



OCIMA

Overseas and Continental Independent Mercy Association

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www.ocimaya.org

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August 7, 2009

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Dr. Don Burwell
CEO, Great Lakes Coalition
8600 North End Avenue
Oak Park, Michigan 48237

Dear Dr. Burwell:

As of this past May, OCIMA has packaged and sent over one million Kids Against Hunger meals to Guatemala! I wanted to pause and thank you for your participation in helping this happen.

I cannot emphasize enough what an incredible experience it is to actively participate in packaging the food that we send to Guatemala – from our hands to their mouths. It is a way for entire families to work together -- from the youngest at about age 3 to the oldest who is closing in on 100. What a fantastic way to involve our children and help build social awareness! It is our hope that this type of activity will foster continued social involvement into adulthood. We applaud Kids Against Hunger for motivating our youth in communities across the country.

As you are aware, OCIMA started about 30 years ago with one man, Father Nicholas Amico, who saw first-hand what he called “utter and dehumanizing poverty” – malnutrition, avoidable illnesses, and worse. We are a small organization and have helped to make improvements in the areas where we work. But it is difficult to comprehend, 30 years later, that people are still suffering similar conditions! Not too long ago, we met a young 12-year old girl, who weighed only 16 pounds. This severe malnutrition, especially among children, cannot be allowed to continue.

The Kids Against Hunger food provides a nutritionally balanced diet. It is not just a meal; it translates into better health for starving children. But we both know the Kids Against Hunger food is not the complete answer. That's why our two organizations fit so well together. OCIMA has projects on the ground in Guatemala to help improve the health, medical care and education of the poor and malnourished who are the recipients of the Kids Against Hunger food. OCIMA's ultimate goal is to teach people to become self-reliant.

It has been our fortune to discover and work with you and Kids Against Hunger.

Thank you for your service,

Maria Curreri

Maria Curreri
President