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Partnering for Sustainable Health Care

To Whom It May Concern:

Global Medical Brigades (GMB) at Syracuse University (SU) is seeking partnerships to improve health infrastructure in remote under-resourced villages in Honduras. This January 2010, we will be conducting our 1st trip, to address a multitude of public health problems. From studying our patient records and surveying village members, we've noticed unusually high levels of water borne diseases, tooth decay, chronic respiratory illnesses, and other preventable epidemics that can be dramatically improved by empowering villagers with public health education and physically improving household infrastructure. As such, we have worked to unite our school and recruit across disciplines to bring dental volunteers to extract teeth and provide cleanings to children; engineering volunteers to develop and implement clean water solutions; and environmental/public health volunteers to deliver hygiene workshops and educate community members how to construct chimney stoves for cooking, pour concrete floors, build latrines and strategize waste management processes.

In addition to providing these services, we are raising money to name/sponsor our own community center to perpetuate health work in our absence. One brigade in and of itself is unsustainable, so we are looking to build relationships here in the U.S. to raise money to turn previously closed, under-resourced clinics into fully operational community centers operated by indigenous professionals and GMB volunteers. The community center will not only deliver primary health care and teach preventative medicine, but also be staffed with part time English teachers and micro-finance coordinators to improve the community's economic conditions and provide a pathway out of poverty.

Volunteers across our school are on the verge of coming together to implement one of the most strategic and tangible programs delivered by students in the international community, but we need your help. Attached herein is a proposal to refurbish/staff a community center, implement a full-scale clean water system, conduct public health infrastructure improvements (stoves, concrete floors, latrines, etc.) and cover all travel expenses of the volunteers. We appreciate your consideration and are open to partnering with you in *any* capacity. Thank you.

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Global Medical Brigades at SU is a chapter of Global Brigades (GB), a secular, 501c3 nonprofit, that empowers university students and professionals to provide communities in developing countries with sustainable solutions that improve quality of life while respecting local culture and improving the environment. In 2008, more than 1,500 GB volunteers from 60 universities traveled to provide health and economic development solutions to more than 50,000 beneficiaries in Central America, Ghana, India and Vietnam. Visit www.globalbrigades.org for more information.