



January 1, 2018

To All HOPE *worldwide* Volunteers to Central America:

HOPE *worldwide* is a faith-based, non-profit charity, with the mission of bringing hope and changing the lives of the poor and vulnerable around the world. We cannot possibly fulfill this mission without the ongoing partnership of willing volunteers, like all of you, who join with HOPE *worldwide* year after year. Since the first HOPE *worldwide* Community Service Mission (CSM) Brigade in January 2010, we have worked side-by-side with the dedicated HOPE *worldwide* staff and volunteers in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua and El Salvador, to bring relief from the debilitating, and in some cases, life-threatening effects of poverty and disease for thousands of needy individuals.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to each and every one of you for giving generously of your time and your personal resources in order to help meet the needs of those much less fortunate than ourselves. As members of a HOPE *worldwide* CSM Brigade TEAM in Central America, you are helping to provide high-quality, medical and dental care for hundreds of men, women, and children living in extreme poverty. In many cases, the families we serve in Central America, including our church family, survive on under \$300 per month; therefore, accessing quality medical and dental care is a luxury they cannot otherwise afford.

You are very likely aware that a primary reason our neighbors in Central America are in great need, is that they are struggling daily to overcome the devastation and impact of years of civil & political unrest. And unfortunately, modern day Central America is still at war, battling with the crimes inflicted by drug cartels conducting the 'business' of trafficking drugs through their countries from South America to the United States. This has been ongoing for many years, but because of the decision made by the Peace Corps a couple of years ago, to withdraw its volunteers from Honduras, we felt it was wise and prudent to bring this reality to your attention.

As we enter our 9th year conducting CS Brigades in Central America, we are very grateful to report that no Team members have been victimized by a single criminal incident. And of course, we take every precaution, because safety of our volunteers is our number one priority! But, please take this very real risk under serious advisement & consideration, discussing it with your family and trusted friends. And if after having done so, you make a decision to remain a CS Mission Brigade TEAM member please read and sign the attached waiver, and return to us via fax or email at your earliest convenience.

Whatever you decide, please rest assured, we remain grateful for your generous desire to partner with HOPE *worldwide* to serve the poor around the globe!

Sincerely,

Walter J. Kotkowski
Vice President
HOPE *worldwide*
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