

# HILLSIDE HEALTH CARE INTERNATIONAL UPDATE

February 2007—Volume 3, Issue 1

## Abby Fund to Provide Dorm for Volunteers



Abby Brinkman, an IU medical student from Columbus, Indiana, was 28-years-old and only months from her dream of being a pediatrician when she died tragically in 2005 in a boating accident. She participated in Hillside's international rotation program, and her family, friends, and the Hillside staff recall her love for children and her commitment to providing healthcare to the underserved in Belize. Now they are all committed to seeing her legacy and memory preserved.

Joyce Lopez, the project's director says, "Abby set an example that we hope to encourage in other young medical students who come here." The Brinkman family began the Abby Brinkman Fund shortly after Abby's death. As that fund continues to grow, another dream grows with it. Abby's parents, Jan and Roger, are chairs of a capital campaign to build that fund into a much-needed dormitory at Hillside. They are working with their local Rotary Club, their church, and other organizations. The dorm will be called the ABBY HOUSE. Hillside has struggled for years to house the many medical volunteers and students who visit. The dorm will provide space for sixteen guests and is estimated to cost \$125,000.

Mrs. Brinkman wants to see the dragonfly symbolize these efforts. "That symbol has taken on great spiritual significance for us, because Belize has an abundance of dragonflies, but also because it symbolizes strong women...and we have recognized the strengths of so many young women since Abby's death."



SEE DORM FLOOR PLAN ON PAGE 3

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### Abby House Fund

Mail donations to  
*Hillside Health Care Intl.*  
P.O. Box 151,  
Brookfield, Wisconsin  
53008-0151

Donations can also be made by credit card on our website.

## Hillside Thanks Dan and Eileen Meehan

Dan and Eileen Meehan are well-known in the philanthropic community for their generosity in building clinics and funding healthcare initiatives worldwide. We thank them for including Hillside Clinic and the people of Southern Belize in their goodwill. The Meehans were instrumental in helping Hillside become established, and they continue to support us in many ways. Mr. Meehan's efforts led Hillside to obtain a Knights of Malta Grant, enabling our Clinic to purchase a mobile telecommunications system. Now our medical volunteers on emergency and mobile trips to remote villages can communicate with the clinic base. More recently the Meehans donated a full office of dental equipment to the people in the region. Hillside is working with the Meehans and the Ministry of Health to establish the best location for the equipment, so that it will have the greatest impact in providing much-needed dental services. The Hillside board, volunteers, and people served by their generosity thank Dan and Eileen for your ongoing support!

## Dreams Really Can Come True

Renola Gillet is a six-year-old girl with a lot of spunk. Born with a hole in her heart, Renola was often too tired to keep up with her five siblings and multiple cousins. However, through the generosity of Hillside and the Gift of Life Program, Renola was able to have the hole in her heart repaired at the Arnold Palmer Hospital in California.

Dr. Elizabeth Fitzgerald from Hillside, the Belize Rotary Club, and a host family in the States worked together to make the dream come true. Renola and her mother were flown to the States and welcomed into the loving home of the Giraldo family. Once there, Renola underwent several doctors' visits and eventually a procedure known as a heart catheterization. This procedure, performed by pediatric cardiologist David Nykedin, allowed the hole in Renola's heart to be closed without having to do open heart surgery. The life saving procedure will allow Renola to lead a normal, active life without the threat of impending heart failure.

However, while Renola was in California, life was not all work and no play. Renola, along with her mother and the Giraldo family, had the opportunity to enjoy themselves at Sea World and Disneyland!

(Thanks to Dr. Elizabeth Fitzgerald and Dr. Liz Quirk for this story.)



## Fulfilling Hillside's Mission of Serving the People of Southern Belize



**Orlan Mangar** was born in Eldridgeville, the village that Hillside calls home. He started working at the Clinic on October 1, 2002 as a night security guard. He held that position until January 2006 when he was promoted to a patient intake clerk. The medical volunteers, students, and staff enjoy his upbeat, positive personality. Executive Director, Joyce Lopez, congratulates Orlan on being recognized in this issue for his commitment to serving our patients and our volunteers. "Orlan is competent, dedicated, organized, and punctual—always willing to go the extra mile to get the job done. We are blessed to have him onboard." Orlan's position was recently expanded to assist the director with the day-to-day operation of the Clinic.



**Patricia Lutes** first came to Belize, supported by the Catholic Medical Missions Board, in late 2001 to work as a nurse at Mercy Clinic in Belize City. A year and a half later, she began serving at Hillside's Clinic. Patricia returned to the States in May of 2003 to pursue studies as a Family Nurse Practitioner at Concordia University. She graduates in May and will return to Hillside mid-September for at least another year of service. Board member, Jackie Schmidt, says, "Patricia is loved so deeply by the local people that even after four years away, her patients ask about her. They sometimes cry as they remember when Ms. Pat was in Belize. She's simply a remarkable woman and medical professional who knows how to love others as Christ loves them." Patricia—with her keen understanding of the Belizean culture coupled with her advanced degree—will again make a significant contribution to the Hillside team. "I will go back with a heart to serve our Lord and care for His people," says Patricia.

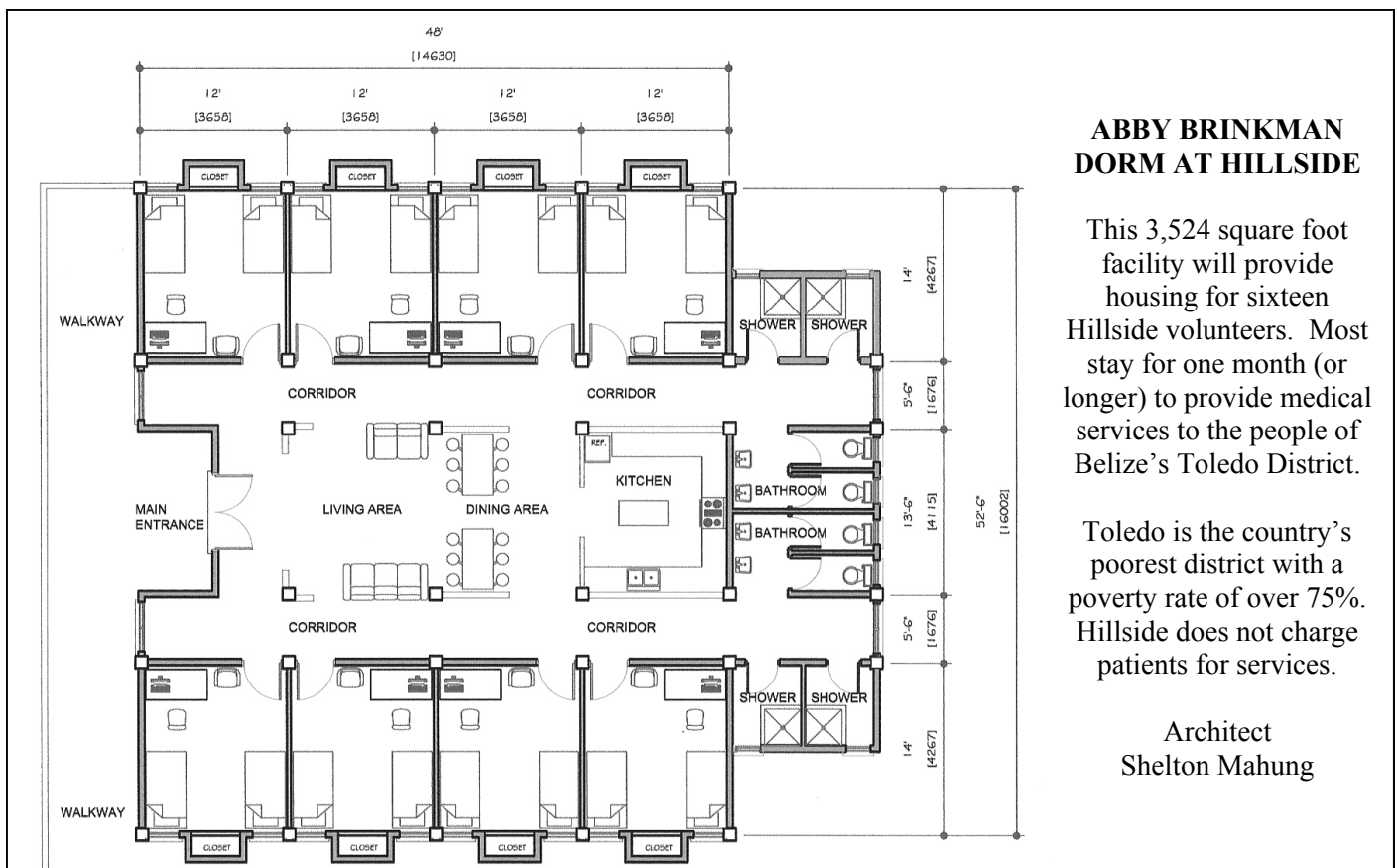
## The Volunteers—From The Journals of Hillside Medical Students

*Medical volunteers and students are the backbone of the Hillside project. They bring medical manpower and caring hearts to the patients they encounter during their service with us. The following excerpts are from student journals..*

**Nicole Mohlman**, December, 2006: Above all, this experience has reinforced my dedication to a career of serving the underserved. I loved the way that the Clinic intrinsically involves the community at every turn—home visits, going to villages for mobile clinic, working with the ministry of health to expand services, involving other key health care providers (e.g. BFLA) into the network of care. This is the sort of ideal community-based model I would like to have in my own future practice, and I believe it is translatable to the States. While it is not always a smooth safety net, I believe that only by Hillside involving all key providers of healthcare in the community (including the snake doctor!), the best and most comprehensive care is provided. In communities low in resources, the wider and deeper the network is, the more alternatives and players there are to pool resources—and the better the patients are served.

**Kristina Arendas**, December, 2006: My personal beliefs were challenged during this rotation. I had a paternalistic view of the role that developed countries and western medicine should play in the healthcare needs of developing countries. I have come to realize that our western, North American ways may not always be the best solution to problems in countries such as Belize. I learned that to really make a difference, it takes a lot of resources and a lot of deep rooted work, involving complete cooperation between the country helping and the country being helped.

**Elizabeth Green**, July, 2006: Extreme weather and geographical remoteness are just two of the many barriers to healthcare that people in Toledo's rural villages face. The work of Hillside in providing regular, quality mobile healthcare service is invaluable for members of these communities. Obstacles may present themselves, but Hillside's efforts are providing an alternative.



## CMMB Supports Two New Volunteers

Through the support of the Catholic Medical Missions Board, Hillside has two new long term volunteers—Corrine Holcomb, RN and Myrienne Peloquin-Richard, PT. The two will serve through Hillside for a year, while helping to develop year-round education programs for therapy and nursing.

## Anonymous Donor Makes Matching Offer NOW IS THE TIME TO GIVE!

A Hillside supporter has made a significant challenge offer to Hillside to help us meet operating expenses for another year or more. The donor wishes to remain anonymous. New monies donated between January 1 and July 1, 2007 will be matched dollar-for-dollar up to \$40,000.

Jeff Nicholson, Stateside CEO says, “It is very hard for non-profits to find funding for operating expenses, and this challenge grant allows us a chance to raise \$80,000 to meet the challenge of keeping our doors open. Civic organizations, churches, and individuals can double the impact of donations up until July 1st. This really is the time to give!”

## Considering a Donation to Hillside?

Hillside Health Care can't accomplish its mission of serving those in need of medical care without the support of people like you. If you want to offer financial support, donations can be sent to: Hillside Health Care International, P.O. Box 151, Brookfield, Wisconsin 53008-0151. **Donations can also be made with a credit card on our website.**

## Thinking Of Volunteering?

If you are a medical professional with a desire to volunteer, Hillside may be the perfect match for you. Opportunities can be short-term (a week to one month) or long-term (several months to a year).

Imagine an environment off the beaten path—jungles and rainforests dotted with small villages along a remote river or at the ocean's edge.

Visit our website: [www.hillsidebelize.org](http://www.hillsidebelize.org)

**One person really can make a difference...  
and it might just be you!**



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Wauwatosa, WI 53213

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