



# DISARM/GLOBAL HEALTH PARTNERS

*PEACE  
SOCIAL JUSTICE  
HUMAN RIGHTS*

A Year End Report and Personal Update

December 18, 2015

From:

Edward Asner

Dear Friend,

I'd like to wish you and your loved ones a joyous holiday season and very happy, healthy New Year. In this season of giving, sharing and bright hopes for the future, I also want to send you my heartfelt thanks for all you've done to make this such a successful year for Disarm/Global Health Partners.

With the exciting changes underway in U.S.-Cuba relations, we're moving to expand our vital medical projects, while launching new initiatives aimed at greater friendship and cooperation between our two countries. And, along with celebrating this year's key victories, we're stepping up the pressure on Washington for a complete end to the still-oppressive and inhumane embargo. I'm also very proud to report to you on the huge advances we're making in Nicaragua to help ensure better lives for the country's women and children.

As we move forward, we're changing our name to reflect new priorities and opportunities in the New Year. Now that Disarm and GHP have merged, we're ready to embrace our joint designation as Global Health Partners. We are inheriting Disarm's four-decade track record of groundbreaking advocacy and humanitarian support, strengthening our longstanding peace and social justice goals as we launch innovative new projects for 2016 in Central America and the Caribbean.

Your longstanding support has enabled us to ship more than \$130 million worth of high-value, lifesaving medicines and medical supplies to Cuba over the past 21 years. With your renewed help, we plan to provide Cuban hospitals with an additional \$600,000 in medical aid at the start of the New Year. In an exciting new initiative, we're partnering with Cuba's Ministry of Health to address the debilitating problem of diabetic foot ulcers in the U.S. by enabling importation of a highly effective Cuban drug.

In our country, more than 60,000 patients each year undergo amputations resulting from diabetic foot ulcers. Disarm/GHP is working with Havana's Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology, a U.S.-based pharmaceutical company, and members of the U.S. Congress to

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make this cutting-edge treatment, Heberprot-P, available in the U.S. Our greatest challenge is to obtain U.S. Treasury Department licensing to permit testing in the U.S.

With this effort, we're moving to maximize the benefits of the new U.S.-Cuba relationship, while accelerating our campaign for a complete end to the embargo. Please help make this historic medical exchange possible by renewing your generous year-end gift to Disarm/GHP. I ask that you join me in the New Year to support us in this remarkable work to make a decisive, lasting difference for the U.S. and Cuban people.

Let's make sure that U.S. citizens can travel freely to Cuba, that Washington closes its human rights travesty at Guantanamo Bay and returns the territory to Cuba, and that Congress stops deploying millions of dollars to disrupt and destabilize Cuba. We've come so far and, together, we can make peace and true people-to-people friendship a reality.

With your help in 2016, Disarm/GHP is ready to rebuild our program that sends teams of top-notch U.S. doctors to Cuba to share skills and the most modern medical techniques. A U.S. ban had forced us to halt these highly productive exchanges for the past seven years. Now that the ban is lifted, we're organizing two pediatric surgical teams to Havana early in the New Year.

I'm also thrilled to report to you about the strong impact our Nicaragua projects are having on the lives of children with disabilities, and women at risk of developing cervical cancer. Our partnership with Los Pipitos, the region's largest community-based service network, is entering its eighth year, bringing teams from Columbia and Jefferson Universities to train the organization's dedicated staff and parent caregivers. We're expanding this work in 2016 to "train the trainers" with volunteer occupational and speech therapists, nutritionists, and specialists in working with deaf children.

In the New Year, Disarm/GHP is jump-starting a partnership with Nicaragua's Health Ministry and the U.S.-based Global Coalition Against Cervical Cancer to develop a national program of cervical cancer prevention, screening and treatment. This pilot program will screen 110,000 women and treat those who test positive for the disease in the first year. Nicaragua has one of the world's highest death rates from this preventable disease.

I hope you're as proud as I am of Disarm/GHP's formidable achievements over the past year and dynamic projects already underway for 2016. Please enable us to maintain and expand our medical programs and vigorous advocacy for a complete end to the Cuba embargo by renewing your support. We will put your tax-deductible gift to work immediately to save lives and advocate for a just U.S. policy in Latin America. I'm counting on you!

With my deepest thanks,



Edward Asner

P.S. Your generous year-end gift to Disarm/GHP will build our Cuban Medical Project and help end the embargo against Cuba once and for all. Let's empower the parent caregivers of Nicaragua's children with disabilities with Los Pipitos' goal of "making every home a rehabilitation center." And join us to stop Nicaraguan women from dying at horrific rates of cervical cancer, a preventable disease in the developed world. Please stand with me and renew your support to Disarm/GHP for a brighter New Year!