



insider

Interfaith Service to Latin America

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With a familiar face as backdrop (top), ISLA team members toured an international student medical school in Havana. Also included in the October Cuba trip were visits to a Casa Materna (right) and other health / medical facilities in different locations on the island.

ISLA team travels to Cuba

Gets firsthand view of their health care model

doctors in Jalapa and hearing those of North America and Europe. about the system that Nicaragua in October got a first-hand look at approach and peoples.

Resources were clear sense of pride as they described general health outcomes

After years of seeing Cuban across the population that rival

Touring and visiting facilities as uses as its model, a team of ISLA well as having both formal and medical and health care providers informal meetings providers and students, offered some other the controversial island nation's unexpected opportunities. Smiling residents at a womens' nursing obviously home each welcomed their visitors with Cuban officials with a song or poetry recitation. generally blaming all ills on the ISLA team members were often able U.S. Embargo. But there was also a to talk with patients, health care providers, students (even some

Cuba Health System Tour to P. 3

UMD med students create service learning tradition

Six young med students might have once seemed out of place on a July trip that aims at families and parents with professional skills. But four years of visits by University of Minnesota Duluth medical students has evolved into a model that also fits well with ISLA's ever-evolving tradition of service-learning to Jalapa and Nicaragua.

Adaptability and readiness to jump into any public health project, from stove-building to bloodpressure checks, as well as studious

UMD Med Students to P. 3

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Share your thoughts, memories, photos & reconnect: to ISLA friends

Letter from the Chair:

ISLA scholar program still meeting needs

Dear ISLA Friends,

This summer, several of Jalapa, the scholarship students Nicargaua. I am 16 years old wrote letters to their and, donors. I wanted to share opportunity to become a one of those letters with scholarship student, I am which example of the hope and given to me gratitude that all of the organization ISLA that I students expressed. It is a have been able to obtain the privilege to be part of a things I need in order to program which makes study in school. such a difference in the lives of young people and give infinite thanks, first to their families.

Warm greetings!

Cáceres, am a student in high hope that you will continue school at the Instituto Rubén to give me this help because Sanabria in the community of I dream of going to college

El Limón, municipality of Nueva Segovia, thanks thetranslated below, doing well in my studies. It beautiful is because of the help that is

In a very special way I God and to you, my donor, for giving me this financial help which is what has I, Luis Alberto Diaz permitted me to study. I



ISLA volunteers will again be part of January scholarship distribution to deserving Jalapa students.

and of being able to earn a degree which will enable me to have a career and thus to help myself and my family. Wishing you success in all your work, Attentively.

Luis Alberto Diaz Cáceres

Best wishes for a warm and joyful holiday season, **Cecily Brown**

ISLA'S mission is to partner with Latin American communities through in health, education, construction and other programs aimed to help them be self-sustainable.

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Remember ISLA in your giving legacy!



For more info:

With your help ISLA has already made a dramatic difference in the lives of the people of Jalapa and other Nicaraguans. As we sustain and build on those efforts your ongoing support is more important than ever. Please consider the positive impact your legacy gifts, bequests by will or trust, IRA, life insurance or other benefit plans could make through ISLA. Contact your planner or we can help find qualified expert advice.

ion@isla.cc 612-819-8877 or



A new, but familiar face is joining the ISLA team! Cris Cruz, long-time translator and friend will be the new coordinator Jalapa January replacing Javier Aguilar who has chosen to move on to other vocational opportunities. Many thanks Javier and a hearty welcome to Cris!

UMD Med Students continued from page 1

the connection a win-win.

with what students are health education being a saying about the variety of useful experiences they get on UMD ISLA trips," said UMD hopefully be a long ISLA physician and supervisor Jake Prunuske. "I know people coming back this year had a fantastic trip and were really excited about the things they did."

For ISLA, the chance to bring the next generation of care-givers to a place like Nicaragua is an equally

observation of Nicaraguan mutual benefit. Learning medical practices has made and service go hand-inhand to sustain "I've been really pleased relationship, with public connection. connection will faculty tradition.





UMD med students on the July trip got exposure to a variety of health programs including hands on work (above) and the internal workings of Jalapa Hospital. (below)





Women residents at a Cuban senior center were anything but shy and retiring as they greeted ISLA team members on a tour. (above). Health education messages on a van (below) are part of the Cuban systems heavy emphasis on outreach on all subjects. Photos by Grit Youngquist.



Cuban Health System Tour from p.1

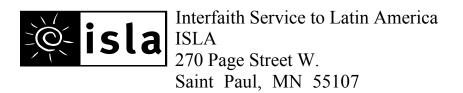
American!) about subjects including food, culture and proud of what they've even religion. appeared shy sharing their thoughts. and Thomas Chisholm. "They interest in the U.S. - have done some good especially given political from." thawing of relations.

eye opening, not what I beachfront on the island expected as far as the was also enjoyable. But country, and the people," said Gloria Karl, one of long isolated culture, and several nurses and veteran ISLA trip-goer.

"They're certainly very Few done without a lot of about resources," added Dr. recent things to be learned

A couple of days "Very informative and seeing historic sites and gaining exposure to a a the sharing of good will was the biggest benefit of the trip for most.





Nicaragua awaits you! And it's never too late!



ISLA
teams/trips
have
openings from
January
through July!

Be part of medical, construction and education programs helping build a better future with our friends!

More information, dates and applications available on-line

www.isla.cc or 612-819-8877



You can make a difference!

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