

Dominican Republic  
April 13, 2007

Global Links' ninth container of 2007 went to Hospital Juan Pablo Piña, a 280-bed referral hospital in the San Cristobal region of Dominican Republic. This is the 25<sup>th</sup> container Global Links has sent to Dominican Republic since our program began there in 1998. Hospital Juan Pablo Piña serves over 400,000 people. While we have included some materials for them on previous shipments to the region, we were able to dedicate this entire container to this institution, which offers nearly all medical specialties.

When asked about the top needs were for his institution, director Dr. Rafael Cuduco responded, emphatically, "chairs and bedside stands." He went on to say: "Having bedside stands changes the whole feel of the room. It makes it feel clean and organized. Without them, patients' stuff is just thrown on the floor or around the room. It makes a real difference." His response demonstrates that sometimes the simplest of items can have an unimagined impact. This shipment included 27 matching bedside stands along with 18 chairs, 20 electric beds with mattresses, 2 gurneys, and 1 gynecological exam table.

Because Juan Pablo Piña attends over 600 births a month, and is the referral center for complicated pregnancies and newborns needing intensive care, the shipment also included two Hill-Rom Affinity birthing beds. In addition, the shipment contained over \$568,000 worth of pharmaceuticals to be distributed throughout the Dominican Republic's health system.

This container was sponsored by Dominican Republic electric company ITABO. Since 2003, ITABO has sponsored nine containers of medical materials to Dominican Republic. We hope our relationship with ITABO will continue for many years.