

MIHS extends health care to Third World

It reached out for the first time to Esperanza Clinic in Brazil in 1981. Since then, Mercy International Health Services (MIHS) has helped bring improved health care to some of the poorest people of the world in many isolated, generally forgotten parts of the globe.

Calls for assistance have taken the Farmington Hills-based agency to such places as Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Western Samoa, Nicaragua, Brazil, Kenya, the Republic of Palau, the Marshall Islands, Hong Kong, Salpau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Philippines, Guam, Australia and New Zealand.

A subsidiary of Mercy Health Services, sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy of the Detroit Province, MIHS adds a new dimension to the dream of Catherine McAuley, Dublin heiress and foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.

Her vision, as described by M.

Joanna Regan in her book "Tender Courage," was to "connect the rich to the poor, the healthy to the sick, the educated and skilled to the uneducated, the influential to those of no consequence, the powerful to the weak . . . to do the work of God on earth."

MIHS connects healthy, well-educated, health care providers with those in desperate need of training, new skills and improved ways of serving the sick, the poor, and the uneducated.

DRAWING ON the resources of the 16 divisions of Sisters of Mercy Health Corp. and other Mercy Health Services subsidiaries, MIHS sends skilled personnel overseas to

enable local health workers in other countries to improve health services.

Mercy's assistance to local health professionals abroad ranges from training in hospital administrative and management skills to clinical nursing, to housekeeping, to repairing equipment.

A few projects are different, like that of the operational cost study of the Fiji School of Medicine in Suva and the medical malpractice and quality assurance studies in Micronesia and Polynesia; both projects culminated in three-day workshops on Guam for government health leaders from Pacific developing countries.

Projects such as the current U.S. Public Health Service-funded Al-

coholism and Substance Abuse Community Care training program in the Federated States of Micronesia are designed to have a major impact on the health care delivery system of an entire developing country.

AT TIMES, health personnel from abroad are trained in institutions here in the United States. For example, in cooperation with staff leaders at Mercywood Hospital on the Catherine McAuley Health Center campus in Ann Arbor, selected personnel from the island states of Palau, Truk, Yap and Kosrae are being trained in community-based mental health and substance abuse care through a program designed specifically to fit the social, cultural, eco-

nomic, and health system requirements of this newly emerging Pacific island nation.

But MIHS services are not limited to developing nations. Requests for assistance have also come from congregations operating hospitals in developed countries.

In Perth, Australia, for example, MIHS is enabling the congregation of St. John of God to organize the first Catholic hospital system on that continent. MIHS' project director there is Sister Mary Maurita Sengelaub, RSM, of the Detroit Province of the Sisters of Mercy, who is on a two-year assignment.

In Brazil, MIHS has assisted the Holy Cross congregation as it examines the feasibility of a clinic for the

poor. Testimony to the efforts of MIHS has come in a letter from William Newbrander, officer in charge of the World Health Organization office in Papua New Guinea: "I recently returned from a trip where I met with a number of health leaders from the South Pacific. One of those in attendance was Mr. Isamu Abraham from the Federated States of Micronesia."

"He spoke of his and his government's high regard for the work of MIHS. He mentioned that MIHS was distinctive because of the spiritual commitment involved in its work."

"Such a comment, I feel, is an indication that MIHS is fulfilling its objectives of providing service with a special underlying commitment."

Floral designs honored at fair

A Farmington Hills florist was among the ribbon winners in the horticulture competition at the Michigan State Fair Sept. 3.

All designs were awarded ribbons based on Design Style, Color Harmony, Balance, Quality of Materials, Interpretation of Theme, Originality, Technical Execution, Effective Use of Materials, Texture and Aesthetic Appeal. The Best of Show rosette was awarded to the best of the blue ribbon winners for each day.

David Shroeder, florist of Farmington Hills won the rosette on Aug. 31. His designs, "South America, Take It Away" and "On The Good Ship Lollipop," both won blue ribbons. A second place ribbon was awarded for his entry in the "Warrior of the Green" class.

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