org/why-curamericas/#staff-and-board

A selection of our projects include:

- Solar Panel Fundraising and Technical Support for Kenya
- Fundraising and Machine Learning/Data analysis Support
- Recruiting Volunteer teams and Student Volunteers
- Working towards publishing research with Curamericas Global
- Recruiting nurses and managing them at our NC Guatemalan Consulate Health Outreach

Speaking of the Guatemalan Consulate. Did you know that we have successfully achieved another key tenet of our strategic plan? Today we are applying our lessons learned from around the world, right here in the US. The Guatemalan Consulate in Raleigh has asked us to partner with them to provide Hope Through Health. There are over 100,000 Guatemalans living in the Carolinas. We have had dozens of cases of people who don't know how to get health care. Recently a young mother was three months pregnant and had never received any care. She lived in an urban area, yet was afraid of the health system. She was not aware of the importance of prenatal vitamins and care. Our team lead, Jill Block, immediately went out to find her prenatal vitamins. Jill also gave her a list of places for free, bilingual care near her home. There are many stories just like hers.

Barbara Muffoletto

Barbara Muffoletto understands the mission of Curamericas Global and she is passionately committed to it and to the organization's values. She joined the staff in 2013 and has worked with interns, volunteers, and programs in Guatemala, Sierra Leone, and Kenya.

She earned her MPH from the elite Masters of Public Health program at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and now her position at Curamericas is evolving. Formerly the organization's Program and Operations Manager, Barbara has been promoted to a more focused role as a Program Manager.

Barbara will now dive deeper into Curamericas Global projects and will dedicate 100% of her time, leadership and expertise to support in-country partners with program development, implementation, and evaluation, use of the community-based methodology, as well as technical support, financial tracking, and data collection and analysis.

Curamericas Global is thrilled to continue to grow with the support of Barbara. Her years of experience with Curamericas Global and other organizations will continue to be invaluable in the journey to end maternal and child deaths in vulnerable communities.



DID YOU KNOW?



- The number of Casa Materna Clinics is expanding from five to 10, providing hope through health to hundreds of mothers and children around the world.
- Domestic violence – in Bolivia, important work is being done to reduce violence in homes.
- Curamericas Global has a new partner organization in the U.S. - Centro de Cultura, Arte, Trabajo y Educación (CCATE). The goal is to empower and address specific health challenges in the Hispanic community in Norristown, Pennsylvania, by using Curamericas' unique CBIO Methodology (Community-Based, Impact-Oriented Methodology.)
- Thanks to a partnership with the Kenya Ministry of Health, Ronald McDonald House Charities (RMHC) and Curamericas Guatemala, Curamericas Global will now reach and save women and children in Kenya.

A Message from Andrew Herrera Executive Director at Curamericas Global



After three decades of hard work, dedication, visionary leadership and collaboration, Curamericas Global celebrated the success of its unique methodology and programming model in Bolivia.

In a recent leadership trip to Bolivia, Executive Director Andrew Herrera shares and reflects on his experience visiting Curamericas Global local partners and communities in Santa Cruz, Montero and La Paz.

Curamericas Global first began working in Bolivia in 1983. Through thirty years of partnerships with the local community, as well as funding from the USAID Child Survival program and Curamericas' supporters, **the organization has successfully addressed the causes of maternal and childhood illness and mortality through interventions including immunizations, diarrhea and pneumonia case management, nutrition, maternal and newborn care, and family planning.**

"I couldn't be prouder to see the level of commitment and sustainability of the work we started 30 years ago," said Andrew. "We visited homes and saw the health workers in action. Because of them, lives continue to be saved and unnecessary suffering is prevented."

But with the growth of cities in Bolivia and the population shifting to urban areas, there are still many who lack basic healthcare or suffer from other issues like domestic violence and sexual abuse.

According to an article in the Huffington Post, **Bolivia has the highest rates of sexual violence in Latin America with one in every three women experiencing some kind of sexual abuse before the age of 18.** The persistence of such violence caused by the pervasive culture of "machismo," inadequate legislation, lack of enforcement of existing laws, the judicial system and societal attitudes. **This unjust reality must stop and Curamericas is helping to change this.**

"We have the unique ability to combine specialized expertise and programming with a community-centered approach," expressed Andrew. "By working hand-in-hand with local partners, educating, empowering, and equipping local people, we are helping to reduce domestic violence in remote villages of Bolivia."

Empowering local people is Curamericas Global's path to sustainability. It has worked to eliminate maternal and child mortality rates and it will work again to decrease domestic violence for many women and children.

Andrew Herrera

Forgotten Families Empowered to Improve Their Own Health

When Jaimie Kasopsky arrived at the hospital for her son's delivery, she never dreamed the experience would be so traumatic. "They couldn't find the baby's heartbeat, so I had to have an emergency c-section," Kasopsky explained. She arrived at the hospital at 6 p.m. and just 18 minutes later her son was born. He was not breathing and doctors had to resuscitate him. "We were very fortunate to live so close to a hospital and they were able to get him out in time," she said. "Even the doctor said it was pretty much a miracle my baby was alive."

This same situation plays out in forgotten communities every day around the world, but the outcome is often tragically different. Expectant mothers can live hours from a hospital and their only option is to deliver on dirt floors inside their homes, with no professional help. The lack of access to public health care and education often results in life or death situations for millions of women and children every day. It's those barriers and many others that inspired Curamericas Global to take action more than 35 years ago.

Since 1983, Curamericas Global has provided health education and care to more than 1.4 million people in impoverished communities in Bolivia, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and the United States. Curamericas Global goes where the world's highest maternal and infant mortality rates are.

Curamericas Global has made measurable impacts on the health of the communities by focusing on prevention, health education and establishing relationships within the community. The nonprofit's work has resulted in reducing mortality by over 60% in Liberia, Guatemala, and Bolivia. The true goal is to bring these communities life-saving, sustainable solutions that families can continue themselves.

Community involvement empowers these families to take control of their own health and future. Before Curamericas Global begins a partnership, it meets with community leaders to learn about their needs and hope for the community. Data collection



is next, giving communities an accurate picture of the health issues that cause death and illnesses in mothers and children.

Community members also play an active role in the health and success of their neighbors by becoming Community Health Volunteers. Curamericas Global staff train these local volunteers, often local mothers, to work alongside health care providers so they can help educate other women in their community. These volunteers are the eyes and ears of the project, alerting health workers

when a mother or child has fallen ill or if there is a new pregnancy in the community.

Once health experts identify the leading cause of diseases and death at Curamericas' project sites, they go out to the communities to educate. A key difference is that health volunteers from the community go door-to-door meeting with mothers in their homes to talk about important health practices that will keep them and their children healthy. These practices are as simple as breastfeeding and hand washing. The groups also build

wells and provide racks to keep dishes away from vermin and other potential sources of contamination.

Along with education at these sites, Curamericas Global provides life-saving services like prenatal checkups, immunizations for children and at-risk pregnant women, vitamins and family planning services. In Guatemala, Curamericas Global has developed four Casa Materna Maternity Clinics with six more planned in Guatemala and in Kenya.

These clinics are staffed 24 hours a day by local birth attendants and provide

women with a safe, centrally-located and culturally appropriate facility for mothers to give birth and receive services. The partner communities that built and manage the facilities have not had any maternal deaths for the past three years. Providing emergency obstetric care and increasing use of birthing centers have been crucial to this success.

To carry out its mission, Curamericas Global depends on dedicated volunteers and donors like Jaimie Kasopsky to help make a difference. They reach over 100,000 people with a staff of just three experts. Last year, Kasopsky shared the story of her delivery

during Mom-a-thon, Curamericas Global's annual fundraiser. She wanted to shed light on the circumstances that women in these forgotten communities face every day. This annual fundraiser kicked off on October 1st.

By empowering marginalized communities to improve their own health, Curamericas Global is inspiring change for generations to come. "Curamericas work is so important – what they do can save a life, and that is ultimately the most important thing ever," said Kasopsky.

Your Dollars at Work

Join us by directly supporting underserved communities so they can make measurable and sustainable improvements in their health and well-being.



\$28 provides access to life-saving medical resources for one mom and her family for a year



\$84 supports a block (three families)



\$140 helps a neighborhood (five families)

Donor Spotlight:

Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®) Brings Curamericas Global to Share, Learn and Empower Other Nonprofits at Charity's International Conference in Chicago



At left: RMHC Global Maternal and Child Health Grantees, RMHC Global Leadership and other guest speakers. At right: Dr. Mario Valdez, Curamericas Guatemala Director, visiting and working, hand by hand, with families in a remote community of the Huehuetenango District in Guatemala.



Held every three years, the RMHC International Conference is the premier education event for the RMHC system worldwide. Over 1,200 attendees representing RMHC Chapters from 50 countries and regions around the world met last August.

Gathering together, sharing ideas and learning from one another is also an important component of the RMHC Global Grants Program. Curamericas Global was selected as one of the 2017-2020 Global Grant recipients as a result of being a leading organization contributing to the global health and wellbeing of underserved women and children.

Curamericas Global along with three other RMHC grantees, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, was invited, at no cost, to attend this year's RMHC Conference and the very first RMHC Global Maternal and Child Health Summit.

Andrew Herrera, Curamericas Global Executive Director, and Dr. Mario Valdez, Curamericas Guatemala Director (also known as a Public Health Hero), represented the organization.

During the summit, the representatives provided an overview of their organizations, the projects currently being funded by RMHC, as well as the progress and impact of the first year of the projects and specific chal-

lenges the projects are facing.

In addition, Curamericas Global had a seat at the table with other high-caliber and renown researchers, pediatricians, and public health experts. The group participated in a series of discussions on topics that included best practices for working with community health workers, clinical quality improvement, program evaluation, among others. Curamericas Global excelled at demonstrating expertise and measurable impacts within each of these areas.

“Andrew did an excellent job presenting the work of Curamericas, both in Guatemala and Kenya. The additional perspective shared by Dr. Valdez throughout the meeting was extremely meaningful; it was a significant point of reference made by the RMHC Program Management Committee during their meeting.”

RMHC Chief Field Operations Officer Janet Burton

Another key highlight of the discussions was Curamericas' intentional strategy to create lasting benefits through education, as well as long-term partnerships with communities, local organizations and local leaders over a number of years so the programs become self-sustaining.

“We were greatly impressed with the

overall work Curamericas is doing to save the lives of women and children around the world,” said Janet Burton, RMHC Chief Field Operations Officer.

As a result of Curamericas' demonstrated impact and expertise to deliver programs and services while educating, equipping and empowering local communities to contribute to their own health and wellbeing, RMHC Global formally approved its continued investment for the second year of the grant.

“RMHC funding will allow us to continue to implement our revolutionary Community Birthing Center “Casa Materna” model for reducing maternal/neonatal mortality and child stunting in high-mortality regions of Guatemala, Kenya, and Sierra Leone.” Andrew Herrera.

This model constructs culturally appropriate, locally accessible, fully equipped, community-owned obstetric facilities and builds the capacity of paid front-line indigenous health workers to provide quality routine and emergency obstetric care and malnutrition screening and counseling. In essence, a uniquely patient-centered, results-based framework that mobilizes communities to drive change in the improvement of health and nutrition outcomes, while working in sustainable partnerships with civil society and government.

Become a Change-Maker: Join Curamericas Global Mom-a-Thon

830 moms die every day from preventable causes. You can help us put a stop to this statistic by joining and spreading the word about Curamericas Global annual fundraising campaign — the Mom-a-Thon.

This is a virtual race to save the lives of moms and children in forgotten communities across the world. The funds raised through the Mom-a-Thon have and will continue to help support Curamericas Global's mission and work to provide health services and education for thousands of families, year-round. This year's goal is to raise \$350,000 by December 1st. Reaching this goal will provide over 120,000

families with critical medical care.

Not only can you provide this life-saving care, but you can create a team and invite friends, family members, and your extended network to join this cause with you. 60 team captains are needed. To become one and help Curamericas Global cross the finish line, visit run.curamericas.org.

Supporters should know that at Curamericas Global, every dollar donated is multiplied by seven. Therefore, the Mom-a-Thon is an incredible opportunity to inspire giving. Will you join this race to save lives?



35 Years of Visionary Leadership, Innovation, and Transformational Change

Vision, leadership, innovation, compassion, and purpose are essential elements to creating transformational change. These are also what characterizes Curamericas Global and its founder, Dr. Henry Perry.

Propelled by his passion for people and the firm belief that everyone, everywhere deserves to have access to quality healthcare, Dr. Perry founded Curamericas Global more than three decades ago. Since then, the organization has been establishing primary health care programs that are responsive to the health needs of each community, improving child survival within the community, and building the national and local capacity of health service providers.

Dr. Perry has made his personal interests in primary health care and community-oriented public health, community participation, and equity and empowerment the purpose for his life. As a medical missionary and throughout his successful career, his efforts and hard work have paid off. To date, more than 1,000,000 people in impoverished communities across the globe have been helped by his vision, the mission of Curamericas Global and its local partners.

The bottom line – Dr. Perry's vision, leadership, innovation, compassion, and purpose



“I wanted to be there helping, feeling the pain that people had and being with them in addressing their medical problems.”

Dr. Henry Perry

have positively and tangibly transformed the lives of women, children, families, and entire communities worldwide. Furthermore, his commitment and resilience to establishing rela-

tionships, collaborating, educating, equipping, and empowering those who he's been serving have resulted in the strengthening of entire healthcare systems in developing countries.

Because of his tremendous contributions to the public and maternal and child health arenas, Dr. Perry is a primary health global champion, thought leader and visionary. Together with Curamericas leadership and its Board of Advisors, Dr. Perry continues to inspire hope through healing. Undoubtedly, because of his legacy and the expertise and dedication of the Curamericas Global staff and board, measurable and sustainable improvements in the health and well-being of vulnerable and hard to reach communities worldwide will continue to happen.

Along with Dr. Perry and the organization's staff, leadership and board, there are people all over the world committed to supporting the mission of Curamericas Global – now, tomorrow and for many years to come. You, too, can be part of this mission. To leave a legacy of hope through health, include Curamericas Global in your estate planning. Contact Andrew Herrera at Andrew@curamericas.org and visit our website (www.curamericas.org/leave-a-legacy) for more information.



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Curamericas Global partners with underserved communities to make measurable and sustainable improvements in their health and well-being.

Your gifts make a lasting impact on the health of communities around the world.
Thank you for your support!

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Ways You Can Help

Everyone can make a difference through Curamericas Global!
A donation of time, goods, or funds helps to save women and children that would otherwise die from preventable causes. Make a difference in the lives of mothers and children around the world by:

Donating at www.curamericas.org.

Participating in volunteer trips to high-need communities in Guatemala, where volunteers can have a profound impact on the health and well-being of the local population while being immersed in the local culture.

Donating supplies for Casa Maternas in Guatemala such as baby clothes and medicine.
For a list of wish items visit www.curamericas.org/ways-to-give.