

# The ASAPROSAR Newsletter



February 2010



## Collaboration between ASAPROSAR and University of California

### Reducing Tooth Decay and Improving Nutrition

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From 2004 to the present, ASAPROSAR has engaged in a unique collaboration with the University of California (UC) Berkeley and San Francisco to reduce childhood malnutrition by focusing on reducing tooth decay. Over recent decades, with the increase in children's consumption of sugary snacks and soda, an epidemic of tooth decay has emerged throughout Latin America. Currently, the majority of Salvadoran children suffer from tooth decay, and many of them have such severe decay that it causes mouth pain and difficulty eating, sleeping and playing.



For the past 5 years, a team of health volunteers from UC—including doctors, dentists, medical/pre-medical students, and teachers—has visited ASAPROSAR for a week in July to work with the promotoras de salud and the children and families in the nucleos and Brotos de Esperanza programs. The project

has provided the following:

- Training for the promotoras on oral health and nutrition,



which they incorporate into their work with the children and families.

- Toothbrushes and toothbrushes for the promotoras to distribute to all of the children and their family members
- Fluoride varnish, which can be applied to the children's teeth 3 times a year by dentists from the Ministry of Health and other Salvadoran dentists who have volunteered to help the project.
- Yearly dental exams of the children and interviews with the mothers about their nutrition and oral health practices. Children found to have tooth decay are referred to their local dentists for treatment. In addition, we help the promotoras develop an individual plan for each child and family for the health education and dental treatment needed.

To date, the project has served approximately 1,500 children and 1,000 mothers in the villages where the promotoras work. The results have been impressive... [Read More.](#)

## ***Benefit Concert***



**March 7, 2010**

**First Parish Unitarian Church Beverly, MA**

This concert will begin with the performance of "The Lion King" by children participating in the 15-Minute Musical camp happening earlier in the day. After this, there will be performances by... [Read more.](#)

## ***Emmanuel Community***

***Help Needed***



The community of Emmanuel is located northwest of the city of Santa Ana in western El Salvador. The community is comprised of 400 families displaced by the eruption of the Santa Ana volcano and the flooding and landslides in the aftermath of Hurricane Mitch, both events took place in 2005. [Read more...](#)



## **2010 Eye Campaign**

[View images from this year's campaign.](#) Look for a full report of the Friends of ASAPROSAR 2010 eye campaign in our next newsletter. For more info on Friends of ASAPROSAR and the ASAPROSAR visual health program [click here.](#)

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Give Now**



**"If you have much, give of your wealth; If you have little, give of your heart."**

**- Arab Proverb**

## **2nd Annual ASAPROSAR**

### **Chicago Fundraiser**

We want to remind you to mark your calendar for this year's Chicago benefit for the Salvadoran Association for Rural Health (ASAPROSAR). The goal of this year's event is to raise funds for the purchase of land for the new youth center in Santa Ana, El Salvador.

**Friday April 16, 2010 6:30pm**

Mr. Benny's Steak and Lobster House

20857 S. Cicero Avenue  
Matteson, IL 60443

For more info please [email us.](#)

## ***Share the Vision***

We have a request of all ASAPROSAR supporters... Share the Vision! We are asking you to forward this newsletter to just one person who is not aware of the work of ASAPROSAR and have them sign up for the ASAPROSAR Newsletter.