



MAMA Project, Inc.

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July 2014

Dear Friends of MAMA Project,

Usually if you get a letter asking you to help work of love, we talk about dire needs of families where we serve. We also talk about our dedicated staff in Honduras.

This time you are hearing from staff in our home office in Pennsburg, Pennsylvania.

In 2001, after graduating from Messiah College, Amanda Landis went to Honduras to teach in a Christian school near Tegucigalpa. There she met and married her Honduran physician husband, Herman Sagastume.

Shortly after their marriage, Amanda's grandmother, Betty Landis, read in the MAMA newsletter that MAMA was in search of a person to work with our growing program in Honduras. When Herman applied, we soon knew that he right for the job! At first, Amanda worked as a volunteer for MAMA, but later came on board as staff. Together, they have worked hard to further the vision and mission of MAMA, and have helped to make our program what it is today.

The letter that follows is written to you from Amanda.

Thanks for your ongoing support of MAMA!

Priscilla Benner, MD
Director, MAMA Project, Inc.



The Sagastume Family

Dear Friends,

Herman & I have been missionaries with MAMA Project since 2005. Each year we take the time to reflect on our part in ministry and set goals for the coming year. The missionary life is not always glamorous. There are times of happiness, excitement, and feelings of success. But it can also be tiring, messy, and overwhelming.

One recent evening Herman and I were driving to visit a friend that he met when he was in ministry with a different organization about 15 years ago. Our conversation, as usual,

turned to MAMA Project and our ministry. I expressed my ever-present concerns with finances. We have little job security, relying only on the generosity of others so that we may continue the work that we have been granted. Working in a small organization offers few long-term benefits. I feel it is exhausting to always ask others for funds so that we can continue our work, instead of focusing on the Child Survival work. We discussed it for a while, and then our conversation moved on. That evening as we met with his friend over dinner, we talked a lot about missions work, her ministry and ours. Then we took her back to her hotel where she was staying with others from her organization. As we walked into the lobby, we were introduced to a few of her colleagues. One man excused himself from our conversation mentioning that he needed to talk about fundraising with someone. I gave a less-than-enthusiastic response of "What fun." He looked at me and told me that he sincerely likes fundraising; that it gave him the chance to tell stories about his ministry and ask others to be a part of the ministry. On our drive home, I reflected a lot on that man's response. I was reminded of a conversation I had with a friend several years ago, where she reminded me of God's faithfulness and that He'll always provide when we are in His will. Maybe this is something that I needed to give to God. . . So, over the past several months, that's exactly what I've been trying to do. Instead of worrying about the future, I'll dwell on today. I'll work my hardest at doing my best in the ministry and ask others to join me, without embarrassment that I need help, and knowing that we cannot do it without all of us working together.

I'd like to give you that opportunity, too, if you haven't already. **Would you like to join Herman and I as we continue our ministry with MAMA Project?** Our job is big and sometimes overwhelming but when we see little glimpses of success, it makes it all worthwhile. Here are some examples of successes that we've seen in the past year.

- My work is often behind-the-scenes. I work hard on different program materials day-in and day-out and then Dr. Benner or Herman use them in their presentations or work. Our Child Survival Training program took us over 3 years to finalize but we are now using it often. This past year I was able to witness first-hand several organizations that wanted to use portions of our programs materials in their work in 3rd world countries. Together we will help MANY children over the world!

- Each year we send a 40 foot container of materials to Honduras (if funds allowed). This previous year we were able to start renting a small warehouse space to collect and organize donations. This has been a tremendous help to stay organized in what we have on-hand for the shipment as well as for suitcases of donations that teams take to Honduras. After sending our container, Herman was contacted by a person who had a family member in the hospital needing a colostomy bag (she was using a grocery bag). In our container we were sending many and were glad to give them to people that were in need. All of our donations are carefully donated to places/individuals that we know are unable to meet their needs.

- This past year we worked on making a video about the importance of micronutrients, adding it to a food that most people have in their homes (eggs), and improving the health of the families. After the video played repeatedly in



(Above) The materials used and discussed during our Child Survival Trainings.

(Below) A Child Survival Training participant who was preparing to serve in Kenya, learns how to use the MAMA lap infantometer with Dr. Benner.



one community, a man came up to Herman and Dr. Benner and said that he had no idea how beneficial the eggs were for his grandchildren's growth. He had many eggs at his house and often took them to the market for sale and then purchased a popsicle for his grandchildren as a treat. After seeing the benefit of eating eggs, he vowed to give his grandchildren the eggs with micronutrients instead of the popsicle.

- Our children are constantly asking when they can return to Honduras. Brendan, 9 years old, has shared about MAMA at his school and has initiated a clothing/toy drive in his classroom. It's amazing to see their love to help the children of Honduras. Brendan wrote in one of his school reports that the reason he wants to donate clothes and shoes to the children of Honduras is because "they don't wear shoes and then they can hurt their feet or get sick. They shouldn't have to live like that." We pray that MAMA can continually be a ministry of our entire family.

- A donor came to our office recently and asked for an update of our work. As Herman told him some of what was going on, the Child Survival Trainings, the communities we were reaching through the mission teams, and the families recuperating at the Nutrition Center, the man's eyes teared up. Herman thanked him for his donation and he replied saying that it was hardly anything. However, we know that each bit helps. Each person that contributes to MAMA Project matters – the person that donates financially, the person that goes on the mission team, the person that participates in one of our fundraisers. . . **each person makes a difference to the children of Honduras.**

Herman has been with MAMA Project for 9 years and I have 8 years. Through all of these years, we have seen God's faithfulness. I'm reminded of the well-known hymn, "Great is Thy Faithfulness". The other day when I listened to this song, this line stuck out to me: "All I have needed Thy hand hath provided; Great is Thy Faithfulness, Lord, unto me". Our family has always had all of our needs met – physically and spiritually; I have no reason to complain. Instead I will lean on His promises that He will continue to provide for our ministry with MAMA Project.

Thank you for the way that you support us through MAMA Project, both financially and through prayer support.

Blessings –

Amanda Sagastume

Herman & Amanda Sagastume
Brendan, Diego & Marissa

If you desire to contribute to MAMA Project, please send a check to: MAMA Project 2781A Geryville Pike, Pennsburg, PA 18073. You may also set up recurring donations through the donate button on MAMA's website www.mamaproject.org

Thank you!



(Above) A community learning about micronutrients and their importance in their children's lives.

(Below) A mother learning to mix the micronutrient & eggs to make a healthy meal for her children.



MAMA Project needs your help! We cannot continue our

Child Survival Programs

without your participation!

Summer is the time that we experience a financial drought. We would like to build our capital fund to prepare for the future. Please consider supporting MAMA's work through a financial donation today.

If you are able to support MAMA's Child Survival work, please send your donation to:

MAMA Project, Inc.
2781A Genyville Pike
Pennsburg, PA 18073

*Donations can also be made online at www.MAMAProject.org



A girl tastes the eggs mixed with MAMA's micronutrient powder.

Mark your calendar for the upcoming MAMA Project Annual Banquet & Silent Auction

Saturday, November 8, 2014

5:30pm

at

Quakertown Christian School
50 E. Paletown Rd., Quakertown, PA 18951

Suggested Donation:
\$25/person

Table Sponsorships Available:
\$300 (table of 8)



We are currently accepting donations for the Silent Auction.

Please contact Amanda at info@mamaproject.org or 215-679-4338 with questions, donations, or reservations.