

YOU bring health and hope to Peru



# Healing and Hope

## MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

*Inside*

Thank you from Brian and Antoinette

Charitable Rollover

Mission Doctors' Financial Guy

Moments like this possible because of you

**“These years of service with Mission Doctors have been some of the most gratifying, life changing, and challenging experiences of our lives.** We learned so much from our patients, co-workers, parishioners, the community and other volunteers. We were challenged professionally and learned new skills and tools to fill our toolbox that have helped make us better physicians both abroad and back home. And are humbled and very thankful for the opportunity.”

**In May, Mission Doctors, Antoinette Lullo and Brian Medernach completed their long-term mission to Santa Clotilde Clinic in rural Loreto, Peru.** They left the United States a young couple and returned a family of four.

When asked about serving as a family, Antoinette shared “You learn how to live simply, enjoy life, pray, laugh and cry

together. Also, it builds a bond with the families you serve and creates lifelong connections for you and your kids to always be able to foster and grow.”

Santa Clotilde Clinic is situated on the Napo River in the Amazon region of Peru. This remote health center serves over 20,000 indigenous people living along the river. Santa Clotilde is a beacon of health, located over eight hours from the nearest major health center.

Brian and Antoinette shared many of the joys and challenges of mission service. “The most rewarding has been forming relationships with people in the communities, co-workers and patients. **It is immensely gratifying to see the smile of relief on the face of a parent as their child pulls through a severe illness and begins to eat and play again.** The joy a healthy family returning home (continued page 2)

## You Bring Health and Smiles to Peru



Medernach Lullo family with Charlie's best friend Lamberto

(continued from page 1)

together fills all of our staff with a sense of collective pride and accomplishment. It keeps us all going.” In addition to the challenges of being a doctor, Antoinette and Brian shared that **“It was professionally challenging to work within a context of low-resources, knowing that outcomes may have been drastically different if the same patients were presented to a fully-equipped hospital back home.”**

While reflecting on these challenges, Brian shared “I think it is hard to put into words the gratitude and kindness of the people we serve. **The presence of a Mission Doctor**

**makes a huge difference, because otherwise communities might not have access to health care. The presence of a Mission Doctor empowers the community, gives them hope, and enables them to feel the love of Christ in a unique way.”**

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*We cannot thank the donors enough for their support and we want them to know that everything that they have done makes a big difference in the lives of those we serve. They should know we appreciate them and also pray in thanksgiving for their support.*

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Dr. Lullo discussing treatment with a young mother

Both Antoinette and Brian shared that their faith has grown during their time in Peru. Antoinette shared this so beautifully: **“Over these last years on mission, my sense of gratitude, joy, and patience has grown exponentially, and I have been gently lead by Jesus’s inspiration, intervention, and example.”**

These two faith-filled, dedicated Mission Doctors wanted to share a word of thanks to all of the support they received from home. “We cannot thank the donors enough for their support and we want them to know that everything that they have done makes a big difference in the lives of those we serve. Starting with their prayers for the work and thinking of us as we are far from home is a blessing and helps the grace and strength we need during mission. The financial support makes such a huge difference in access to care and their donations goes A LONG WAY in our low resource setting. They should know we appreciate them and also pray in thanksgiving for their support.”



Dr. Medernach examining a young patient

**Your prayerful support made Brian and Antoinette’s mission possible. Because of you, Brian and Antoinette were there to care for thousands of patients. Thank you for your continued support of the life-saving work of Mission Doctors.**

## Help Mission Doctors with a Charitable Rollover

**Good news for taxpayers over the age of 70 1/2!** Congress has voted to make permanent the exclusion from income for Individual Retirement Account (IRA) distributions given directly to charities. (Up to \$100,000).

### IRA Charitable Rollover

An IRA charitable rollover is a way you can help continue our life-saving work.

### Benefits of an IRA Charitable Rollover

- Avoid taxes on transfers of up to \$100,000 from your IRA to Mission Doctors Association.
- Satisfy your required minimum distribution (RMD) for the year.
- Reduce your taxable income, even if you do not itemize deductions.
- Make a gift that is not subject to the 50% deduction limits on charitable gifts.
- Help further the work and mission of Catholic Doctors and their families serving Christ's poor around the world.

Contact your IRA plan provider and notify Mission Doctors of your intent.

Give us a call with any questions (213) 368-1875 – Elise Frederick, Executive Director, Mission Doctors Association

## Mission Doctors' "Financial Guy" Martin Casaus

Every organization needs people with different talents. As you know, MDA sends doctors and their families to serve in Africa and Latin America. Our dedicated Board of Directors is composed of doctors who have served and other professionals working to ensure the mission.

Our treasurer shares why he became, and stays involved.



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*“As the Treasurer of MDA, I see where the money goes and what good it does. Mission Doctors provide a tremendous amount of help to people who need it most. Everything we do is transparent, I can see the results.”*

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Martin Casaus is a Certified Public Accountant with over 30 years experience and is a Principal in Los Angeles' Squar Milner's Audit and Assurance Services Department. When he first joined MDA's Board ten years ago, Martin said he was surprised to learn that doctors would make such large sacrifices to serve; putting their lives on hold to care for the poor in incredibly challenging conditions across the world. Their sacrifice motivates and inspires Martin.

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A devoted husband and father of two, when Martin is not working or volunteering for Mission Doctors, he spends his free time coaching his son's baseball team, cooking, playing guitar and singing in a band.

Before we ended our conversation, Martin shared one more thing about how he sees his role with Mission Doctors. He said “I am like the little drummer boy in the Christmas song. The only thing the little boy had to offer was to play his drum. I'm not a doctor, but I can offer one thing.” Martin's financial expertise is a great gift for MDA. He sees it as his gift for the Lord.



# Thank you

for making moments like this possible.

Your continuing support allows Mission Doctors like Martha Franz to provide lifesaving, compassionate medical care to thousands in need.

Thank you for being our partner in hope.

Terry Hirst, Photographer  
ACalltoMercy.org

## Upcoming Events

**September 23-25, 2016: Discernment Weekend** Doctors and their spouses interested in long-term (3 year) service with MDA are invited to a Discernment Weekend at our Mission House in Los Angeles. The weekend provides an opportunity to meet with the formation team and learn about current service sites and discuss the joys and challenges of mission life. Contact our office for more information.

**September 23-25, 2016: Midwest Retreat/Seminar** Doctors and their spouses considering short-term service are invited to attend a Retreat/Seminar at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Bloomington, MN. Take the time to reflect on God's call to 'heal the sick' and discuss the practical issues of medical licenses, work permits, visas, and international health insurance. Visit the MDA website for more information.



### MISSION DOCTORS ASSOCIATION

3435 Wilshire Blvd., Suite 1940

Los Angeles, CA 90010

Phone: (213) 368-1872

info@MissionDoctors.org

[www.MissionDoctors.org](http://www.MissionDoctors.org)

