



NEWSLETTER

JULY 2006

CAMERAS ROLL...ACTION



Nicole discussing script changes

For two months WINGS volunteer Nicole Tammelleo worked with the WINGS team to produce educational documentaries in Spanish on Family Planning, Cervical Cancer, and for the Youth WINGS program.

Nicole gained experience making educational videos as a volunteer in Cameroon and Rwanda, and when studying anthropology in New York.

She discovered WINGS while

studying Spanish in Antigua. Due to her interest and experience in reproductive health, she asked WINGS Executive Director, Meira Neggaz, if WINGS might need some educational videos. Meira jumped at the chance to get Nicole on board.

"I've found that with a largely illiterate population, videos work where literature doesn't. People can relate to the characters or people in the video. Even if they don't fully understand, it can act as a useful catalyst", explained Nicole.

The videos will be ready for use by the end of the summer and will be translated into at least one Mayan language: Kakchiquel. This useful educational tool will be utilized in a variety of settings: at youth trainings, in cervical cancer testing waiting rooms, and for technical

trainings with other NGOs. We also hope to upload example scenes on our new website.

"It has been a fantastic experience and a great way to learn Spanish, meet people, and get into rural areas: the real Guatemala. WINGS staff have been so supportive, helping with logistics, translating, co-writing the scripts, and finding people willing to talk about their personal lives. One of the reasons I want to go into educational videos on health issues is because I love working in the field."



Youth Educators in action

WINGS MOVES TO VIA-CRYO TESTING



Consultation pre cervical cancer screening

WINGS has recognized a need to provide access to cervical cancer detection and treatment in one visit. The Pap smear, for even a normal result, involves at least two visits to a clinic; if problems are identified, more visits are required. Despite the dedication of our staff to ensure that women receive treatment, some women do not return for their Pap results or do not

appear for scheduled follow-up treatments. To combat this, WINGS is planning to implement the use of a technique referred to as VIA Cryotherapy (VIA-Cryo), or "see and treat".

Visual Inspection of the cervix using Acetic acid (VIA) is a very effective, low-cost technique used to detect abnormal changes of the cervix. It also presents fewer logistical and technical constraints than the Pap smear test. To perform VIA, the healthcare provider (who does not need to be a physician, but rather only needs sufficient training) applies a diluted acetic acid solution to the cervix. After one minute this solution shows

any abnormalities in the cells covering the cervix by producing an "acetowhite" reaction. If abnormal cells are found, the nurse provides counseling and if appropriate, offers immediate treatment of cryotherapy (Cryo). Cryotherapy involves freezing the cervical lesion, and is very effective with mild and moderate lesions (85%-95% cure rate), but less effective for larger and more severe lesions. For women with a lesion covering more than 75% of the cervix a referral for different treatment is required.

WINGS had a two-week training course in May to train staff to become competent in providing both VIA and cryotherapy. These techniques will help more women access the preventive health care that they need, and in just a single visit.

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Please contact us: info@wingsgate.org to discuss automatic monthly or quarterly donations through your credit card or bank account. Or, donate online, via our NEW-LOOK and secure website: www.wingsgate.org

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Look out for our next issue in **November 2006**

MORE FEATHERS FOR WINGS' CAP



Samantha Funk

Another WINGS angel arrived in Antigua in the form of Samantha Funk. From Wisconsin, Sam studied Women's

Studies and Human Rights at the University of Washington, Seattle, WA, and then worked with local Antigua NGO, Common Hope, for eight months. She is volunteering with WINGS for at least six months in two areas: (a) to evaluate our

Youth program, assessing the effectiveness and accuracy of our trained Youth Educators during their talks and discussion, as well as looking at the entire Youth program via a series of focus groups with the Youth Educators and their parents; and (b) to design an improved plan for working with Guatemalan men, an area in which WINGS is anxious to develop further.

WINGS' staff further expanded when Mayra Icu from Comalapa, a newly-graduated Kakchiquel Mayan auxiliary nurse, joined us on April 1. Her full-time role is to provide more intensive education and networking in

advance of the WINGS-sponsored APROFAM mobile clinics, which perform voluntary sterilizations. Working primarily in the departments (states) of Sacatepequez and Chimaltenango, Mayra's work will include meeting with local leaders, home visits, giving talks to groups, as well as attending and monitoring the mobile clinics. Mayra will be an effective addition to the team.

Welcome aboard Sam and Mayra!



Mayra Icu



SHARE WINGS WITH A FRIEND

Give a copy of this newsletter to someone who cares

PILOT PROJECT TAKES SHAPE

In conjunction with the Mathis Eye Foundation and long-time donor, Dr. John Cheatham, a pilot project has been set up in a small area of Alta Verapaz in the remote highlands north of Guatemala City.

Dr. Cheatham is funding a Q'ekchi' rural educator, Irma Botzoc, who will work part-time giving educational talks on reproductive health and provide any requested referrals for family planning services. We also initiated a small transportation

fund to enable people to get to a mobile unit providing voluntary tubal ligations and vasectomies. Alta Verapaz suffers from widespread poverty, so severe that even WINGS-sponsored sterilizations, at a cost of \$3.30, are prohibitively expensive. The fund will also be used to train local leaders in reproductive health so that they better understand its importance in addressing poverty, and the work of WINGS and APROFAM. In addition to this, nutritious snacks will be given after the operation.

GIVING WINGS' YOUTH A "VOICE"

Youth WINGS continues to go from strength to strength. At present there are 102 Youth Educators working in ten municipalities of Guatemala. These expanded groups need to be able to communicate with each other and share their experiences. Through Youth WINGS Coordinator, Pilar Marroquin, we asked our Youth Educators to compile true stories, comments, advice, drawings, and jokes. The response was overwhelming. We sifted through their contributions and combined the best into a Youth WINGS magazine called **VOZ** (Voice) – the voice of Guatemala's youth. The first issue of this bi-annual publication was published in May. Our Youth Educators will be encouraged to share the magazine with their families and friends.



NEWS FLASH...NEWS FLASH

FAMILY PLANNING LAW BREAKTHROUGH

In April, after a ruling by Guatemala's Constitutional Court that the President's veto of the Family Planning Law did not follow the required procedures, the Congress published the law in the equivalent of the Federal Register. Thus, the new law is now official and will be in effect at least until some individual, group or church gets the Supreme Court to declare it invalid. The three most important parts of the law are: (a) it requires temporary family planning methods to be made available,

for free, at all Guatemalan government health units; (b) it requires the Ministry of Education to create appropriate curricula for educating students in public schools about sexuality and family planning; and (c) it creates a Commission consisting of both government and private NGOs to ensure the law is implemented with the funds provided by a portion of the alcohol tax.

This is a tremendous breakthrough for Guatemala, and also a wonderful encouragement to WINGS.



New **VOZ** magazine

WINGS' WEBSITE HAS A FACELIFT

WINGS has revamped its website. Log on to: www.wingsguate.org to get NEW detailed information on our work, the working faces behind WINGS, and the Guatemalans WINGS helps.



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