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A Special Report & Personal Update From:

Edward Asner

September 5, 2013

Dear Friend,

I'm writing to thank you so much for your generous support of Disarm/Global Health Partner's work and to update you with good news about our most recent steps forward. Now that Disarm and GHP, our longtime partner, have merged into one dynamic organization, we're happy to report some major new accomplishments in our Cuba, Nicaragua and Haiti programs.

A Disarm/GHP shipment of scarce pediatric medicine worth more than \$500,000 arrived at Havana's Juan Manuel Marquez Children's Hospital in early August. We've partnered with this hospital for the past 19 years, supplying lifesaving aid such as drugs to enable Cuba's youngest cancer patients to receive and tolerate chemotherapy. The new shipment augments a Disarm/GHP delivery earlier this year of more than \$200,000 in pediatric medicines to the Marquez hospital.

Disarm/GHP bolsters this crucial humanitarian aid with our vigorous push at home for a complete end of the U.S. embargo that has imposed pain and suffering on the island for more than five decades. We're gearing up now to fight a strong right-wing drive in Congress this fall to roll back the recent relaxation of the longstanding ban on travel by U.S. citizens to Cuba.

In Nicaragua, which is highly vulnerable to hurricanes and other devastating natural disasters, Disarm/GHP delivered \$1.5 million in emergency medical supplies, with disaster preparedness modules that are capable of sustaining 5,000 people for 30 days. This is the second year of our partnership with Nicaragua's Health Ministry and national disaster relief agency, a collaboration that also provides vital medicines that will assist tens of thousands of Nicaraguans, particularly children and the elderly.

Our Healthy Futures for Children Program in Nicaragua is also thriving and expanding. We partner with Los Pipitos, the region's largest community-based network

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servicing children with disabilities and their families, to provide capacity-building training and sharing of skills. Disarm/GHP teams from Columbia University's Programs in Occupational Therapy have worked for eight years with Los Pipitos staff in Managua and rural Ocatal to improve rehabilitation services and increase family health literacy, enabling parents to more fully participate in their children's care and development.

In their most recent collaboration this spring, the Columbia team and Los Pipitos began developing a joint project for prevention and early detection of infant and child disability through prenatal care, safe deliveries and neonatal treatment. These services are particularly needed in rural areas like Ocatal, where pregnant women and newborns have limited access to medical care. And early intervention can make a decisive difference in the life of a child born with disabilities.

In Haiti, still reeling from the overwhelmingly destructive 2010 earthquake, Disarm/GHP is, thanks to your support, also making a life-or-death difference. This summer we sent a 40' container of desperately needed medicine and medical supplies to Haiti, for urgent dispatch to local health workers and Cuban doctors working in the country's hardest-hit communities. With this initiative, Disarm/GHP is building a new partnership with Haiti 155, a nonprofit with offices in New York and Port-au-Prince. This expedites delivery of our humanitarian donations, while ensuring that every donation reaches its intended destination.

## Fighting Right-Wing Cuba Rollbacks

I know you share my pride in these accomplishments, made possible by your generosity and commitment to Disarm/GHP's work. With your renewed support, you'll guarantee the ongoing success of our lifesaving humanitarian projects and strengthen our advocacy for a complete end to the embargo against Cuba. The fight for a just U.S. policy toward Cuba is heating up as the increasingly aggressive congressional right wing seeks to impose renewed restrictions on American travel to the island.

This fall, the House will take up the so-called "Jay-Z, Beyonce bill," aimed at ending the people-to-people cultural visits to Cuba recently allowed by the Obama administration. The name refers to the rock stars' Havana visit this year where they held music workshops with local children. Jay-Z then wrote a song decrying the embargo, noting that the very microphone he was using came from China.

Republicans attached the proposed travel restrictions to a \$17 billion Appropriations Bill that funds several key agencies. Rep. Jose Serrano (D-NY), an advocate of normalization, said of the House move, "What you're seeing here is the result of a successful trip... isn't it educational for a superstar in our country to go to Cuba and say, 'Look who we are?'"

Together, we have to mobilize against this backward push, raising our voices to press for a complete end to the Cuba travel ban, as an important step toward lifting the

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embargo. Please give as quickly and generously as you can to build this activist campaign; Disarm/GHP will put your tax-deductible gift immediately to work to stop this attack on the growing people-to-people friendship and solidarity.

## Travel to Cuba with Us!

As this political fight unfolds, I'd like to invite you, as a valued friend of Disarm/GHP, to join us for a visit to Cuba. This is a great chance to experience for yourself the lively, inspiring and creative people-to-people exchange the right wing is trying to block. While our previous donor visits focused entirely on public health and Disarm/GHP's humanitarian work, these trips will explore a broader range of interests – including art, architecture, music and politics. And we'll be able to include family and friends! The trips are scheduled for January 18-25, 2014 and March 1-8, 2014.

If you're interested in traveling to Cuba with us, please let us know on the enclosed form, or contact Bob Schwartz at [bschwartz@disarm.org](mailto:bschwartz@disarm.org), and we'll be in touch shortly with details about itinerary, cost and accommodations. It's our way of saying thanks for all of your generosity and friendship, and a great rebuke to those in Congress trying to close off such exciting, meaningful exchanges.

## Making a Lasting Impact

I hope that along with your gift today to Disarm/GHP, you'll consider supporting our work far into the future by making a planned gift. You can do this through a bequest, life insurance or your IRA. Such a gift will make a lasting statement about your life, commitment and values. Your planned gift will give you confidence that you will be helping the causes you believe in for many years to come.

Please take a look at the enclosed brochure, "Building Disarm's Future," which describes planned giving options. The booklet explains how a planned gift can provide you with significant tax deductions and enable you to avoid huge capital gains taxes, while making a real difference for peace and friendship. We'll provide you with personalized information when you return the enclosed form to us in the reply envelope. All planned giving communications are held in the strictest confidence.

If you're considering a planned gift to Disarm/GHP, our General Counsel, Howard Gressey, will be happy to meet with you and your financial advisors to discuss estate planning. Together, we can design a plan that will enable you to create a legacy that exemplifies your life and work.

Thanks to your generous support, Disarm/GHP is celebrating our merger by expanding our joint projects and deepening our impact. This fall we're planning major new lifesaving shipments to Cuba and Haiti, and another capacity-building collaboration with Los Pipitos in Nicaragua. And while our medical deliveries are highly efficient and

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cost-effective, shipping expenses are going through the roof. I hope we can count on your support once again to help Disarm/Global Health Partners rush urgent supplies of medical aid to our friends in Cuba and Haiti.

Your tax-deductible gift will also enable us to send more “train the trainers” therapists from Columbia University to collaborate with Los Pipitos in Nicaragua, extending their work from Managua and Ocotal to the country’s rural northwest. By building this grassroots collaboration and incorporating preventive prenatal care and early neonatal intervention, this Disarm/GHP project opens a brighter future for children with disabilities.

And, with your support and commitment, we’ll organize a strong movement this fall to stop the congressional right wing from rolling back rules that allow Americans to make people-to-people visits to Cuba. Together, we can stop this legislation and build toward a total end to the embargo.

Again, I want to extend my deepest thanks for your commitment and support. I hope I can count on you once again to help Disarm/GHP expand our impact on struggling communities in Cuba, Nicaragua and Haiti.

Gratefully,



Edward Asner

P.S. With our merger, Disarm/GHP can leverage your gift for even greater impact in the coming months. Please give as quickly and generously as you can. And please consider traveling to Cuba with us for a truly unique, insider experience. I’m looking forward to hearing from you!