



# Action for Health in the Americas

November 28, 2011

Dear Friend:

As a generous person, I'm sure you are inundated with requests for your support, especially during the holiday season. So I appreciate you even taking the time to open this letter from Action for Health in the Americas (AHA)!

I'd like to take this opportunity to explain a little more about how AHA works with Educación Popular en Salud (EPES) to ensure that any donation you make through AHA will have the **maximum** impact on the communities that EPES works with.

AHA was incorporated as a non-profit organization in 2005 to serve as a way to promote the work of EPES to our friends in the U.S., and to receive and transfer directly to EPES tax-deductible donations from our U.S.-based supporters. Since then, AHA has strengthened its organizational capabilities and has set a fundraising goal in 2011 of \$100,000.

AHA is an all-volunteer organization. AHA's Board consists of individuals whose lives have been touched by EPES and are committed to furthering EPES's mission and work in Chile and throughout Latin America. While balancing full-time jobs, family and personal responsibilities, and geographic dispersion, we manage to keep AHA going.

Board members volunteer to write, print and send informational material, receive and process donations, maintain databases, manage the AHA website, and, most importantly, tell you about the wonderful work EPES does. The costs of printing and mailing are covered through in-kind donations by Board members.

Because of this commitment, almost all (minus minor financial fees) of a donation you make to Action for Health in the Americas will make its way to EPES, whose staff itself has made significant sacrifices in salary and benefits in the last few years to meet budgetary shortfalls. They all devote time and energy well above and beyond that which would normally be expected. **The commitment and skill of the EPES staff is phenomenal, and reflected in the amazing number of activities and accomplishments you will read about in the enclosed EPES Update.**

I hope that this brief explanation of how AHA and EPES maximize every dollar we receive helps you see how much of a difference even a \$10 donation can make. EPES has been able to succeed, even though it has struggled at times, for the last 29 years. AHA plans to ensure this success continues well into the future. Please help AHA reach our goal of \$100,000 by the end of 2011!

With warmest wishes for a peaceful and safe holiday season and a very happy new year!

Christina Mills, MD, FRCPC  
President, Action for Health in the Americas



Promoting Health, Hope and Healing

c/o Prince of Peace  
Lutheran Church

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