



TASH TIMES

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www.tashinc.org

GREETINGS

Dear Friends of TASH,

As the calendar turns to 2019, we feel honored to have the opportunity to continue on with our mission to serve the poor. We recognize that Father Scott Seethaler is one-of-a-kind and we want to be upfront that there will be a new feel to how will invite your engagement to contribute to the mission of TASH. For example, we are a board of professionals, guided by faith, but not ordained priests, as Father Scott is. We will share with you our work with the foundation, connecting you to the human stories of strife and recovery. We will also invite you into our reflections and the challenges we face as we seek to best use your generous donations to people in need in Oaxaca, Mexico.



While the context has changed since Father Scott began his work more than 20 years ago, the endemic problems of poverty continue. In 2019, the minimum wage in Oaxaca is \$5 dollars per day, and in Mexico, there are now over 100,000 diabetes-related deaths annually. That is the equivalent to filling Heinz Field two times over. In this reality, your gifts, small and large, can go a long way to helping families in need.

In terms of the content of our newsletter, I think we all appreciated Father's popular section, "Laughter is the Best Medicine". We hope to continue that by reprinting past newsletter jokes or coming up with some of our own. In addition, Father Scott has offered to be a guest writer from time to time.

Pete Noll will come on as the full-time Director in August of this year. As you read in the last newsletter, Pete has more than 20 years of nonprofit experience in Latin America. He earned his Masters at Carnegie Mellon University in 2006 and now resides in Oaxaca. He and Father met in Oaxaca in 2004 and have continued their personal and professional relationship ever since. We believe he will offer TASH on-the-ground experience, which will provide a big plus in both understanding the needs of these communities and in accountability.

In conclusion, we will strive to carry on Father's vision through Servant Leadership. We are here to serve you and our constituency in Oaxaca. We will approach our work with a "willing to wash feet" attitude to demonstrate our humility to the poor communities we serve. We will also ask you to share your opinions about where you would like to see the organization go under our new leadership. We are excited to share with you our progress in our upcoming newsletters. Thank you for your continued generosity and for your solidarity and support for this noble project which started as La Clínica del Pueblo and now bears Father's mother's name: The Anna Seethaler Hospital, Inc. or, more colloquially, TASH.

In gratitude,
The TASH Board

SERVANT LEADERSHIP



Robert K. Greenleaf first popularized the phrase "servant leadership" in his 1970 essay, "The Servant as a Leader." In today's society, we often think of leaders as those who are CEOs of big companies, presidents of countries, or other high profile individuals. And while those figures have attained certain success, the concept of serving others is actually quite empowering in its own right.

The core principles are Listening, Empathy, Healing, Awareness, Persuasion, Conceptualization, Foresight, Stewardship, Commitment to the growth of people, and Building Community. We plan to take this values-based approach to our work. While the original concept of *Servant Leadership* is a "philosophy and set of practices that enriches the lives of individuals, builds better organizations and ultimately creates a more just and caring world" (source: RG Center for Servant Leadership website), others choose to call this work "transformational" or "service" leadership to describe the same value-based approach. Obviously, our interest in sharing this concept is focused on service to the people and projects that we will be able to support.

STRATEGIC INVESTMENT and TRANSPARENCY

Part of our fiduciary duty as the Board of Directors is to assure that your generous donations continue to serve the mission and are distributed in a transparent manner. TASH is a 501c3 nonprofit that receives an annual pro-bono audit, by Laly & Co. CPAs and Business Advisors. Currently, TASH's funds are distributed to nonprofits operating in Oaxaca, Mexico, after approval from the Board of Directors. La Clínica del Pueblo (The Village Clinic), now a fully functioning hospital, has been the primary focus for 20+ years. La Clínica attends to over 1,000 persons in need every month, providing low-cost medical attention. In addition, they have a social outreach program.

TASH has also supported grassroots organizations like St. Cecilia's, Si Kanda International, CANICA, Puente a la Salud Comunitaria, and other credible nonprofits operating in Oaxaca. You can find additional information on our website partners page: www.tashinc.org/about/our-partners/. Those organizations have helped hundreds of children living on the city garbage dump learn life skills, hundreds of street children receive balanced meals and education, and more than 500 farmer families in 30 rural villages to grow, eat and commercialize healthy food like amaranth.

With Pete Noll living in Oaxaca, he is able to visit the projects and assure the accountability and transparency that we have always strived for. While we are very grateful for your trust and don't take it for granted, we also recognize that there could be other work that you would like to support in Oaxaca. Thus, we invite you to fill out the short survey included in this newsletter. And if you would ever like to visit the projects firsthand, please contact us at admin@tashinc.org.



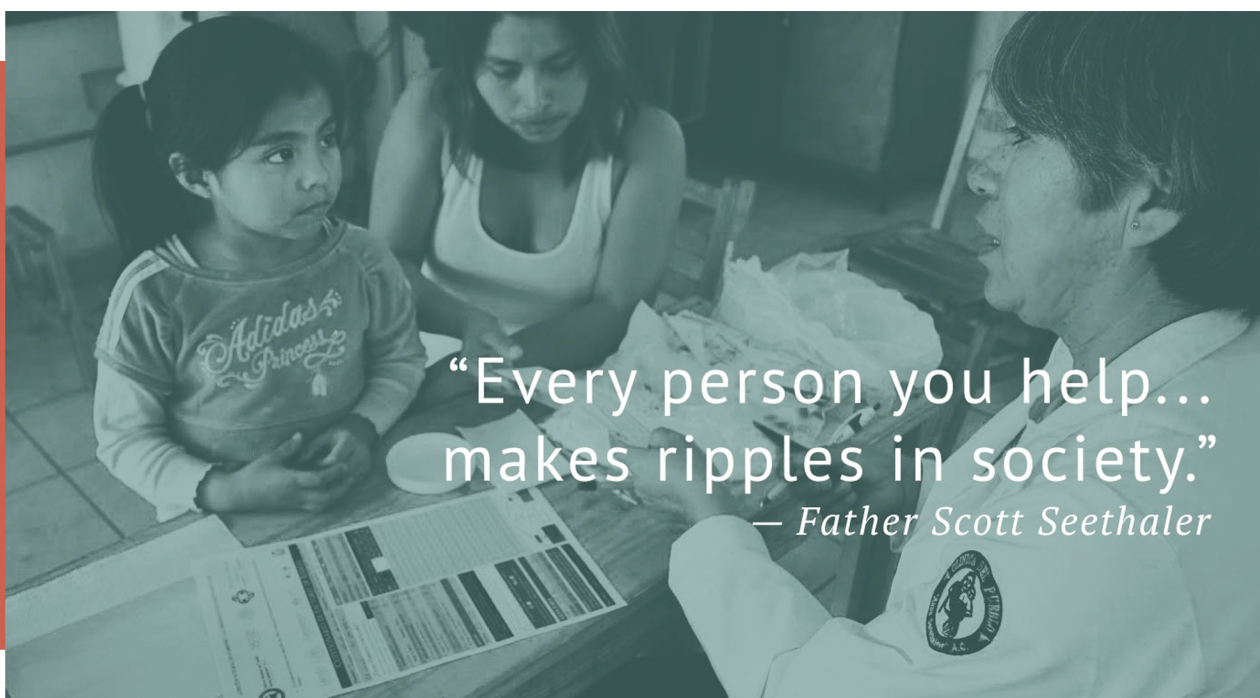
WITNESS to OAXACA

Florencia Mendoza Contrera is a 72-year-old woman, the 2nd of four brothers and sisters, and was born in Loma de Miel, San Antonio Huitepec, Oaxaca, a village of 4,000 habitants. She comes from a peasant family who dedicated their time to basic agriculture. She grew up in a humble home with a palm roof and dirt floors. As a child, she helped her parents in the fields and never had a chance to go to primary school. In those times, only the boys of the family were allowed to attend school.

The community did not even have basic services; the only illumination was candles and they used well water. The closest store to purchase food stuffs was 4 hours by foot. As she grew up, she mainly worked in domestic services and, at age 25, she went into a planned marriage. Her father passed away in the fields when she was 28 years old, the cause never confirmed. Only seven years later, her mother passed away after she stopped eating and died bedridden, also without a definitive cause.

Despite all of these tragedies, she did experience some bright spots as her husband Alberto was a hard-working gentleman. He helped them to establish a family home, although they never had children. But in 2017, Florencia started to have symptoms of an unknown health issue. A niece, who had heard of La Clínica del Pueblo, helped her go there for an assessment and eventually she was hospitalized in December of 2018. Her husband stayed by her side the whole time, where, over the course of five days, she was treated for internal bleeding. The cost of the stay would have been nearly \$600 USD, but they only paid 25%. Fully recovered, they have returned to their village.

This is one of the many positive outcomes that are only possible because of your support of TASH's mission.

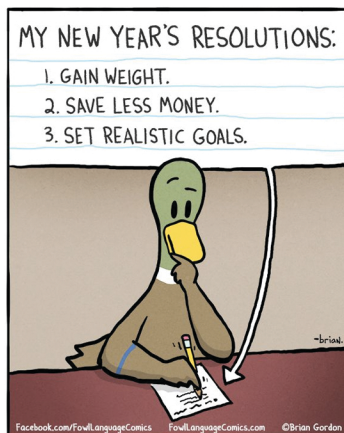


“Every person you help...
makes ripples in society.”

— *Father Scott Seethaler*

HUMOR

Considering it is the New Year and, thus, the time of resolutions, here are some jokes off the internet:



My New Year's resolution:
exercise (my right to eat) more (lasagna).

My New Year's resolution is to be more assertive,
is that okay with you guys?

Just burnt 2,000 calories...
that's the last time I leave the brownies in the oven while I nap.



As many resolutions are about getting more exercise, that is a nice segue into the upcoming events section. If you are in Pittsburgh, please join us for the Olé 5K on April 13, 2019, in Allison Park. More information can be found at www.ole5k.com.



**If you would like to make a donation to support the mission in Oaxaca,
we would truly appreciate it.**

**Please make a check out to TASH, Inc. and use the donation envelope included
or you can make a secure donation online at www.tashinc.org.**

You are also invited to complete the survey included in this newsletter and return it to us.
This will help us understand how best to serve you as we work as stewards of TASH's mission.