



Hospitalarios Antillanos



BOLETIN INFORMATIVO DE LA ASOCIACION CUBANA DE LA SOBERANA Y MILITAR ORDEN DE MALTA (R)

Elderly Support Centers in Cuba

SUMMARY

The Cuban Association of the Order of Malta funds fifty seven adult support centers, which provide over 700,000 meals per year to the indigent elderly in Cuba. These centers are managed by Catholic parish priests and their funding and management are completely independent of the government of Cuba. The Association also supports a retired priest's home, as well as several hospitals and similar institutions. In total, sixty four facilities in the Island.

We are seeking funds to expand the program. Each center will cost about \$5,000/year, and the number can be doubled in a very short time if funds are available.

THE ORDER OF MALTA



The Order of Malta is the oldest Christian charity of the Catholic Church, having been established in 1048 by Blessed Gerard. Since its humble beginnings in the Holy Land, this Order and its members have dedicated themselves to serving the poor and the sick, particularly in the area of health care.

This tradition of service is maintained today by the approximately 13,000 members and over 80,000 volunteers working in over 120 countries. It operates ambulance corps, blood banks, clinics, hospitals, refugee camps, and disaster relief operations.

Within the past year, the Order has been very active in Haiti, to assist with the earthquake relief efforts, through the combined support of Malteser International, its relief organization, and the Cuban Association's medical team.

Several groups of doctors, nurses and volunteers from our Association as well as from other countries, have been manning a medical facility at Leogane, Haiti, and will continue there for the foreseeable future. For more information, you can visit www.orderofmalta.org. (Continues on page 2)

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THE CUBAN ASSOCIATION OF THE ORDER OF MALTA

The Cuban Association was established in 1952. It was reorganized in Miami, Florida in 1990, where new activities were established for the poor and the elderly in cooperation with the local catholic church. Presently it has 113 Knights, Dames and Chaplains, including three living in Cuba.



Our volunteer doctors have served the San Juan Bosco parish clinic-Our Lady of Filermo- for many years; whose facilities were built with the Association's funds, and where the operating expenses were funded primarily by Mercy Hospital. Both the clinic's director and the director of specialists of the Clinic are members of our Association.

The Clinic examined over 6,000 undocumented aliens each year. From the same facilities we operated in conjunction with Catholic Legal Services of the Archdiocese of Miami, a legal clinic focused on immigration issues.

Our facilities were torn down as part of a parish rebuilding project in 2007, but today we have refurbished new facilities at San Juan Bosco Parish Church, where the program was re-established in 2008 with the active support of our local parish pastor and more than 120 volunteers. The "**Casita de Malta**" serves lunches twice a week to needy parishioners, with the help of our Association's members and volunteers. It also provides training in domestic trades for local women, and gives religious formation for the participants and their families.

The Cuban Association also conducts medical missions to the Dominican Republic and to other countries of the Caribbean and Central America. In a typical mission, five to ten doctors assisted by a similar number of nurses and other assistants will visit a medically under-served region and, within a three day period, provide between 1,500 and 2,000 medical visits to 750-1,000 patients. For more information, please visit www.ordendemaltacuba.org.

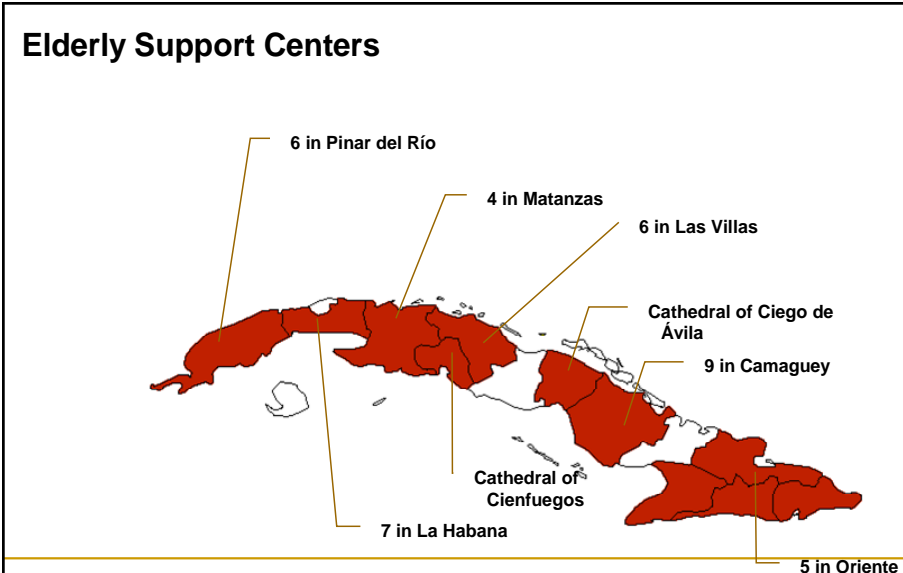
THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

We work closely with the Catholic Church in Cuba since 1996, currently funding sixty four elderly support centers, living facilities for retired priests, four hospitals and other institutions, including one which serves children suffering from Down's syndrome. These institutions deliver over 700,000 meals per year, primarily to the destitute elderly, and all services are rendered through parishes and other church operated and controlled institutions in Cuba. The catholic priests and local parish volunteers, more than 150, cooperate with this effort. We send more than \$190,000 annually in support of these centers.

Each elderly support center is staffed and supplied at a cost of approximately \$ 420/month, and allows for the provision of two meals per day to approximately 60 elderly every day, for a cost of about 24 cents per meal.

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Elderly Support Centers in Cuba (from page 2)



The members of the Cuban Association have provided the financial support up to the present, with help from members of the American Federal Association of the Order of Malta and the Asamblea Española de la SMOM.

The Association has complied with all Cuban Assets Control Regulations of the Department of the Treasury, and has obtained all necessary licenses.

Since 2007 the Cuban Association has had a Knight and a Dame in La Habana, working with

the catholic church and the local Embassy of the Order in support of our humanitarian efforts in Cuba.

As a consequence of hurricanes Gustav and Ike in 2008 some of centers in the Provinces of Holguin and Pinar del Rio suffered significant losses. Our Association was able to collect more than \$63,000 for the recovery and support of these centers through our annual fund raising efforts with the White Cross Ball and with the assistance of the Cuban American Bar Association and the Cuban American CPA Association.

With the beatification of Father Olallo last November 2008, one of our centers, located in the parish of Bejucal, was named after him. Some of our members were in attendance to that significant event for the Catholic Church in Cuba.

During 2009 and 2010 several American cardinals, bishops and Knights and Dames related to the Order of Malta and the Cuban Association have visited our elderly support centers and the other facilities which we support in Cuba.

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Elderly Support Centers in Cuba (from page3)

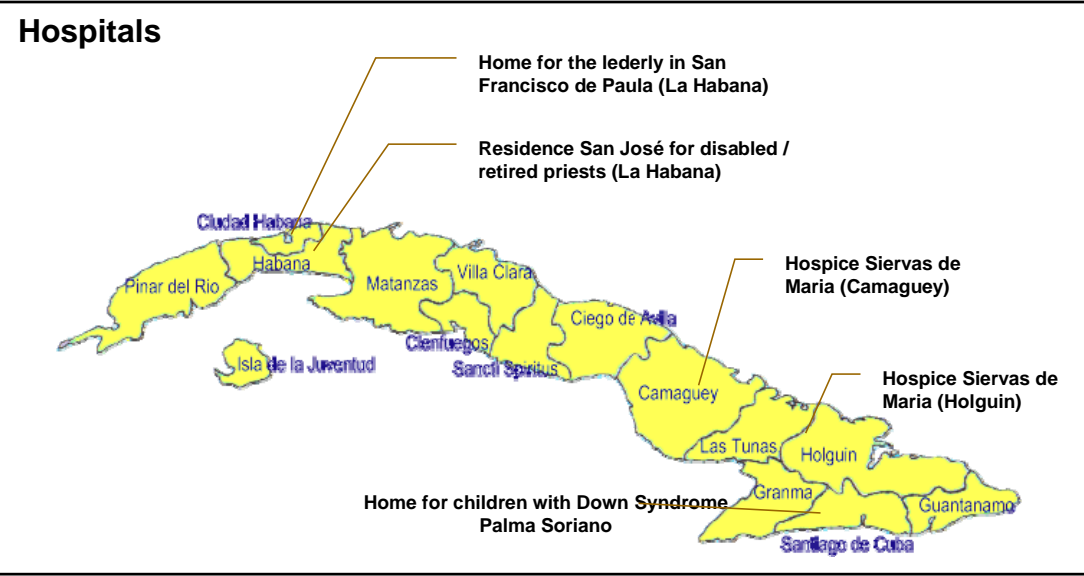
EXPANSION OF THE ASSOCIATION'S ACTIVITIES IN CUBA

The Association seeks funding to double the number of elderly support centers. We have established a program which provides much needed support to the indigent, without the Cuban government involvement, in a manner which can be readily expanded by increasing the number of

parishes providing this service, with minimal increase in administration.

Our experience of the last few years leads us to believe that the only difficulty in expanding this program lies in our ability to obtain committed funds of \$5,000/year per center for a three year period.

This would allow us time to develop other resources in the



event your organization's commitment could not be renewed for an additional three year period.

Another project we have started with the assistance of the Spanish Assembly of the Order is the assistance to people with diabetes in the Island. We plan to use Elderly Support Centers as a basis for a census of people with diabetes (triage) using 35 glucometers provided by our Hospitaller and already in the Island. In order to monitor these patients, we have purchased strips required to monitor glucose in 14,700 patients.

With the funds already provided by several benefactors of the Spanish Assembly, we have several months' supply of these strips, but our plan is to insure funding to continue this initial effort and later on to expand it to all of our current and future Elderly Support Centers, and to the hospices and home for the elderly which we support.

CONCLUSION

In making a contribution, your organization will be providing a basic need to an elderly population which has been denied so much, for pennies per meal. These programs are one of the few ways to assist the suffering people of Cuba in a direct and non-political manner.

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