

MIHS extends health care to Third World

It reached out for the first time to Experience 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, Saipan, 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 Providence, MIHS adds a new dimension to the dream of Catherine McAuley, Dublin

healed and foundress of the Sisters of Mercy.

Her vision, as described by M. Joanna Hegan 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 Alcoholism 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, economic, 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.

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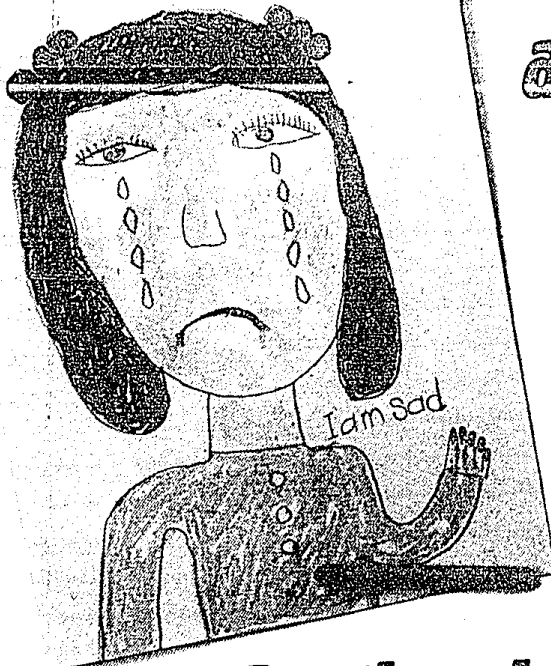
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