Shoulder to Shoulder Global (STSG) has received a record number of applications for the 2013 brigades to Ecuador. More than 200 applications were received in the hope of being selected as one of the 120 individuals participating in March, May or August.

The increasing amount of interest allows STSG to continue its goal of improving the health and quality of life in Ecuadorian communities that suffer the effects of poverty while providing excellent educational experiences to participating students. The 2013 interprofessional brigade participants will work together with the community of Santo Domingo, Ecuador to discover new and improved ways to teach, learn and serve while promoting health and well-being. Approximately 2,000 patients were seen during the 2012 brigades and this many are expected again during 2013.

Thank you to all of the applicants and participants. Your values of excellence, respect, inclusion, responsibility, sense of community, civic engagement and social responsibility are inspiring and contagious to us all.
College of Dentistry Student Molly Housley Reflects on August 2012 Brigade

By Molly Housley, UK Dental Student

The bus rocked as we traversed pothole after pothole on the unpaved road. I pulled aside the colorful, embroidered curtains and steadied my wobbly head enough to glare out the window at a familiar scene—tin-roof houses barely standing on an uneven foundation of stones, thick metal bars safeguarding the windows, walls decorated with graffiti, political messages, and broken glass bottles to deter unwelcome guests. Kids were playing soccer barefoot in the streets as chickens and dogs walked freely in the road.

We finally rolled to a stop, sinking into yet another hole in the gravel. After lining up behind the others in the aisle of the bus, I left my comfortable, air-conditioned shelter to enter the hot, humid atmosphere. The smell of both burning trash and urine saturated my nostrils. I could tell that I was definitely in a third-world country.

I had traveled to several Latin American countries in the past and visited some of their poorest villages, so Ecuador was not very different for me; however, my travels had all preceded dental school. I met and even lived with so many wonderful people, learned from them, and accepted their hospitality, talents, and hand-grown gifts, but I never had anything to offer in return...until this trip. I finally felt adequate that I could offer my knowledge of oral healthcare in reply to their generosity.

Hesitantly, I took my first step into our clinic site. The walls of this supposed schoolroom were cracked and dirty. As we began to move the broken down desks to the corner, a roach scurried across the room. It was easy to understand that dentistry here would be much different than dentistry in our clinic at home.

As soon as I could collect my flashlight, disposable mirrors, and screening sheets, I sat down on the plastic chair outside of the clinic room. Before I even looked up, I felt a line of eager people stand before me. I soon transformed into a robot, repeating to each patient (in my broken Spanish) the same questions and commands over and over: “Do you have pain? Open. Touch the tooth that hurts you. Does it hurt when I do this?” I subsequently wrote down my recommended treatments: “OHI, fluoride varnish, extract #K,” or whatever my covering instructor and I deemed necessary.

A major difference between a dental office in the United States versus dentistry in these remote areas of Ecuador was that the kids had a heightened sense of fear, mostly because dentistry was so foreign to them. They did not have the opportunity to ease into dentistry throughout their childhood. As the clinic sessions went on, I remembered looking up at one point to two beautiful brown eyes staring at me. It was a little boy—maybe six or seven years old, clothes tattered and dirty, filth covering his skin, gnats circling his body and landing on his eyelashes as I tried to look into his mouth. I peered at his medical sheet: Fever, parasitosis—nothing different from any other child whom I saw. “Do you have pain, Nelson?” I asked. Timidly, he shook his head up and down and gently placed his grubby little pointer finger on his front teeth, or what used to be teeth; Seven teeth were decayed to the gumline, and five parulides (boils or
abscesses on the gums), one right after the other, plagued his gingiva in the maxilla alone.

“OHI, fluoride varnish, extract UL quad.” As I explained the treatment to his mother, I saw the tears well up in his eyes. He was scared. His brown, watery eyes stared at me, as if seizing my heart and begging me for another option.

Editor’s note: Molly Housley attended the August 2012 brigade to Ecuador as a 3rd year dental student. She hopes to continue her service to others after graduation this year.

**A Legacy of Learning and Service, Alum Allison Hensley Reflects on Her STSG Experiences, First as a Public Health Student and Later as a Resident Physician**

By Allison Hensley, MD

I have always been grateful to be an alum of the University of Kentucky Colleges of Public Health and Medicine. I was fortunate to travel to Ecuador twice as a student at UK and loved learning in such a rich environment. So when Dr. Tom Young of the Department of Pediatrics invited me on another trip to Ecuador, the decision was simple. I packed my bags.

The Shoulder to Shoulder (Hombro a Hombro) medical brigades to Ecuador through the University of Kentucky has gained tremendous momentum and attention since my first trip in 2005. I initially traveled as a Masters of Public Health Student. My mentor, Dr. Claudia Hopenhayn, proposed I help with an initial needs assessment as an MPH practicum project and I immediately took interest.

I was lucky enough to travel again to Ecuador as a first year medical student. This time, I received an Emery A. Wilson Academic Enrichment Grant to participate in clinical care. I took histories, assisted with physical examinations, and acted as basic interpreter for the residents and staff. I saw an incredible amount of pathology, improved on my medical Spanish, and developed a true love for the patient population in Ecuador.

Now, I am a third-year OB/GYN resident at the Indiana University School of Medicine. I was able to use vacation time to venture to Ecuador a third time. Dr. Tom, as we like to call him, expressed an intense need for gynecologic care in the clinics, and I was nervous but excited to fill that need.

Much like in the United States, at risk and underserved populations have a tremendous need for healthcare, including gynecologic and obstetric care. Issues needing attention include contraceptive care, routine prenatal care, treatment of abnormal uterine bleeding, sexually transmitted diseases, and basic preventive care. The Ecuadorian women were in dire need of primary care physicians, adequate women’s healthcare, appropriate screening with routines Pap smears, as well as prenatal education.

With my limited resources, I tried to provide the best care I could, nervously approaching each timid but generous patient. And I was constantly greeted with warmth, kindness and amazing trust. It takes a certain vulnerability to open up to any physician, let alone one who barely speaks your language. The kindness and candidness of my patients was humbling; I feel certain I learned more from my patients than they did from me.

My trips to Ecuador throughout my studies in public health, medical school, and residency have been tremendous. I often learn more in one week in the foothills allison and Dr. Tom Young, August of 2012
of the Andes than I do in twice the amount of time in school. Not only do I have the opportunity to develop my Spanish-speaking skills, but I additionally have now learned to practice Medicine nearly on my own. I am truly thankful for such an amazing memories and priceless skills. To Dr. Tom, Dr. Hopenhayn, and other key contributors to this program – please accept my sincerest thanks for facilitating some of the richest learning I can imagine. You all are a tremendous asset to the University of Kentucky. And I'm one proud alum.

**Peace Corps Volunteer Maggie Moore Joins the Centro Médico Hombro a Hombro**

I'd like to send a warm hello to everyone at the University of Kentucky. My name is Maggie Moore, and I am a recent addition to the Centro Médico Hombro A Hombro team. I came to Santo Domingo in August as a Peace Corps volunteer. Within my first day of work, Dr. Tom Young was arriving at the clinic. Three days later I got a taste of the Wildcat spirit when the medical brigade came to town. I'll admit after only a few days on the job, the whole experience was a whirlwind, but one I'll never forget. The positive and overwhelming energy that swept through CMHH left a lasting impact not only on the community, but also on this volunteer.

Living here in Santo Domingo I am humbled to see the needs of our patients and community members every day. Just when you think you've seen it all, you learn of another patient's struggles. In my short time here, I've learned that the hope of our team comes from knowing there is a support system back at UK. With that said I would like to send a simple message: THANK YOU! As a team we are always conscientious of our friends back in the States that make many sacrifices so that we are able to serve our patients. And for that we are very grateful!

I hope all is well back home! I am looking forward to seeing some old friends, and hopefully some new friends, in the next medical brigade!

**Santo Domingo Community Members Initiate Literacy Program**

With the seed planted by STSG’s Dr. Young and a little help from Maggie Moore, community members in Santo Domingo have initiated a children’s literacy program. A website has been created where interested citizens can donate. Santo Domingo community members Bertha, Gloria and Tami explain:

Hi Friends in Kentucky,
We wanted to say, “Hello”, and let you know what we are up to down here in Ecuador. We are a group of women covering three generations who met during bailoterapia (dance exercise classes) at the Shoulder to Shoulder Centro Médico Hombro a Hombro. When we were talking with our Peace Corps volunteer, Maggie Moore, we realized we were all interested in volunteering with the children in our community. So we formed a small group and have started an early literacy program. However, we realized we had a slight problem. We didn't have many books.

We spend time reading with the kids while they are waiting to see the doctor. When the nurse, Ligia, has workshops at the medical center with parents, we have story time with the children. However, we would like to have some books for the children to have in their homes because most kids here do not own a book.

We created a website for people who were interested to help. We are hoping to raise money so that we can buy books and extend the fun from the Centro Médico to their homes with their parents.


Thank you so much for all your support! We will be sure to keep in touch and let you know how things are going!

Gratefully from Ecuador,
Bertha, Gloria, Tami...and Maggie
Promoting Health for a Better Community – Conversations with the Centro Médico’s Community Health Promoters

Last year, Dr. Cristián Carrión began training volunteer community health promoters. We would love for you to get to know them:

Mrs. Carmen Serenita Macias Angulo, 43 years-old, was born in the province of Esmeraldas. She spent three months training to be a health promoter and has been volunteering in this position since July of this year. Her favorite part about her work is being able to help those most in need; this includes visiting hypertensive patients, administering injections and cleaning and dressing wounds. Carmen feels very good and useful working with CMHH. She recommends community members live a healthier life, stay active, eat healthy, and control their illnesses. She would like to continue volunteering as it has “helps others as well as oneself.”

Mrs. Karina Maribel Rivas Lucas is 19 years old, and was born in Manabí Province. Like Carmen, Karina spent three months training for her position as a health promoter and has been volunteering since July. The part of her job she finds most fulfilling is helping others. She likes visiting patients with disabilities, cleaning and dressing wounds. Karina feels very proud to work with CMHH as it is an opportunity to help those most in need. She is often reminding the patients she works with to eat well and exercise. According to Karina, the only thing you need to volunteer is the motivation to do so!

Mrs. Gabriela Violeta Salva Sevillan, was born in the province of Los Rios. Gabriela has enjoyed learning new things and the responsibility that has come with volunteering. This has been a very fulfilling job for Gabriela, especially when she shares advice with hypertensive patients. Her advice to others is to be conscientious and take care of their health. Some of her favorite parts of this experience are the uniform and knowing she has something to offer patients. Gabriela has said, “This has been a wonderful experience.”

Mrs. Digna Maritza Slava Sevillano was born in Los Rios. Maritza has enjoyed working with CMHH. Her favorite part of volunteering is helping others and sharing new ideas. It brings Maritza a lot of joy and satisfaction to work in the community. She often recommends that people learn more so that they can prevent illnesses. She continues educating herself as well, “Every time we do something new I learn.” Being a volunteer has helped her personally, especially with improving her eating habits. When asked what being a volunteer meant to her, Maritza responded, “Being a volunteer is service and a good experience.”

Mrs. Rocio Geovanna Bone Benitez is originally from the province of Esmeraldas. The most fulfilling part of her job is helping others as well as the new knowledge gained day to day during various workshops. Rocio works with patients in the community on a variety of topics including hypertension, diabetes, social well-being and fever. The support and knowledge from the CMHH is very much appreciated by Rocio. She often recommends to the people in the community to educate themselves around health issues. Volunteering has also helped Rocio personally, as her stress levels have decreased since she became a part of the CMHH team. When asked about her motivation Rocio said, “Jesus did not come to be served, but to serve.”
Returned Peace Corps Volunteer Reflects on His Experience with STSG at UK’s Global Health Conference

By Ronald Ikechi-Ogbonna, RPCV

The Global Health Conference was not only a first for the University of Kentucky, but it was also my first time to the state of Kentucky as well. Not since my time at Centro Médico Hombro a Hombro had I been around so many Kentuckians before. It was special being able to visit the University and participate in the conference not only because I was able to speak and present projects, but also because I had the opportunity to see the other side of Hombro a Hombro. During the two years of my Peace Corps service, I worked with seven University of Kentucky brigades, one group of alternative service breakers, and a host of visitors. In addition to the UK affiliated programs, I was also able to meet with our partners from Shoulder to Shoulder Cincinnati, Timmy Global Health Foundation, and the Kiwanis Club. Although I could not remember all of the names that I once remembered from our Name Game icebreakers, I had a bit of nostalgia reconnecting with many of the same faces on the other side of the Gulf of Mexico. In just a few days, my time at the University and in Kentucky allowed my perspective of Hombro a Hombro to come full circle. It was truly a privilege to finally have had the opportunity to shake hands with those stakeholders (donors/sponsors, professionals, students) of Hombro a Hombro who also work hard but cannot make the trip abroad.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of you who have helped Hombro a Hombro along the way. Your work is dearly appreciated. I would also like to thank all of you for making my Peace Corps service unforgettable and life-changing. There are many people who join Peace Corps with great aspirations and goals, but lack the support necessary to will them through dark times. Even in my darkest hours, I never once felt abandoned or discouraged; rather the opposite, especially during your visits. Unfortunately, I do not have enough thank yous for everything you all have done for me. I will acknowledge, however, that I am truly blessed to have been affected by your efforts. To add, I recall a conversation I had with Mercedes Mero, our community health worker. She once asked me why she felt more energized about her work during your visits. At the time, I only had a cloudy idea of why she felt that way, but now, looking back, I understand. It boils down to esperanza (“hope” in Spanish). Despite the dim presentation of cases and conditions, all of you came determined to change what you could, while you could. For her—and for me as well—the reason was that it was your belief in what you were doing that was so infectious. That, “We are going to do all we can” attitude resonates powerfully, especially to those hardened by nature of the job. So please in your future trips and endeavors with STSG and Hombro a Hombro, I only ask that you continue to maintain that attitude; it truly makes the effort, for everyone, worth it.

Lastly, currently there is another volunteer who has graciously replaced me at the clinic. Her name is Maggie. Whenever you all get the chance please send her some of your positive energy. It will do wonders for her work.

STSG Instrumental in Establishment of Sister Ecuadorian Foundation, Hombro a Hombro

Shoulder to Shoulder Global has been instrumental in creating a sister foundation in Ecuador, Hombro a Hombro, meaning, “Shoulder to Shoulder”. The foundation was established as a legal entity in April of 2013 and elected a board of directors, including STSG friends Pablo Boada (Director of Hombro a Hombro), Dr. Leonardo Oviedo, Dr. Tom Young, Fernando Ortega and Dr. Claudia Hopenhayn. The Hombro a Hombro foundation will provide logistical support for the health brigades and allow for collaboration with partner Timmy Global Health to provide support for on-going activities in Ecuador.
STSG and UK’s College of Nursing have teamed-up with community partner First Presbyterian Church to participate in First Presbyterian’s, “Just Lunch” program. The first event was Saturday, February 23rd.

Hartley Feld and a group of community nursing students (STSG brigade participants) worked with First Presbyterian in this program that provides a meal to impoverished individuals and families once a month as part of the organization’s local mission work.

Hartley states, “The blood pressure screening, the free toothbrushes and information about local free or sliding scale clinics seemed to be our most popular stations. The nursing students were able to also do a little bit of teaching related to heart disease, diabetes, and stroke prevention. It was good for our nursing students to listen and understand some of the issues people face when living in poverty. Ideally these interactions foster understanding and trust of health care providers as well, in that people coming to the meal will take away an impression that we want them to be healthy, care about their future, and hope they feel empowered to seek out assistance when needed”.

Nursing student leaders Meredith Dunlevy and Kayla Cooper also put together health care bags that were distributed at the Just Lunch event on April 27th. The bags contained such goodies as foot care and smoking cessation items, plus helpful health tips.

STSG volunteer and EMT Eric Perez, nursing student Meredith Dunlevy, nursing faculty Hartley Feld, Craig Borie, Bluegrass Farm Charities and Sarah from AVOL (AIDS Volunteers, Inc.) also held a mini health fair at a Lexington area horse farm on Thursday, April 25th.

Bluegrass Farm Charities is a non-profit organization which provides support to the backstretch workers and underserved workers at Keeneland and surrounding horse farms. They run a camp in the summer, provide assistance with medical appts., provide emergency assistance with food, backpacks, clothes, and have a resource center. We discussed partnering with this organization to link STS volunteers to the local community, particularly utilizing some of our bi-lingual participants.

Health concerns that STSG, STSG’s College of Nursing partners and Bluegrass Farm Charities would like to address include diabetes, oral health, HIV testing, hypertension, high cholesterol, chronic work related pain and child and women’s health. Approximately 80% of the target population is Spanish speaking, very complementary for STSG’s health work in Ecuador.

Services included blood pressure screening and education, HIV oral swab testing, oral health education, free toothbrushes/toothpaste and information about free clinics in Lexington for follow-up.

The next venue for the health fair will be at the Dixiana soccer tournament held by the horse farms on June 29th. If you’re interested in volunteering, please contact Craig Borie, Program Coordinator for Shoulder to Shoulder Global, at craig.borie@uky.edu.

We’re thrilled with both projects to work in the local community. As a representative of First Presbyterian Church stated, “It’s just a win-win type of scenario”.
Alternative Service Break Team Serves at Casa de Jesus Orphanage

The Alternative Service Break team once again visited the Casa de Jesus Orphanage as part of their community project during the March brigade to Ecuador. The visit was extra special this year as it was the second time the group was able to visit the orphanage with student Kristin Nation, who served most recently with Annalisa Abell as a student site leader. Maggie, Centro Médico’s Peace Corps volunteer, helped set the stage for the visit, which included lunch (cake, too!) with the children and a wild and fun soccer match. The interaction between the two groups was an inspiration, with laughter and joy experienced by children, students and staff alike.

Through the Center for Community Outreach, the Alternative Service Breaks program at the University of Kentucky is a Shoulder to Shoulder Global university partner that connects students with service projects in communities beyond the borders of Lexington and Kentucky. The program provides service experiences that are educational and cultural, and promotes active citizenship among UK students, faculty, and staff.

Here’s to a wonderful partnership of service and learning.

Health Sciences Team Makes a Difference in Santo Domingo

By Charles Hazel, PT, Ph.D.

For clinicians, there can be conflict with providing care in Ecuador on these brigades. While very interested and excited to see patients with conditions not encountered in typical practice, one is also saddened and disappointed that care for these people cannot be better to prevent the complications and disease severity infrequently encountered with higher quality of care. While our academic and intellectual sides are stimulated, we are equally troubled by seeing people with conditions whose lives could be improved with greater quality of care. The only choice is to try to make as big an impact as possible with what is often a single visit, and hope there is lasting benefit.

Fortunately, I did see some patients who had clearly benefitted from prior brigades. That, alone, validates the goals of the brigades and the efforts of those involved. And, it tends to give hope that differences can be made for the people of Santo Domingo, even with such brief interactions.
Fabulous Kids and Health Sciences Go Together
by Lauren Hicks, M.S., CCC-SLP
Speech-Language Pathologist

During the March brigade, the speech therapy team had the opportunity to work with some fabulous kids at Fe y Luz (partner therapy clinic in Santo Domingo) and Centro Médico Hombro a Hombro. We provided education and ideas to both their parents and their therapist to help them improve their speech, language, and swallowing skills. Thanks to generous donations, we were able to bring toys and books to give to Patricia, the speech language pathologist at Fe y Luz, to help her succeed in improving the communication skills of all the children who come to work with her. We are looking forward to continuing to foster our relationship with both Fe y Luz and Centro Médico in the future.

UK’s Shoulder to Shoulder Global Recognized as Exemplary Program

Link to full article: http://uknow.uky.edu/content/ucks-shoulder-shoulder-global-recognized-exemplary-program

LEXINGTON, Ky. (Sept. 27, 2012) – What began as a small medical mission trip to Ecuador in 2002 for a group of pediatric medical residents led by Dr. Thomas Young, has evolved over the years into a large multidisciplinary, interprofessional partnership between UK and the local community working together to discover new and improved ways to teach, learn, and serve vulnerable and resource-poor communities in Ecuador.

UK’s STSG was recognized as an Exemplary Program by the Association of Public and Land Grant Universities (APLU)/Kellogg Foundation at the National Outreach Scholarship Conference in Tuscaloosa, Ala., held Sept. 30 - Oct. 3. Representatives from UK's STSG attending were Claudia Hopenhayn, Melody Ryan, associate professor in the College of Pharmacy and in the Department of Neurology at the UK College of Medicine; M. Lynn English, associate professor and director of clinical education, Division of Physical Therapy at the UK College of Health Sciences; and Katherine McCormick, professor in interdisciplinary early childhood education at the UK College of Education.

"I am proud to represent our organization in receiving this recognition," Hopenhayn said. "Many people, both in the U.S. and in Ecuador have worked hard to make STSG a success, as it continues to expand in numbers, reach and scope of work. At the University of Kentucky it provides opportunities for students, faculty and staff in teaching, learning, research and service, within and across disciplines, in addition to offering amazing cultural and human experiences that enrich us in more ways than we know."
En Octubre del año pasado (2012), fue mi segunda visita a Lexington Kentucky y en esta ocasión tenía algo de experiencia en la expectativa de mi viaje.

Al igual que el primer viaje, estuve impresionado con la amabilidad de todas las personas con las que trataba, y como cada una de ellas estaba contenta por mi visita, aunque es importante decir que yo era el más feliz por ese caluroso recibimiento; sin lugar a duda, es algo que creo todos los Ecuatorianos deberíamos aprender.

Durante toda mi estancia pasé muy entusiasmado aprendiendo algo nuevo, tanto en el ámbito profesional como social y cultural. Es importante mencionar que aprendí mucho sobre como el gobierno de los Estados Unidos trabaja fuertemente en el apoyo al inmigrante.

Disfruté mucho la estadía con cada una de las personas que me relacioné, y por supuesto, durante mi primer Thriller en Lexington que fue realmente emocionante, al igual que mi primer partido de Básquetbol y mi visita al Keeneland.

Debo también expresar mi agradecimiento a cada uno de mis amigos, Nick, Claudia, Tom, los esposos Ryan, Rich y Rita Mier, Lynn, Craig, Samuel Matheny, María Castro, Katherine, Susy, Alain Rodriguez, Ronald, Lee, Kathie, Laura, Galo, y muchos más que forman parte de este gran proyecto STSG.

Translation: Dr. Cristián Carrión Comes to Lexington For Global Health Conference

October of last year (2012) was my second visit to Lexington Kentucky and this time I had some experience in what to expect of my trip. Like the first trip, I was impressed with the friendliness of everyone that I came into contact with as each one of them was happy about my visit. It is important to say that I was the most happy for that warm welcome; without a doubt, is something that I think all Ecuadorians should learn. During my entire stay, I was excited to learn something new, both in the professional field as well as in the social and cultural areas. It is important to mention that I learned a lot about what the government does with undocumented individuals, which until before this visit I had a mistaken idea. Personally, I think that the government of the United States works strongly in support of the immigrant, and that is something that everyone should know. I really enjoyed the stay with each of the people I spent time with, and of course viewing my first Thriller event in Lexington was really exciting, just like attending my first game of basketball and my visit to Keeneland. I must also express my thanks to each of my friends: Nick, Claudia, Tom, Ryan husbands, Rich and Rita Mier, Lynn, Craig, Samuel Matheny, Maria Castro, Katherine, Sharon, Susy, Alain Rodriguez, Ronald, Lee, Kathie, Laura, Galo, and many more that are part of this great project STSG.

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE) Santo Domingo Comes to the University of Kentucky

Pontificia Universidad Católica del Ecuador (PUCE) Santo Domingo visited the University of Kentucky campus for three weeks during August and September of 2012. Two nursing students, a systems information student and PUCE’s Director of Information Technology participated in multiple activities. There was observation of nursing and education courses, a tour of the campus, hospital and horse country, participation in an internship with the Shoulder to Shoulder Global office, a Lexington Legends game with Drs. Lynn and Tony English and reflection time with College of Education faculty Dr. McCormick and Dr. Mazur.
The visit was concluded with a despedida (Going-away party) at Hartley Feld’s home and the hope that this is just the start of a great future together for PUCE and the University of Kentucky.

Special thanks to the absolutely amazing and kind host families, Jan Swauger, Katherine McCormick, Joan Mazur, Parker Fawson, Marylynn Cooper, the College of Nursing and many others for making this visit a special time for all.

**Shoulder to Shoulder Global Participates in Goodgiving.net Fundraising Campaign, Receives Endowment Grant**

For the first time, Shoulder to Shoulder Global participated in the Goodgiving.net fundraising campaign, doing well enough to receive the coveted $4,500 Blue Grass endowment grant.

The GoodGiving Guide Challenge is a local partnership of the Blue Grass Community Foundation and Smiley Pete Publishing.

GoodGiving.net is an online resource to inform, empower and enrich charitable giving in the region – benefiting donors, nonprofits and the community at large. The underlying database provides access to information about local nonprofits, including financial, governance and programmatic details. Data is assembled into information and, over time, matures into a knowledge base of nonprofit organizations that provide essential services for this region and beyond. This public, searchable database is a great way for nonprofits to share their stories with the community, as well as supporters, Community Foundation fundholders, prospective donors and funders, increase awareness about the role of nonprofits in the Lexington region, and encourage charitable giving.

There were 68 organizations competing. The first 10 nonprofits to raise $4500 and receive 45 unique contributions of $25 or more received the matching $4,500 endowment grant. Shoulder to Shoulder Global met this goal within hours of the challenge’s start. Total raised throughout the challenge amounted to almost $10,000, not including the endowment funds.

On behalf of Shoulder to Shoulder Global, thank you for your kind and generous donations. The money donated will really make a difference in supporting the work of the Centro Médico Hombro a Hombro.

**The Lexington Kiwanis Club Hosts Benefit Events to Support Shoulder to Shoulder Global Efforts**

The Lexington Kiwanis Club hosted two large events to show their support for Shoulder to Shoulder Global and their efforts to provide a practical means to form enduring friendships, to render altruistic service and to build better communities.

The “Kiwanis 4 Kids” silent and live auction event included a speech from Dr. Cristián Carrión and attendance from Dr. Cristián Carrión, Ronald Ikechi-Ogbonna, Drs. Melody and Steve Ryan, Dr. Young, Dr. Alain Rodriguez and Jan Swauger. Proceeds from the event helps support kids in the Lexington community and Ecuador.
The second event, the 16th Annual “All You Can Eat” Soup Day, was March 6th at Calvary Baptist Church. Bean soup, chili, vegetable soup, cornbread and desserts were served while the Harrison Elementary School choir performed. Proceeds from the event benefitted Shoulder to Shoulder Global’s continued efforts to serve the impoverished while providing a unique learning experience and the Harrison Elementary School “Snack Pack” backpack initiative.

First Presbyterian Church Hosts Music 4 Mission and Alternative Gift Fair

The First Presbyterian Church of Lexington hosted Shoulder to Shoulder Global and the band Silver Arm for a Music 4 Mission benefit concert to support the Centro Médico Hombro a Hombro in Santo Domingo, Ecuador.

The October 28th event featured the talented Celtic musical group Silver Arm. The music of Silver Arm has often been pan-Celtic, branching out from Ireland and Scotland to eastern Europe and France. Their CDs include tunes from Sweden and France's Massif Central along with traditional reels, jigs and songs of Ireland and Scotland. With the exception of a few contemporary touches, their interpretation is primarily a traditional one, with skills honed by years of playing for dances and folk events.

Dr. Cristián Carrión, spoke at the event, thanking the members of First Presbyterian and the Shoulder to Shoulder Global team for their efforts to help the community in Santo Domingo.

Dr. Claudia Hopenhayn, Chair of Shoulder to Shoulder Global, shared how much the support means for the work that Shoulder to Shoulder Global does and thanked First Presbyterian for its continued support as a valued community partner.

An Alternative Gift Fair was also held Sunday, November 18th at First Presbyterian Church. The Alternative Gift Fair was and is an opportunity to showcase STSG to community members and to receive donations from participants who are holiday “gift” shopping by donating to good causes (such as STSG).

STSG received almost $500 in donations from the event (an increase of 28% over the previous year) and the STSG Student Association sold more than $680 worth of Ecuadorian handicrafts, which will help provide scholarships for student brigade participants.

STSG is very grateful to donors and for First Presbyterian’s continued support.
**Donors**

We would like to say thank you to all of our donors… Shoulder to Shoulder Global could not function without your dedication and support.

STSG needs your support to improve the health and well-being of impoverished and underserved communities globally. Please consider a generous contribution. **Donations can be made on-line at:**

[http://www.uky.edu/GiveNow/welcome.htm](http://www.uky.edu/GiveNow/welcome.htm)

1. Fill out the donor information
2. Under “Gift Information”, click on the pull-down menu and select, “Public Health”
3. Select, “Shoulder to Shoulder Global Health Fund” from the second pull-down menu
4. Enter the gift amount and any other information you would like in the fields below
5. Click, “Submit your gift” to go to the next screen
6. Fill-out the payment information and click the, “Submit Your Gift” button at the bottom of the screen

**OR, you can fill-out the below and send back to STSG:**

Name________________________________________ Address________________________________________

Phone________________________________________ City________________________________________

E-mail________________________________________ State/ZIP________________________________________

Please charge my gift to my: Visa MasterCard Discover American Express

Credit Card No.______________________________ Expiration Date ____ / ____

**Checks can be made out to STSG and mailed to:**

Shoulder to Shoulder Global 111 Washington Avenue Lexington, KY 40536

Shoulder to Shoulder is a non-profit organization operating under the University of Kentucky and all donations are tax-deductible.

For more information about how you can support STSG, please contact Craig Borie at craig.borie@uky.edu

**A sincere thank you for your support!**

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**Upcoming STSG Events:**

June 29th – STSG at Dixiana Farm Soccer Tournament for STSG/College of Nursing Health Fair

August 2nd - 11th – STSG Brigade to Ecuador

August 12th – STSG begins accepting applications for 2014 brigades to Ecuador

September 11th – STSG at Education Abroad Fair, UK Student Center

September 30th – Brigade application deadline for Spring 2014 brigades

December 4-20 - Add/Drop for, “Interprofessional Teamwork in Global Health” required course for registered students participating in 2014 brigades to Ecuador