

Brazos Abiertos Newsletter

October/November, 2007



BRAZOS
ABIERTOS

Brazos Abiertos Mission Statement

Brazos Abiertos, Inc. (BAI) is a Texas-based non-profit 501c3 organization (Fundación BAI, A. C. in México) whose mission is to understand the level of HIV infection in Mérida, Yucatán, México and surrounding villages, improve access to healthcare for those already infected, decrease the spread of sexually transmitted diseases including HIV, and educate the local community about HIV and the people who are infected. Our website is www.brazosabiertosyucatan.com.

Brazos Abiertos Upcoming Events

Mérida, Yucatán, México

Mérida Board Meeting October 28, 2007

The Brazos Abiertos Board of Directors meets eight times a year. Seven of the board meetings are held in Houston, Texas, and one is held in Mérida, México. This year's board meeting in Mérida will be held on Sunday, October 28th, at the home of Board Secretary Jose Angel Solis Pacheco. If you are interested in attending this meeting, email us for more information at brazosabiertos@sbcglobal.net.

event finale will be at the home of Paul Ziegler and Samuel Barrera on Avenida Reforma.



If you would like more information about hosting or attending a dinner, please contact the Brazos office at brazosabiertos@sbcglobal.net, Suzanne Larimer at willandsuzanne@yahoo.com, or Sam Woodruff and George Fischer at georgefischerarroyo@yahoo.com. If you are interested in being a host, please come to our meeting at the home of John Truax Calle 74 # 489 x 57 y 59-A (red house) on Friday, December 7th at 6:30 p.m. All funds raised for this event will go to Oasis de San Juan Dios, A. C. AIDS shelter to help with their general expenses.



Dinner with Friends, 2007

Second Annual Dinner with Friends January 19, 2008

Hosts for the *Dinner with Friends* event invite any number of guests to their home for dinner. Each guest contributes a suggested donation to Brazos Abiertos of \$200 pesos per person. Brazos supplies all necessary information and support to host a dinner while hosts supply the food and drink. After dinner all guests gather at one location for the *Champagne & Dessert Finale*. Again this year the



Brazos Abiertos Educational Outreach Program

TEAMM Texas

During the summer, the group went through an intensive HIV/AIDS training program conducted by Gordon Crofoot, M.D., one of Houston's leading HIV/AIDS physicians, and Barbara Walker of Legacy, the HIV clinic of Houston. In August, members of TEAMM Texas 2007-2008 came to the Yucatán to conduct a workshop with 33 young people for five days. Special thanks to Hacienda Sotuta de Peón for their support. The hacienda hosted a party on the last day of the workshop for the 12 members of TEAMM Texas and all workshop participants.



Members of TEAMM Yucatán
on the Hacienda Sotuta de Peón train

TEAMM Yucatán

Members of TEAMM Yucatán live in Komchen and surrounding villages and range in age from 12 to 21. They were selected because they are leaders in their schools, villages and communities. Group members said they want to attend universities and pursue professional careers. Culturally they are encouraged to marry young, raise a family, and stay in the village, so many of these young people face obstacles from their families and villagers.



Members of TEAMM Yucatán relaxing after a swim
in a cenote at the Hacienda Sotuta de Peón

Upcoming Educational Programs

LOCATION:
Yucatán, México

October 2007 Workshop

Brazos Abiertos will conduct a Safe Sex / HIV workshop at the high school in Komchen on October 29, 30 and 31. 94 students will attend three two-hour sessions. Members of TEAMM

Yucatán will be assisting with the workshop. Locals Dr. Benjamín Ramírez, Grace Quaglio, Luis Oces, Carlos Camara, Sandy Kazim and Cristina Villafane will be the facilitators. Brazos is very grateful to them for their help and support. Educational Outreach volunteers Susan Rule, Sally Russ and Chris O'Niell, all from Houston, will coordinate the workshop together with Brazos staff.

January 2008 Workshop

TEAMM Texas will return to Mérida January 4 – 6 to work with TEAMM Yucatán. The purpose of this three-day intensive workshop is to give TEAMM Yucatán the tools to become mentors and to further assist Brazos in their outreach education programs in the villages.

Summer 2008 Workshop

The workshop will be conducted in the village of Komchen. The program will incorporate formal education about HIV/AIDS, proper condom usage, and other sexual education components using role-playing, vocabulary games, short plays, and word association games. The teaching goal is to give the young Mayas the tools necessary to protect themselves from AIDS and STDs. TEAMM Texas will be working with TEAMM Yucatán to educate and spread the information about AIDS and STDs.

LOCATION:
Houston, Texas

Yearlong Lecture Series

From September, 2007, to September, 2008, Brazos Abiertos, along with other Houston-based AIDS organizations, will be sponsoring a four-part lecture series to be held in Houston, Texas. The topics of

the lectures will be HIV in the Yucatán. Dr. Gordon Crofoot will present two of the lectures. The other speakers will be Father Rual Lugo and Sandy Kazim. The purpose of the series is to make Houstonians aware of the HIV crisis that the US's closest neighbor is facing, similar to that which occurred in the US in the eighties.



Dr. Gordon Crofoot

The first lecture of the Brazos series was presented September 12, 2007 by Dr. Crofoot on the beautiful backyard patio of Bill and Sally Russ of Houston. The event was attended by 75 people.

Second Annual Wine Tasting and Luxury Silent Auction Mérida, Yucatán, México

Brazos Abiertos would like to thank all the companies and persons who volunteered their time and talent to ensure the success of this event.

Event Underwriters

Villa @ Merida Boutique Hotel & Restaurant	Undurraga Winery
José Ángel Solís	Covi Wine
Yucatán Today	Alerfin
Grupo Rivas	Cascadas de Merida B & B
González Byass	

Events Committee

George Fischer Arroyo
Ellyne Basto
Suzanne Larimer
Nita Lindley

Grace Quaglio
Giovanna Marchant
Michell De Void Molina
Chris O'Niell

Susan Rule
Sally Russ
John Truax
Sam Woodruff

Special Thanks

Dr. Carlos Cabrera
 Luca Cutun
 La Iguana Blanca
 Andrea Mier y Terán
 Benjamín Ramírez
 Casa Sirena, Isla Mujeres
 Casa Esperanza, Merida
 Hotel Casa del Balam, Merida
 David Lewis
 Jerry Young
 Fashion VIP
 Merida Insider
 Bob & Sally Wintheiser
 José Ricardo Carvajal Loaza
 Judy Abbott Mier y Turan
 Julieta Barrera Martínez
 Mitch Keenan
 Grace Quaglio
 Ben Fitznar
 Karen Hunter
 Steven Broin
 Mena Ramón
 Pete Gallego
 Hacienda Petac
 Chuck & Dev Stern
 Elliot Diaz
 Hacienda Sotuta de Peón
 Morine Salomon
 Agua Azul B & B, Huatulco
 Andrés & Elisa Pánico
 Mercer Cigars
 Deb & Jeff Simpson
 Luna del Oriente
 Barbara Callahan
 Holland Hotel Lofts, Texas
 Alexei Quintal
 Casa Alexei
 Pilar Cámara
 Casa del Sol al Sol, Isla
 Mujeres

Manuel May Tilan
 Gerardo Espejo
 Darrell Dancey
 Victoria House, Belize
 Casa Encantada, Antiqua
 La Villa, Huatulco Oaxaca
 Arte Mayab
 Malena Peón
 Alfredo Cruz Ramirez
 Barbara Mc Clatchie
 Galería In La'Kech
 Carlos Jiménez
 Mikael Redman
 Life Long Learning
 Richard & Brooke Gazer
 Joanna & Jorgé Rosado
 Casa Catherwood
 Paula Sievert
 Galeria Merida
 The Flower House
 Jorge Aguilar Gongora
 Katrin Schikora
 Arte y Diseno en Ceramica
 Merida Farms
 David Eschel
 Lancaster Group Houston
 Janet Wollam
 Jim & Ellen Fields
 Michell De Void Molina
 Denis Bouchard
 Villa Maria Hotel & Restaurant
 Octavio Monsalve
 Johann Teifenthaler
 Charlie Paredes
 Britta Krings
 David Abari
 Evonne Von Boeck
 Sergio Terrazas Ramos
 Claudette Flury de Terrazas
 Linda & Keith Newell
 Judith Escalante

Yucatán Living
 Andrew Pánico
 Georgia Charuhas
 Kai Delvandahl
 Valeria García Vierna
 Librería Amate Books
 Hotel Zamna
 Pam & Arnie White
 Naldo Sterling Jewelry
 Galería Tataya
 Francois Valcke
 Gerardo Martínez
 Terrence Jon Dyck
 Dreamwoods by David
 Sarah Jaffe
 Merida Pilates
 Herman Duarte
 Víctor A Cruz Domínguez
 Estilo Yucatán
 Wilberth & Ellyne Basto
 Jim & Dawn Cuttis
 Ángeles de Merida B & B
 John & Melissa Rogers
 Dr. Danny & Kim De Graff
 David Sterling
 Keith Heitke
 Los Dos Cooking School
 Gina Watson
 Louis Navaer
 Panchos Restaurant
 La Tratto Restaurant
 Trotters Restaurant
 Wayne Trotter
 Barbara & John Gilles
 Raymond Branham
 Bertha Sula Señalada
 Braver Corporation
 Tecnología Turística Total
 Collage Tourism
 Casa Internacional Merida
 Carmen Gomez Rul



The list of October 10, 2007. Si su nombre no se encuentra en esta lista, le pedimos una disculpa y agradeceríamos nos notificara, para poder hacer la corrección.

Brazos Abiertos Clinic

Funds from the **Second Annual Wine Tasting and Luxury Silent Auction** will be used to pay for the shipping of \$500,000 USD worth of medical supplies which have been donated to Brazos Abiertos by Medical Bridges. For more information about Medical Bridges, check their website at www.medicalbridges.org. The medical supplies will be used to outfit and supply the Brazos Abiertos free HIV clinic in Mérida. Renovation of the clinic started but is currently on hold, awaiting permits.



On the left is the future site of the Brazos Abiertos free HIV clinic in Mérida



Artist rendering of the renovated HIV clinic adjacent to the Ministry of Health

Brazos Abiertos, Inc. Board of Directors

Board President

Gordon Crofoot, MD, Houston, Texas

Vice President & Advancement Director

John Truax, Mérida, Yucatán

Board Secretary

Jose Angel Solis Pacheco, Houston, Texas

Brazos Abiertos, Inc. Advisory Board

Ellyne Basto, George Fischer, Suzanne Larimer
Nita Lindley, Chris O'Niell and Sam Woodruff

Events Committee

Ellyne Basto, George Fischer, Suzanne Larimer
Nita Lindley, Giovanna Marchant,
Michell De Void Molina,
Sally Russ, John Truax and Sam Woodruff

Educational Outreach

Sally Russ, Houston, Texas

Medical Coordinator

Jane Kavanagh, Houston, Texas

Finance

Sherrie Reinhackel, Houston, Texas

Long Range Planning Committee

Steve Lock, Sherrie Reinhackel
Jose Angel Solis Pacheco and John Truax

Educational Outreach Committee

Gordon Crofoot MD, Holly Del Junco, Jane Kavanagh
Nita Lindley, Winston Nguyen, Chris O'Niell
Susan Rule, Sally Russ and Barbara Walker