

Nicaragua

April 25, 2008

Global Links' tenth container for the year is headed to Managua, Nicaragua, and is the second shipment of materials this year that will benefit the national women's hospital in Nicaragua, Hospital Bertha Calderon.

On the first shipment to this hospital, we sent materials to improve their operating rooms and intensive care units, including six ICU Beds, two O.R. tables, and eight gurneys, along with many other important materials. The priorities for this second shipment were shifted to the labor and delivery wards. When we visited, the director fondly referred to this hospital as the largest "baby factory" in all of Nicaragua. It's easy to understand why when you learn that this hospital alone attends 1,000 births per month.

Due to heavy and constant use, and the perpetual lack of funds to replace them, the four delivery tables that they are using are all in poor condition and in desperate need of an upgrade. On this container, we were able to provide them with two fully functional delivery tables and two birthing beds to replace the old delivery tables. We were also able to include 29 electric beds with 29 mattresses on this shipment, providing the women there with a more comfortable space to rest and recover. Other materials on the shipment included two gynecological exam tables, one gurney, two equipment carts, three filing cabinets, an EKG and a defibrillator, and over 200 boxes of assorted medical supplies.

This shipment also contained 21 boxes of orthopedic surgical materials for an important surgical hospital in Managua, Hospital Roberto Calderon. Additionally, we were able to include nine boxes of medical journals that will go to the Medical School of the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua.

It is especially gratifying that this shipment will make such an improvement in the comfort and care of thousands of Nicaraguan women.