

MAMA News

January - February 2013



Photo: Brenna Benner

Jenny teaches the women at the Nutrition Center about the importance of children growing healthy. Jenny's family's story is featured in this MAMA News.

MAMA Project

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(Women Friends-Miles Apart)

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MAMA News is a bimonthly newsletter that provides updates about MAMA Project, Inc.'s programs and service to communities in Honduras, Haiti, and Nigeria.

The *MAMA News* is available for free to anyone who would like to receive it.

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Wilson & Jenny Tell About Their Experience with MAMA Project in Honduras

Around 2000, Wilson was working in the coffee fields and was barely making enough money for their family to survive. They had two sons at the time and knew that their lack of finances prevented them from providing the necessities for their family.

When Wilson & Jenny's second son was about 9 months old they knew that he was very sick and needed help. Wilson had an uncle that lived in San Francisco de Yojoa (where the MAMA Nutritional Rehabilitation Center is located). Also, one of the fields where Wilson worked was close to San Francisco and he had learned about the Center. Wilson urged Jenny to take their son to the Center to get help. Jenny took both her oldest son, Elieser, and the sick child, Hesar. They stayed at the Center for some time before Hesar was well enough to return home.

By 2009, Wilson and Jenny had two more sons, Abieser and Manases. Manases was born premature and spent the first few months of his life at a hospital in Santa Barbara. Shortly after he was discharged, Wilson and Jenny brought him to the MAMA Center because he was severely malnourished. At 3 months old he weighed only 8 pounds. After only one month at the Center, receiving proper nutrition and health care, he weighed a little over 11 lbs.

As with each family that comes to the Nutrition Center, our MAMA Staff gets to know them closely and learn more about the living conditions each family has. Marina works the most with the families as the Center cook and teacher. Marina teaches the mothers different lessons about healthy hygiene and living each day. She teaches the mothers about putting micronutrient powder into their food, growing a garden, the importance of hand-washing and so much more.

Each time Wilson & Jenny would need to receive help at the Nutrition Center, Marina would notice Jenny's initiative to help wherever necessary and learn as much as she was able. Jenny remembers Marina acting as her mentor, taking her aside one of the times at the Center to show her how to clean her house, take care of the food properly, the menu at the Center, and more. Marina saw that Jenny had a lot of potential to be a good help and then Jenny was always a quick learner.



*Wilson & Jenny with their four children
(Left to Right) Elieser (13), Manases (3), Abieser (8), and Hesar (12)*

Photo: Brenna Benner

Shortly after seeing the potential in Jenny, Marina talked with Hector, the MAMA Director in Honduras, about the possibility of hiring her to cover Marina's leave time (one week a month). Hector agreed and Jenny began to work with MAMA Project in January 2010 for one week each month.

Jenny states that the blessings began to overflow into their lives. While interviewing her, Jenny got very emotional talking about how MAMA has helped them through the years.

Jenny would stay at the Center for her week with all four children. On one Sunday, Wilson came to visit the family and it happened to be at the same time that Dr. Herman Sagastume, MAMA's Field Director, was at the Center in Honduras. Wilson and Dr. Herman talked about their experience with MAMA. Shortly after that the Center was able to offer Wilson a job as well, as assistant in maintenance, working alongside Felix. Wilson's work includes preparing for the teams that are visiting, working with the mothers at the Center in the garden and animal care, and fixing anything around the Center that needs to be fixed.

Without the support of MAMA, Wilson and Jenny would not have been able to move their family to San Francisco de Yojoa and



Photo: Brenna Benner

Wilson (middle) working with a visiting team, cementing the floor of a home.



Photo: Brenna Benner

(Top) Jenny shows many of the mothers at the Center how to crochet.

(Bottom) Wilson shows a community about the MAMA water filtration system.



provide for the family the way that they can. MAMA often helps with giving the boys school supplies, clothes, and shoes.

Jenny has stated that it has been an honor to work for MAMA Project because it is a place that has blessed many families. Jenny can relate to the mothers that come to the Center to receive treatment for their families since she, too, was in their position not too long ago. She enjoys getting to know the mothers, teaching them about how to take care of their children, how to cook and, even, how to crochet.

Wilson will tell anyone who asks that the whole process, as difficult as it has been at times, has been a gift from God. Everything has worked out perfectly. Often times thinking about the past, he feels overwhelmed with how everything has happened. MAMA Project has opened the doors to change their lives and the entire family feels blessed.

MAMA Project also feels blessed to have Wilson and Jenny as part of the Staff family over the past three years. The two of them always work their hardest and with a big smile on their face.

THANK YOU!

Last year MAMA Project celebrated our 25th Anniversary! We had asked you to consider making a donation in honor of our Anniversary. We were amazed to receive so many responses and encouraging notes from donors. Thank you for your appreciation! **We would not be able to do our work without the financial resources and prayers that you supply.** Below, please read a few words describing reasons why some people support our work.

It's a very needy work. We have too much and they don't have enough. ~Mary, Souderton, PA

*We believe in what you are doing and know that 100% of our donation will be used wisely.
~Richard & Sylvia, Green Lane, PA*

*Serving with MAMA was life changing! I no longer think of myself as just a citizen of the USA, but as a citizen of the Human Race! It was an opportunity to see through God's eyes and feel His presence. 100% incredible!
~Lindsay, Sparta, NJ*

Our annual trips to work and serve others in Honduras are opportunities to deepen our reliance on God, find joy in His work, getting priorities in order and enjoy friendships with team members and Honduran friends. We gain lots more than we give! ~Jake & Barb, Quakertown, PA

*As a volunteer on 3 mission trips to Honduras with my church, I know how great the needs are and how grateful the wonderful Honduran people are. They thank God for the small blessings which they have. The work of MAMA Project with child and family health is urgently needed.
~Janet, Glenside, PA*

It's not just one aspect of a mission trip that touches my heart. The MAMA Staff's commitment to bringing healing and hope to the surrounding communities is easily apparent. Working together as a team for God's glory is heart-warming. It's clearly visible to see the rehabilitation of malnourished children at the Nutrition Center. To see the impoverished and show them God's love is a privilege. And praying for God's healing to touch the sick and weak people is an honor. These are some of the many opportunities experienced during the week [in Honduras] that leaves me hungry for more of the same. ~Rhonda, Gilbertsville, PA

We were blessed when we were able to go to Honduras for one week. We went to bless them and we came home with their blessings on us! ~Bob & Mary Jane, Bethlehem, PA

I first learned about MAMA years ago when friends asked me to help make "Super Bars". It is a wonderful and very needed program. I have no children of my own and believe God calls us to share what we have with others at home and around the world. ~Anna Louise, Phoenixville, PA

This summer I went on a second mission trip under the auspices of MAMA. I have been impressed by the organization both in PA and Honduras. I have seen the results of the work that is done through your organization and how lives have been changed. My life is changed by participating in mission. ~Dianne, Balto, MD

I'm grateful MAMA Project is working to help improve the health of Honduran children and their families. May God guide you as you reach out to those in need. ~Alma S.

As a volunteer, I have seen first hand some wonderful changes in the health and well-being of the Honduran population. Heartwarming to see the number of Hondurans who now volunteer their time. ~Jane, Upper Black Edy, PA



Mark your calendars for
the upcoming
MAMA Project events:

March 23 - Team Orientation

www.mamaproject.org/orientation.html

June 7 - Golf Outing at Butter Valley Golf Port

www.mamaproject.org/PA.html

November 9 - Annual Banquet & Silent Auction



We are in need of more team members for the Mission Teams that are forming for the following weeks:

April 13-20

July 6-13

May 11-18

September 7-14

If you are interested in joining any of these teams, please contact Dr. Herman at mamaproject@enter.net or 215-679-4338.



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