



THE ROSA VERA FUND

Year Five, Fiscal Year 2010 Annual Report

(April 1, 2009 – March 31, 2010)



A LETTER FROM OUR BOLIVIAN PARTNER

Dear Benefactors of the Rosa Vera Fund,

Representing the Rural Andean Health Counsel, I have the great honor to express our deep gratitude for your financial support that allows us to carry out the work of the RVF. The RVF has proven to be of vital benefit for not only our organization, but for our entire community. Please feel secure in your knowledge that the unique design of RVF operations has not only saved the lives of many children, but has also elevated their *quality of life* and that of their families. Likewise, the RVF's employment and educational component provides our health workers with a singular opportunity to further their professional training. This opportunity results not only in an improved standard of living for these ambitious women and men who have little opportunity elsewhere, but their services elevate the standard of living of the Montero community as a whole.

Thank you for your grace towards Bolivians, and thank you for your support for this critical program warmly regarded as the Rosa Vera Fund. As executers of the RVF, we are quite aware that without your help, the RVF and everything it accomplishes would simply not be possible.

Attentively,

Dr. Dardo Chávez Soleto
Executive Regional Director
Rural Andean Health Counsel



Standing, left to right: Mirtha Sanjines - RVF Program Administrator
Gladys Quiroz RN, Silvia Ajhuacho RN, and Leticia Machuca RN - RVF Program Coordinators
Dardo Chávez MD - Executive Director, CSRA, Montero Region
Seated: Mitma Claure RN - RVF Program Director

Acronyms in this report:

RVF = Rosa Vera Fund; CSRA = Rural Andean Health Counsel

PEDIATRIC MEDICAL/SOCIAL INTERVENTIONS

The RVF provides funding for curative and palliative therapies for selected pediatric cases. Covered services include hospitalizations, specialist consults, diagnostic studies, medications/nutrition, physical/speech therapy, surgery, therapeutic equipment, education-related costs, and travel-associated expenses for beneficiaries and their families.

During Year 5, the RVF invested in 95 children with a diversity of health care and social needs. While the majority of children have chronic health problems requiring long-term involvement, some required only a single intervention that resolved their issue. None of these interventions would have been possible without the support provided by RVF donors. Below are the faces of some of our more involved cases.



Pediatric Case Spotlight

When Marcos, now 11 years-old, was first enrolled in the RVF in 2006, he didn't talk, smile or even play. This was due to two factors: 1) meningitis as an infant that caused hearing loss, and 2) his mother, a single parent without any family support, had to secure Marcos in a dark room for long hours while she worked. Therefore, Marcos received little stimulation, resulting in severe developmental delays. With full involvement of his mother and intensive ongoing therapies in one of the region's highest-quality private therapy centers, Marcos has revealed that he is actually a talented, charismatic and outgoing boy with normal intelligence.

Total Investment in Year 5 = \$301



Bruno



Dayana



Jorge



Beatriz



Liliana



Andrés



Yoselin



Luis



José



Maria

SPECIAL PEDIATRIC CASE: KARINA

DIAGNOSIS: KIDNEY FAILURE



Karina, a charming 13 year-old girl, has been enrolled in the RVF since 2006. For reasons yet unknown to her doctors, Karina's kidneys began to fail when she was 9 years. This very serious diagnosis of 'end-stage kidney disease' initiated a long, painful journey for Karina and her devoted parents. The expenses of frequent dialysis, transportation, medications, doctors' appointments and missed work brought her already struggling family to a new depth of poverty. Although a kidney transplant was known to be the preferred solution to her condition, Bolivia does not have an organ transplant bank and no compatible donor was known. For four years the the RVF contributed to the care that Karina needed to simply survive. However, her health had been in a state of slow deterioration and continuing what we were doing indefinitely was not a viable option. When all

hope seemed to be fading, one of Karina's aunts came forward to be evaluated--and turned out to be an ideal donor match! The \$6000 necessary to fund these dual operations was quickly raised by an American family determined to make Karina's surgery possible. This life-saving procedure took place without complication on July 8, 2010.

Although Karina and her family will face many future challenges related to her kidney disease, Karina has been provided with her best chance to once again experience life without constant pain and illness. And the RVF has every intention of seeing this case through. Her parents, Luis and Yovana, are grateful beyond expression. An excerpt from a letter of gratitude stated:

"As we are a family of few resources, we never imagined that we would find such generous support for our daughter Karina. Thank you to all of you beautiful, beautiful people for not forgetting our daughter while there remained the possibility of hope for her life. As her parents, we will do our part to ensure that Karina smiles every day of her new life."

TOTAL COST TO DATE: \$6985

The RVF wishes to express its deepest gratitude to the Lee & Oh families, whose donations and fundraising through their church, family and friends made this intervention possible. We also thank the numerous donors who made contributions specifically to Karina's case, allowing us to sustain her intervention over time.

SPECIAL PEDIATRIC CASE: MARIA FERNANDA

DIAGNOSIS: ACUTE MYELOCYTIC LEUKEMIA

Maria Fernanda, a beautiful 11 year-old girl, first came to our attention as a patient during the RVF work-trip in May, 2009. The only daughter in a family of eight children, Maria had always been a healthy, intelligent girl known for her sweet personality and love of school. However, everything changed for Maria in October, 2008, when she was diagnosed with leukemia. Although the type of cancer Maria had usually has an excellent cure rate with proper treatment, Bolivia has few resources to manage a costly illness like leukemia. The family did what they could and initiated chemotherapy, but did not have enough money to complete her treatment cycle. As Maria's illness went into temporary remission, the family simply hoped that the disease would not return. A Community Health Worker brought her in for evaluation by a RVF pediatrician, who quickly came to the conclusion that it was just a matter of time before Maria would fall ill again. This pediatrician generously donated a lump sum to the RVF sufficient to initiate chemotherapy when this relapse occurred. We were therefore prepared when exactly that occurred in December, 2009. Although Maria's cancer was now identified to be a highly aggressive form of resistant leukemia, the RVF decided that her life was worth the odds and initiated chemotherapy.

Although her treatment course hasn't been easy and it is far from over, at the time of this writing Maria Fernanda has made it past the most delicate stage of her treatment. What's more, her spirit has proven simply indelible--and her smile is as charming as ever. Recently, we received a letter in which she wrote with conviction that:



"Someday when I am better, I will study to become a nurse. I hope to someday work with all of you to help other children."

TOTAL COST TO DATE: \$11,691

The RVF wishes to express its deepest gratitude to the McColm family, whose donation made this intervention possible. We also thank the many other donors who made contributions specifically to make continuation of Maria Fernanda's case possible.

COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKER PROGRAM

The Community Health Worker Program (CHWP) is a highly effective grassroots initiative that trains and employs women and men from surrounding communities (all of whom have experienced poverty themselves) to provide critical prevention services focused primarily on women and children. Supported interventions include home vaccinations, health education, prenatal care & family planning, malnutrition therapy/weight checks, and follow-up on illness/compliance. Depending on their interests and skills, Community Health Workers may also fill other vital positions in the health center, such as work in medical records, pharmacy, and epidemiology.

The CHWP was required to make significant changes in 2010 when new Bolivian legislation required that all health workers receive salary pay and benefits. Although we were initially disappointed with this loss of flexibility because fewer community health workers could be incorporated on a part-time basis, the resulting quality of our smaller yet more professional program has increased significantly. A total of 23 Community Health Workers received significant financial support from the RVF during Year 5. All rely on their RVF salary as their primary income to support their family, education and personal goals. Literally thousands of preventive interventions and vital tasks took place due to the efforts of our health workers. Below is a sampling of some of our most dedicated workers.

Community Health Worker Spotlight



Maria Esther, 28 years-old, has been working as a RVF Community Health Worker since the RVF began in 2005. Maria has earned an excellent professional reputation both in the community where she makes home visits and among her colleagues. Over time, her skills have grown tremendously, and Maria has developed into one of our strongest workers. As a single mother to her 13 year-old son Luis Alberto, Maria utilizes her salary to sustain her small family and to study nursing in the evenings. **Total Investment in Year 5 = \$1520**



David



Reina



Marta



Emiliana



Guadalupe



Roberta



Marlene



Isabel



Lidia



Carmen

RVF SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

The RVF Scholarship Program is available to any employee of the CSRA who once was or currently is a member of the RVF's Community Health Worker Program. The educational scholarship may be utilized for career training both within and outside of the health field. The RVF supported four scholarships again during Year 5. We are pleased to see some of our original recipients (Julio and Isabel) completing their programs, which will open opportunity for new participants.

We are proud to play an integral role in the development of the personal goals and professionalization of these ambitious young men and women.



Scholarship Recipient Spotlight

Jorge, 36 years-old, is a married father of four children. Although he has gained years of experience working as a technician in CSRA's laboratory, Jorge doesn't have formal academic training, nor a valid diploma. He is determined to change this. Therefore, while he works in the laboratory during the day, he studies 'Pharmacy & Biochemistry' during the evenings and weekends with a RVF scholarship. Although Jorge concedes that this intensive work/study/family schedule is very demanding, he has made excellent progress--currently two years into his five year degree program.

Total Investment in Year 5 = \$1015

"I don't have words sufficient to say thank you for all of the good that the RVF is doing for me. Only if I study can I advance myself, and my children will learn to do the same by my example. Only through a profession can I help my country improve from the impoverished conditions under which we live."

- Jorge la Fuente Campeso



David, optometry; Julio, computer science; Isabel, nursing

The RVF would like to once again express sincere gratitude to Adam & Taunya Mizel, who have provided the primary funding for the RVF Scholarship Program for three consecutive years.

1ST ANNUAL ROSA VERA FUND WORK TRIP: MAY 2009



For one week in May, 2009, the RVF was proud to host our first work team. Alongside their Bolivian colleagues, a team of three highly-qualified community pediatricians from the United States completed the daunting task of completing histories, physical exams, and a detailed care plan for each of the children enrolled in the RVF. In addition to direct medical services, another team member conducted interviews of Community Health Workers and produced a stimulating collection of biographies, poetry and other writings. Lastly, the father of one of our pediatricians documented photographically the RVF and our team's work.

The trip was highly successful, with all objectives being met. A great deal of professional, organizational and cultural interchange took place, all with the purpose of advancing the mission of the RVF.

Of note, each of the volunteers not only sacrificed time away from their work and families, but they were also required to cover all costs related to their trip *and* to make a significant donation. The RVF is indebted to each our volunteers for their generous and pioneering contribution to the RVF. So much was accomplished!

PARTICIPANTS

Arturo Brito MD, Pediatrician
Chief Medical Officer, Children's Health Fund,
New York, NY

Vincent McColm MD, Pediatrician
Chief of Pediatrics Division, Las Colinas Medical Center,
Dallas, Texas

Carrie Cacioppo MD, Pediatrician
Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics,
Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio

Leonardo Brito, Trip photographer, Retired

Jonathan Lee-Melk MD, President - Rosa Vera Fund

Paula Lalinde PhD, Trip writer
CEO, Nothing Trumps Hope, Miami, Florida

FUNDRAISERS



Art Auction Fundraiser, Bisbee, AZ, February, 2010
Hosted by artists Toni Sodersten, Walt West & Jill Japan



Home of Lisa Hunt
Phoenix, AZ, March, 2010

The Bubble Lounge
New York City, NY



Fountain Hills Charter School Trendsetters Club
2nd consecutive fundraiser, Fountain Hills, AZ

Informational evenings/fundraisers have proven to be instrumental in informing current benefactors about the use of their donations, as well as critical in reaching new donors. Formal and informal fundraisers are particularly important in raising crucial funding for our more expensive yet vital interventions.

The RVF is indebted to the following people for opening up their home or business to host an event, and for covering all associated expenses. Thank you to each of you!

EVENT HOSTS

Emmanuelle Chiche, The Bubble Lounge
Fountain Hills Charter School
Lisa Hunt
Jill Japan & Walt West
Anna Lee, Family, Friends &
St. Paul Chong Ha Sang Catholic Church

"I feel that every cent that I raise for the RVF has a 'pebble in the pond' effect, creating a ripple that really does reach unknown shores."

Jill Japan, who hosted a RVF event that raised over \$3500

THE ROSA VERA FUND - YEAR FIVE BENEFACTORS

\$5000+

Gould Family Foundation
Karen Melk & Timothy Johnson⁵
The Vincent McColm Family⁴

\$2500-4999

Julia Lange-Kessler
Adam & Taunya Mizel³

\$1000-2499

Susan Brunson
Anne Marie & Steve Feyrer-Melk⁵
Alison Fisher²
Guillermo Gutierrez⁵
Cecile Haw
Augustine & Anna Lee⁵
Thomas & Teresa Lee⁵
Jonathan & Yang Yi Lee-Melk⁵
Michele McColm⁴
Cecilia Oh²

\$500-999

Arturo Brito³
Paxton Barnes & Andrew Schiff
Sloane & Danielle Bouchever
Eileen & Henry Carrier²
Randy & Amy Christensen⁵
John Crowe & Julie Fry⁴
David & Trisha Ebertowski⁴
Jill Japan & Walt West²
Michael & Macon Jessop
A.J. Khaw
Steve & Kathy Lindstrom⁴
George & Darlene Melk⁵
Joseph Moore³
Michele & Ben Scott³
Renee & Peter Skiba⁵
Paul Stillwell³
Women & Children's Hope Foundation

\$250-499

April Alvarez-Corona & Tasha Stuart²
Dennise Eidem
Fountain Hills Charter School Trendsetters²
John & Ninfa Hartley⁴
Jeannine Kiely & Jeffrey McMillan²
Tina Manis & Bruce Fisher⁴
Darlene & Shandon Ray²
Alan Shapiro
Dolores A Seliga
Talmage and Danae Shill
Lori Silverbush
Amy Sirot & Mark Zimet³
Vera Smith³
Dawn Stecher & Matt Barcellona⁴
Laura Sweet & Gabriel Ledesma³

\$100-249

David & Frances Areghini
Elizabeth & Sean Armstrong
Calvin Arnason²
Peggy Avina & John Charley
Jaya Aysola
Dan & Carole Beauchamp
Bell Donnelly Architects & Planners
Leonardo & Norma Brito
David & Nancy Brodkin⁵
Carrie & Eric Cacioppo⁴
MA Caffarelli⁵
Colleen McFarlin Chadsey
Kipp Charlton⁵
Tris & Jennifer Coffin
Paula Colvin
Cody Conklin & Gabriel Aguilera²
Erin Cowhey & Matt Urbanski²
Susan Curley
Dolores Daly
Jane Davenport²
William & Kathleen Deering³
Cheryl A. Dickson
Sean & Megan Donahue⁵
Gary & Karen Ebertowski⁵

THE ROSA VERA FUND - YEAR FIVE BENEFACTORS

\$100-249 (cont.)

Todd R. Frank
Ora Fried⁵
Sylvia Garfinkle-Huff & Kevin Huff
Lisa Gelobter
Cynthia Godsoe²
Jennie Guerrero and Fernando Vazquez
Margaret Hartnett & Darrell Dixon
Khalid & Renu Hasan³
Sally Holcomb
Jennifer Johnson
John & Alice Johnson²
Jennifer Jordan and Eric Wood⁵
Hjordis Klein
Dave Lawrence
Wendy Lawson
Mandy LeBoeuf²
Julia Melk & Rob Vuillaume⁵
Jennifer Miller & Thomas French
Dale Newman
Don & Harriet Nickels²
Rosa Oh
Jerry & Crystal Olson
Stewart Osborne and Sarah Jefferys³
Mario and Mayade Padrino
Judy Park
Carlos & Brenda Peña²
Caroline & Richard Petersen³
Thomas & Meri Pollak³
Michele Prenoveau
Ginger Ryan & Matt Cook⁴
Denice Scantlin-Koch⁴
Kevin & Judy Shaffer³
Michael Shaffer
Jane Stageberg³
Philip Stefanov³
C Gordon Terpening & Kim Torian Terpening
Mark Travassos⁴
Sharon Travis²
Marc & Maureen Trzepla²
Jenny Wall
Wayne & Nikki Weber²

Charles Whelan, Jr.
Cindy & Devin Wenig
Trisha Wong⁵
Lucille Zimet²

\$10 - 99

Thomas & Carole Abbott
Francine Andersen
Judith & Michael Anderson²
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Anonymous
Richard & Becky Bagley
Joel Beer⁴
Maria Bejarano³
Kate Bishop
Charlene Brown & Robert Kaplan⁴
Rachael Brown³
The Bubble Lounge
Justin Burke & Erin Kelly³
Linda Castrilli & Steve Zimet³
Emmanuelle Chiche
Roger Childers
Lisa Cohen²
Marguerite Conners
Christine Corcoran²
Irene Cornejo³
William & Catherine Creamer
Christopher & Sharon Cunniff
Nadia & Tim Day²
Andrew & Angelique Ferayorni⁵
Maria Lourdes Fernandez²
Lori Fineman
Robert & Marian Fish³
Mr. & Mrs. Andrew Fitch³
Mimi Graham
Jeffrey & Julie Grayson
Everett & Ruth Gruber²
Sara Haines
Nancy Hament²
Rose Hamway²

THE ROSA VERA FUND - YEAR FIVE BENEFACTORS

\$10 - 99 (cont.)

Thomas & Carol Homan
Jolene C. Imperial
Ronnie Londner
Carey Johnson
Richard & Karen Johnson⁴
Jennifer Kay Kabrud
Vrinda Khanna
Julie King³
Amy Laffey
Alena Marajh²
Steve McLure³
Mary McKenna
Susan Merz-Parker
Brian & Melissa Moody
John Muhm⁴
Julie Myers⁴
Paula & Howard Myers⁵
Keith & Rebecca Naas
Tammy Naranjo³
Nadine Needle
Karen Ann Pandiani
Robert Pennington
Janice Piatt
Elma Pierre
Betty Prime²
Enrique & Joscelynn Raigosa
Kelly Rigney²
Karla Rothstein³
Lisa Russell
Barbara & John Ryder²
Ingrid Ryer & Stephan Potthoff³
Jessica Safran
Donna Sauer
Jennifer Scanlon
Ellen Sirot & Peter Pucci³
Margaret Sirot³
Doug & Heidi Skiba⁴
Mary Smith³
Danny Stoeller
The A. Dunham Workshop LLC
Sylvia Wehrle

Jeffrey Weiss⁵
Dylan Westfeldt & Stephanie Maynadier

= Years of RVF Support

Corporate Matching

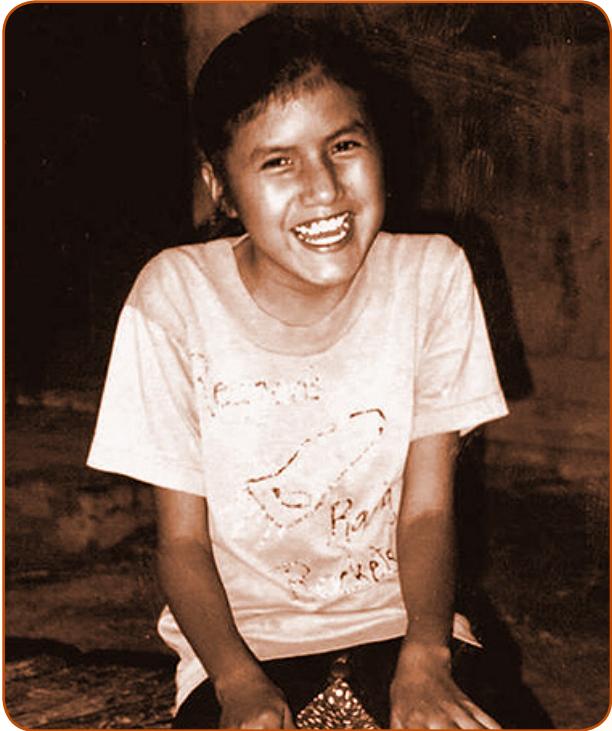
Corporate matches are a powerful means to double your contribution to the RVF. We wish to thank the following individuals for making this extra effort.

- John Crowe/ JP Morgan Chase & Co.
- Alison Fisher/ Merck Partnership for Giving
- Steve McLure/ Citi Foundation



*For further information about the Rosa Vera Fund and the use of your donation, please visit **WWW.ROSAVERAFUND.ORG***

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY



Rosa Vera Marino
January, 1992 - May, 2003

"Without hope you have nothing. Hope was a recurring theme, for me and for the families I visited during my week as a volunteer with the Rosa Vera Fund. Training, mentoring, formal education and financial support [for Community Health Workers] are a powerful combination. The transformation in the personal lives of the Community Health Workers will also be realized in the lives of the children and families they serve. Hope is often elusive, but this volunteer left hopeful."

*Excerpt from essay "Keeping Hope Alive"
by Paula Lalinde, RVF Volunteer*

In Honor Of

Karina Becerra (numerous dedications)
Bee Reading Program
Daniel Belltaylor
Dr. Carrie Cacioppo (numerous dedications)
The Christmas Holiday
Keelan and Donavyn Doyle
Maria Fernanda (several dedications)
Eric and Elissa Fisher
John and Susan Fisher
Dr. Lisa Hunt (numerous dedications)
Julia Kaplan
Bernie and Ruth Khaw
Ryan O'Toole
Alice Prenoveau
Dr. Darlene Ray (numerous dedications)
Lisa Russell
Emma Safran Lachnit
Judie Shaffer's birthday (several dedications)
Helen Stageberg
Sarah Waterson and Charles Stone
Sidney & Eloise Westfeldt

In Memory Of

Philippe Nicholas Merzius, Jr.
Julius Schwartz
Marvin Sirot
Jimmy Stageberg
Rosa Vera

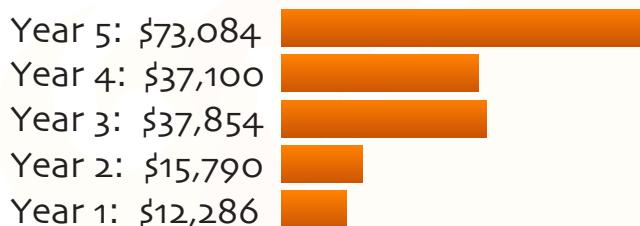
RVF YEAR FIVE (FY'10) FINANCIAL REPORT

Fiscal Information

The RVF had a remarkable fundraising year! This was in part due to an outpouring of support for our two special pediatric cases. As in prior years, the large majority (91%) of our funds were gifted from individuals and families.

The RVF remains fiscally conservative, maintaining about \$15,000 in an interest-bearing reserve fund in case of emergency need or a future shortfall.

Donations



Benefactors



Approved Budget for FY 2011

Highlights of the FY 2011 budget include an increased emphasis on pediatric cases, as well as an increase in scholarship funds for Community Health Workers. The overall operating budget has been increased.

Pediatric Cases:	\$15,800
Community Health Worker Program:	12,200
Scholarships:	4,000
Contingency:	4,000
TOTAL	\$36,000

Special Pediatric Cases

The RVF took on two critical pediatric cases this past year that have incurred significant costs. Although a sizable investment for our small organization, the cases are compelling and brought our organization back to the heart of why the RVF was founded to begin with.

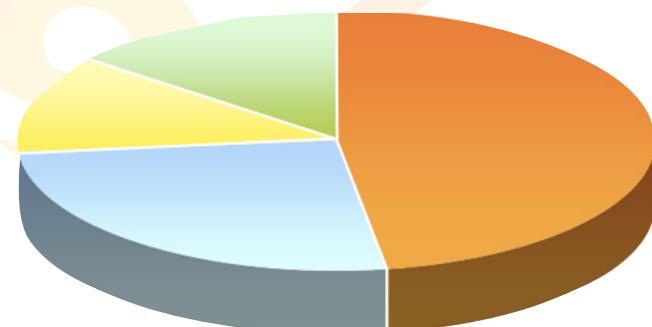
These funds and associated expenses are managed in addition to our general budget. See pages 4–5 to learn more about these very special children.

Maria (chemotherapy)	\$11,691
Karina (kidney transplant)	\$6,985
TOTAL (Approximate Expenses)	\$18,676

(Jan 10 - Oct 10)

Year 5 (FY'10) Program Expenses

Community Health Worker Program:	\$17,089
Pediatric Cases:	\$8,324
Scholarships:	\$3,842
Special Pediatric Cases:	\$4,539
TOTAL	\$ 33,794



ABOUT US / HOW TO DONATE

ABOUT THE ROSA VERA FUND

The Rosa Vera Fund, Inc. (RVF) is a grassroots non-profit 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization whose programs are based in the impoverished region of Montero, Bolivia, operating in partnership with the respected Bolivian nonprofit organization Rural Andean Health Counsel (El Consejo de Salud Rural Andino). The mission of the RVF is to facilitate preventive, medical, and educational interventions for children and opportunities for health workers that would not otherwise be possible.

Each donation to the RVF is divided among the three fundamental goals of the organization: medical/social interventions for children, employment opportunity for health workers, and education.

A portion of each donation provides preventive and curative care for children with special healthcare needs. Another portion is spent on empowering local women and men by training them to serve as healthcare workers within their own community. Scholarship funds are available for motivated health workers to advance themselves professionally.

Please feel free to contact any of our board members directly for any questions or ideas you may have.

With Gratitude,

Jonathan Lee-Melk MD, President

RVF BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Paxton Barnes
Tina Manis
Karen Melk
Amy Sirot
Laura Sweet

RVF OFFICERS

Darlene Ray MD, Chief Medical Officer
Tina Travis CPA, Chief Financial Officer

E-mail: rosaverafund@gmail.com

HOW TO DONATE

1) CREDIT CARD

Go to www.rosaverafund.org and follow prompts.

2) CHECK

Make check out to 'Rosa Vera Fund' and mail to:
Rosa Vera Fund
614 Arizona Street
Bisbee, AZ 85603

All donations are tax deductible to the full extent of the law, and documentation will be provided by the RVF to you for this purpose.

The RVF is a volunteer-run organization and operates via generous donations of time, expertise and money. In addition, CSRA also donates administrative services. Administrative costs are minimal and are covered by RVF board members, earned interest, and corporate matches. Therefore, your contribution is utilized directly for our programs.

Your generosity is deeply appreciated. Thank you.





The Rosa Vera Fund
614 Arizona Street
Bisbee, AZ 85603