

# THE CARTER CENTER



# NEWS

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The Carter Center/Mario Tapia

*Jimmy Carter, James Baker, and Oscar Arias examine presidential ballots during the Oct. 20 election in Nicaragua. The ballot included 24 candidates for president.*

## Democracy Prevails in Nicaragua's 1996 Presidential Election

It took a month and a mountain of recounted ballots before Nicaraguans had a new president.

Although the election was held on Oct. 20, Liberal Alliance candidate Arnoldo Aleman wasn't declared the victor until late November, marking the end of one of the most complex elections ever monitored and mediated by The Carter Center's Council of Freely Elected Heads of Government.

Leading the Council delegation were former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, former Costa Rica President Oscar Arias, former Ecuador President Osvaldo Hurtado, and former U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. The Council includes 27 current and former leaders from the Western Hemisphere who promote democracy, conflict resolution, and economic cooperation throughout the region.

"Our delegation was impressed by the high voter turnout and by the many party poll watchers and national and international observers who helped with the election," President Carter said. "Despite considerable administrative challenges and disputes over election results, the process concluded peacefully with the election of Arnoldo Aleman as the new president of Nicaragua."

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### In This Issue: Mental Health

The adage "there's strength in numbers" may hold the answer to improving mental health coverage for U.S. employees. See page 3.

# Waging Peace for the Public Good

Ten years ago this fall, The Carter Center moved from a small office at Emory University to its current home overlooking downtown Atlanta. At the dedication of the facilities, keynote speaker Warren Christopher said, "This Center has no object but the public good."

Those words were echoed by Emory President James Laney, who most recently



John Hardman, M.D.  
Executive Director

served as U.S. ambassador to South Korea: "The Carter Center will be a place where scholars and statesmen, in reflection and consultation, seek those things that make for peace. That surely is what the ultimate aim of

all our study and research should be—the well-being of peoples everywhere."

In reflecting on these words a decade later, it is gratifying to realize that the Center has not strayed from this mission of "waging peace." We certainly don't have all the answers, but our work has demonstrated there is a vital role for nongovernmental organizations like The Carter Center. Guided by a fundamental commitment to human rights, we've helped improve health, enhance freedom and democracy, and prevent and resolve conflict all over the world.

### Helping People Lead Healthier Lives

Ten years ago, for example, there were 3.5 million people infected with Guinea worm disease in 16 African countries, India, Pakistan, and Yemen. Today, thanks to our efforts and those of our many partners, there are fewer than 130,000 cases remaining. We're well on our way to making this only the second disease in history to be eradicated (the first was smallpox). We've also made progress in reducing the number of cases of river blindness and anticipate treating

more than 5 million people by the end of 1997.

Our health programs don't stop at preventing disease; we're also working to ensure that people have enough to eat. Since 1986, more than 600,000 production test plots have served to train African farmers to triple, even quadruple, their crop yields. With the help of the Center's Global 2000 Program, Ghana has become self-sufficient in food production, and Ethiopia's government has adopted our techniques nationally.

### Building Strong Democracies

Our efforts to promote freedom, particularly in Latin America, have helped usher in a new era of democracy in the region. In Haiti, a Carter Center delegation monitored the country's first democratic elections in 1990. Four years later, President Carter, accompanied by Sen. Sam Nunn and Gen. Colin Powell, successfully negotiated the departure of the military government, paving the way for the return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the peaceful entry of U.S. troops. In Nicaragua and Panama, where we've monitored elections twice, elected

leaders govern. In fact, in the Western Hemisphere today, only Cuba does not have a democratically elected leader.

Our conflict resolution efforts have taken Center staff to Bosnia, Estonia, Liberia, the Sudan, and a dozen other countries. In the Sudan, the Center negotiated the longest cease-fire ever implemented to fight disease. And in North Korea, President Carter was able to facilitate the opening of talks with the United States for the first time in half a century.

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It is gratifying to realize that the Center has not strayed from this mission of "waging peace."

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We've come a long way from that day in 1986 when President and Mrs. Carter stood on a grassy hillside, surrounded by friends and supporters, and pledged to make a difference in the world. Ten years from now and beyond, The Carter Center will still be waging peace—for the well-being of peoples everywhere. ■

## GDI Project Helps Guyana Chart Path for Sustainable Development

When Guyana's first democratically elected government in 28 years took power in 1992, it faced daunting challenges—including a high rate of poverty, a burdensome foreign debt, and a severely weakened social and physical infrastructure. With The Carter Center's assistance, Guyana's government began drafting a development strategy for long-term economic growth and social development. In January 1997, a draft of the National Development Strategy was released for public comment.

"The drafting process for this document has been one of the most participatory exercises anywhere, involving all sectors of society with an interest in the process," said Gordon Streeb, director of The Carter Center's Global Development Initiative (GDI). "It is an unprecedented approach to forming national development policy."

GDI was launched in 1993 to help countries like Guyana stimulate economic growth through more effective use of domestic and international resources, including foreign aid. The Carter Center has worked in Guyana since 1990 in preparation for the 1992 national elections, which were observed by an international delegation led

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# 'Strength in Numbers' May Hold Key to Improving Mental Health Care Coverage for U.S. Employees

The average American worker is grossly underinsured for mental health problems, but most businesses don't think they can afford to offer better coverage. The solution? According to Richard Frank, professor of health economics at Harvard Medical School, the adage "there's strength in numbers" may hold at least part of the answer.

Keynote speaker at the 12th Annual Rosalynn Carter Symposium on Mental Health Policy, Dr. Frank told the audience that if more firms banded together to create a large purchasing alliance, they could negotiate for lower prices and expanded policies. "Better mental health care is needed," he said, "because companies lose billions of dollars a year in decreased productivity from such conditions as stress, anxiety, and depression, which in turn can lead to serious physical illnesses."

workers, their families, and communities.

One example of what a company can do to improve mental health coverage for employees came from BellSouth Corp. The National Institute for Mental Health and the Employee Assistance Professionals Association presented a special recognition award to BellSouth just one week before the symposium.

"Our company has had a 'broad brush' employee assistance program for 20 years," said Terry McDevitt, who leads BellSouth's employee assistance team. "In recent years, we've recognized the need to expand and improve programs that deal specifically with mental health. Last year, we sponsored a toll-free 'Depression Hot Line' employees could call anytime over a one-month period."

Thousands of employees took advantage of the service. They also could get treatment referrals as needed.

important things we need in the mental health community, as we work for better coverage, is data that verifies that attending to the mental health of employees reduces absenteeism and turnover in jobs and enhances productivity and the quality of work produced." ■

## Forum Helps Families Overcome Obstacles to Mental Health Care

For years, Frank and Melanie Suggs searched for effective treatment for their son, Taylor. Now 17, Taylor battles manic depression and obsessive/compulsive disorder. "Barriers to quality treatment are a real problem," Frank said, "including finding out what resources are available and then figuring out how to pay for them."

To spare other families from similar experiences, Rosalynn Carter selected "The State of Mental Health Care: Improving Access for Georgians" as the topic of her second annual mental health forum held in October at The Carter Center.

As part of the event, the Center's Mental Health Program commissioned a statewide, household survey through the College of Family and Consumer Sciences at the University of Georgia. The results were encouraging, showing that nine out of 10 Georgians surveyed believe most mental illnesses can be treated successfully. "That is a huge step forward," Mrs. Carter said. "It was not very long ago that people thought of mental illness as a weakness of the will or bad parenting."

About 88 percent said they would knowingly employ or recommend someone for a job who had received mental health treatment. However, almost half said they would not want their employer to know if they were seeking help for mental illness. Lack of insurance coverage or the inability to pay for treatment was perceived to be the biggest obstacle facing those with mental illness, with stigma and fear of embarrassment viewed as the second. ■



"One of the most important things we need in the mental health community ... is data that verifies that attending to the mental health of employees ... enhances productivity and the quality of work produced."

—Rosalynn Carter,  
former First Lady

The November symposium, "Mental Health and Mental Illness in the Workplace: Healthy Employees/Healthy Companies," joined representatives of such major companies as Chrysler and Digital Equipment Corp. with mental health experts, consumers, and scholars from around the country. Together, they participated in panel discussions about how employers' decisions regarding mental health coverage affect businesses,

"The feedback helped employees recognize if they were dealing with just a case of the blues or a more serious level of depression," Dr. McDevitt said. "It's the type of program that helps keep sick days to a minimum and raises both productivity and corporate morale."

Such initiatives, and the positive results they yield, sum up the purpose behind the symposium. As Mrs. Carter told the audience, "One of the most



The Carter Center/Mario Tapia

On election day, voters lined up early—many before dawn—and waited patiently to cast their ballots at 9,000 polling stations across Nicaragua.

## Nicaraguan Elections

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After an early declaration of victory by Mr. Aleman with 10 percent of the ballots counted, the closest challenger, former Sandinista President Daniel Ortega, questioned the count's accuracy. Shuttling between Nicaragua President Violeta Chamorro, Mr. Ortega, Mr. Aleman, and election authorities, President Carter mediated an agreement for a process to review alleged irregularities in the ballot tallies sent from individual precincts to the Supreme Electoral Council.

"Immediately after the election, the general consensus among international observers was that, although there were flaws, the election largely reflected the preferences of the Nicaraguan people," said Robert Pastor, director of the Center's Latin American and Caribbean Program (LACP). "The Sandinistas made no allegations of fraud at that time, but they said they found some discrepancies between the results being published by the Supreme Electoral Council and

the vote tally sheets that were signed at the polls."

The 47 Carter Center delegates observed voting and ballot counting in 15 regions of the country. Within 24 hours of poll closings, an estimated 1,600 representatives of the international community, including those of the Organization of American States (OAS), European Union, and the U.S. government, were unanimous in their consensus that the elections were open and honest.

### Observers Extend Missions

But when questions were raised, The Carter Center and other observers extended their missions in Nicaragua until a ballot review was completed. Following an extensive but peaceful 19-day review and partial vote recount, 6 percent of the polling stations were annulled, an insufficient percentage to change the presidential election results.

"The willingness of the political parties and election authorities to pursue their concerns through legal channels was a positive step for Nicaragua. It will be important for the newly elected

legislature and election authorities to evaluate the electoral process and laws and make any necessary improvements before the next elections," said Jennifer McCoy, director of the Center's Nicaragua Election Monitoring Project.

The Carter Center has worked in Nicaragua before. The nation's political parties invited the Council to observe the February 1990 presidential election, which saw the first peaceful transfer of power in Nicaragua's history. In 1994, President Chamorro sought the Center's help to deal with thousands of land disputes arising from the appropriation of land by the former Sandinista government. The following year, the Center co-sponsored with the United Nations Development Program a conference to streamline the dispute process in hopes of stimulating economic development.

"The October 1996 election is another important milestone on Nicaragua's path to democracy," Dr. Pastor said. "Once again, ballots prevailed over bullets." ■

## Nicaraguan Election Provides Lesson in Patience and Persistence

Nicaraguans know the meaning of patience. On election day, about 80 percent of the nation's 2.4 million eligible voters lined up before dawn to mark six ballots: one for president and vice president and one each for national congressmen, departmental legislators, the Central American Parliament, mayors, and city councils.

This election year, Nicaraguans also had choices. Some 32,000 candidates representing 24 parties and alliances vied for 2,000 posts.

Carter Center delegate George Smith visited 14 polling stations, some more than once, in the south Atlantic coast region.

"We were struck by the remoteness of the area," Mr. Smith said. "A member of the Electoral Commission in Juigalpa told us that some roads had been rained out and ballots had to be carried on foot for

three hours to some polling stations.”

Mr. Smith observed that the voting proceeded with few irregularities. In some regions, however, the complexity of the election caused logistical problems. For example, some polling stations opened late because of tardy ballot deliveries and inaccurate voter registration lists. Through it all, voters persisted, including 72-year-old Jose Angel, who waited several hours to participate in his first election.

“It is my duty to vote,” Mr. Angel said. “I know in my heart who I want to be president, and they said I could choose him. So I did.”

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“Throughout the day, we witnessed the determination of the Nicaraguan people to achieve a successful election. Despite long lines, voters were enthusiastic about casting their ballots, and they were grateful for our presence since they felt it assured their elections would be free and fair.”

—Miguel Cornejo,  
Carter Center delegate and intern

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By the end of the day, presidential candidate Arnaldo Aleman led by an 11 percent margin. “Back in Managua, we were pleased to hear that about 95 percent of the polling stations reported no serious problems,” Mr. Smith said. “The Carter Center’s efforts in bringing the world’s attention to Nicaragua and establishing a framework for international observation of this difficult process have helped give the people of this rural country a chance to choose their leaders. From our observations, they responded enthusiastically.” ■

## Filter Cloth Donation Boosts Efforts To Eradicate Guinea Worm in Africa

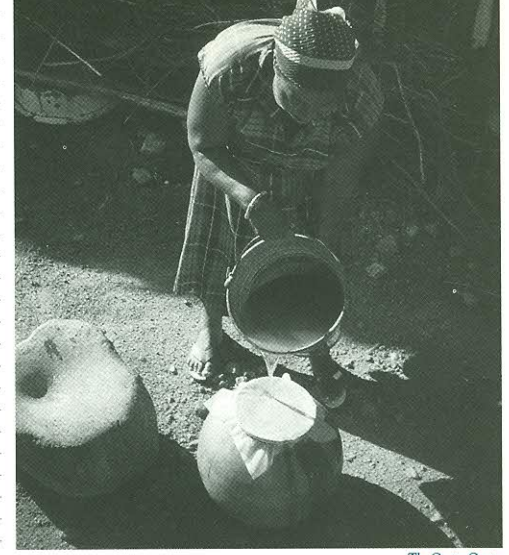
Guinea worm eradication efforts got a boost recently when the DuPont Company and Precision Fabrics Group Inc. agreed to donate 300,000 additional square yards of nylon filter cloth to The Carter Center’s Global 2000 Program. Global 2000 will facilitate distribution of the cloth in Africa, especially Sudan, in 1997 and 1998.

“We are deeply grateful for the companies’ continued generosity,” said former President Jimmy Carter. “Guinea worm cases already have been reduced by 97 percent worldwide, and these extraordinary contributions should enable us to eradicate this debilitating disease.”

The involvement of DuPont and Precision Fabrics highlights the importance of private-sector support for humanitarian efforts. Both companies already have contributed more than 2 million square yards of cloth since 1990. The retail value of their total combined donation exceeds \$14 million, making it the largest to the global eradication effort outside of water supply projects.

The Center expects that the additional cloth will be enough to complete the campaign to make Guinea worm only the second disease in history, after smallpox, to be erased from the earth.

People become infected when they drink stagnant water contaminated with



The Carter Center

Straining water through a filter cloth is the most effective way to prevent Guinea worm. Only 130,000 cases remain in Africa, India, and Yemen compared to 3.5 million in 1986.

fleas carrying Guinea worm larvae. Inside the human body, the larvae grow into threadlike worms as long as 3 feet. A year later, the worms emerge slowly through a painful blister, causing intense pain and sometimes permanent crippling.

The cloth enables people to filter out the fleas, making their water safe to drink. Although DuPont no longer owns the unit that produces the cloth material, the company is buying it to continue the donation.

“DuPont is pleased to furnish the additional nylon material needed at this critical phase in the eradication efforts,” said Chairman Ed Woolard. “Victory is in sight, and we are happy to provide ammunition for the final assault on this horrible disease.” ■

## Pakistan Certified as Free of Guinea Worm Disease

The world is a step closer to eradicating Guinea worm since the World Health Organization (WHO) certified Pakistan as free of the disease in January.

Pakistan began its eradication program in 1986 with the help of The Carter Center’s Global 2000 Program and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). That same year, the World Health Assembly passed a WHO resolution calling for the eradication of Guinea worm disease (*dracunculiasis*). As a result, a worldwide coalition was formed, including The Carter Center, the CDC, WHO, UNICEF, corporations such as DuPont and Precision Fabrics, governments and citizens of endemic countries, and donor countries.

“We now have the first officially certified country since the global eradication effort began,” said Donald Hopkins, M.D., director of Global 2000’s Guinea worm eradication program. “This is a remarkable public health success story.” ■

## 'Not Even One' Program Seeks To Prevent Firearm Deaths Among Children

In 1990 alone, nearly 4,500 children in the United States under age 19 died from gunshot wounds. In 1994, The Carter Center founded Not Even One (NEO), a program that calls on faith communities, schools, families, local governments, and public health and social agencies to reduce firearm violence against children.

"The number of children injured or killed by guns every year is a national tragedy," said Wallace Woodard, newly appointed director of NEO. "Our program promotes the philosophy that 'not even one' death of a child by firearms is acceptable or inevitable."

Dr. Woodard has spent his career working to improve the lives of children.



Wallace Woodard  
NEO Director

Before joining NEO, he worked on public safety issues for The Carter Center's Atlanta Project. He has taught elementary and college students and led training sessions on runaway and

homeless youth, gang violence, and drug prevention.

"Protecting children must become the responsibility of every community," Dr. Woodard said. "In order for a program to work, people must be willing to listen. Citizen involvement must become the top priority in stopping this epidemic."

Working with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, The Task Force for Child Survival and Development, and the Emory University School of Public Health, NEO has developed the Community Action Team (CAT). Each CAT includes community leaders and members of public health and police departments, schools, and social service agencies in high-risk areas.

Teams have been trained at demonstration sites in Compton and Long Beach, Calif., and Albuquerque, N.M. A



third pilot is planned for Atlanta in 1997. NEO then will evaluate their efforts to develop a prevention model for use nationwide.

"CAT members are being trained to gather and share information on possible causes of firearm violence that could lead to prevention strategies," Dr. Woodard explained. "They will use the same methods that public health professionals use to contain and prevent disease. Our hope is that those steps most likely to save our children will become habitual where they are most needed." ■

## President Carter's New Book Recounts His *Living Faith*

"To me, *faith* is not just a noun but also a verb," writes former President Jimmy Carter in *Living Faith* (Times Books, 1996). In his latest book, dedicated to his wife, Rosalynn, President Carter describes how Christian faith sustained him through life passages such as his father's death and his painful defeat in the 1980 presidential election.

President Carter also shares how his and Mrs. Carter's beliefs contributed to their founding of The Carter Center in 1982. "We at The Carter Center have adopted a number of principles for making and keeping peace within and between nations," he writes. "One of the most basic is that in political, military, moral, and spiritual confrontations, there should be an honest attempt at the reconciliation of differences before resorting to combat."

*Living Faith* is available at The Jimmy Carter Library and Museum and in bookstores. ■

## Atlanta Project Increases Focus on Children and Families

Since The Carter Center launched The Atlanta Project (TAP) in 1991, citizens have banded together to help the city's neediest residents rebuild their communities. In January, TAP began a new three-year phase by narrowing its focus to issues that touch the health and well-being of children and families. Specifically, TAP will focus on:

- increasing the percentage of high school students who graduate on time.
- enrolling more low-income students in Head Start or pre-kindergarten programs.
- immunizing more children by age 2.
- increasing the number of welfare recipients leaving public assistance because of employment or higher incomes.

Four Cluster Centers, which will serve several neighborhoods, will support community initiatives by helping residents implement collaborative programs.

During TAP's initial phase, residents in 20 communities called "clusters" worked with numerous partners to launch more than 400 projects. In the Therrell Cluster, TAP residents and UPS, the cluster's corporate partner, worked with the YMCA, the Optimist Club, and the local Atlanta Police precinct to establish a program for families, youth, and children. The result is The Family Tree, a school-based resource center that provides academic and recreational programs during and after school.

"TAP's first five years provided a legacy that must continue," said Jane Smith, TAP program director. "The learning process, which involved residents, nonprofit organizations, corporations, and academic institutions, has been a valuable foundation for making changes to improve the lives of children and families in Atlanta." ■

## Great Lakes Crisis Continues in Africa

Last fall, most of the 1 million Rwandan refugees living in Zaire and Tanzania journeyed home. Tragically, their return was marred by violence reminiscent of the aftermath of Rwanda's 1994 genocide, which caused the refugees to flee.

During the 1994 massacres, Hutu extremists killed 500,000 to 1 million people, mostly Tutsis. Shortly after the killings, the Tutsi-dominated Patriotic Front took over the Hutu government. Fearing for their lives, 1.7 million Hutus fled to Zaire, Tanzania, and Burundi where U.N. refugee camps were set up.

In October 1995, the presidents of Zaire, Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi, and Uganda asked The Carter Center to help determine actions to bring peace and stability to Africa's Great Lakes region. At subsequent summits in Cairo and Tunis, the leaders pledged to take steps to defuse potential violence and expedite the refugees' return. But a new crisis emerged last fall.

"In eastern Zaire, refugees found themselves caught in the middle of battles between an emerging Zairian rebel movement, exile forces of Rwanda's former Hutu government, and the Zairian military," said Vincent Farley, Carter Center diplomat-in-residence. "This fighting weakened the control of the exile Hutu leaders, many of whom participated in the 1994 genocide, over the refugees."

As a result, refugees in Zairian camps near the Rwandan border left, and militants among the camp leaders moved deep into Zaire. The international community was debating in January how to help the remaining refugees and displaced citizens of eastern Zaire. At the same time, Tanzania closed its camps.

"The Great Lakes leaders need to renew their efforts to address the region's problems," said former President Jimmy Carter, who, with former Tanzania President Julius Nyerere, former Mali President Amadou Touré, and South Africa Archbishop Desmond Tutu, has facilitated discussions among the region's presidents. "The Carter Center remains in contact with them and ready to help." ■

## Conversations at The Carter Center

Join us for the 1996-97 series "Conversations at The Carter Center." Upcoming programs, held from 7:30-9 p.m. at the Center, include:

### Wednesday, Feb. 26: *Disease in the Next Millennium*

A new frontier awaits scientists and doctors in the next century. Among their challenges: finding new ways to treat diseases. **William Foege**, M.D., Carter Center health policy fellow and former director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and **David Satcher**, M.D., current director of the CDC, will speak.

### Wednesday, May 7: *Blessed Are the Peacemakers: Religion's Role in Peace, Justice, and Human Rights*

Historically, religious communities have supported a broad human rights agenda, from opposing war to playing active roles in the civil rights movements and voting drives. Can individuals use their faith to help achieve social justice? A panel of experts with local and international experience examine this and other questions.

### Tickets

Tickets are \$6 per person for each program. To order, send a check or money order (payable to The Carter Center) to: The Carter Center, Volunteer Office, 453 Freedom Parkway, Atlanta, Ga. 30307. Please include a daytime telephone number. For more information, call (404) 420-3804. ■

## GDI

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by former President Jimmy Carter. In 1993, Guyana President Cheddi Jagan asked the Center to help produce a strategy for sustainable development.

The first of its kind for Guyana and GDI, the National Development Strategy draft includes input from more than 200 Guyanese representing government and local interest groups to decide what policies are important for their country's future. It also incorporates work done by the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the United Nations Development Program, the U.S. Agency for International Development, and other development assistance agencies.

Guyana's strategy examines development options in several industries—mining, agriculture, forestry, fishing, and others—and establishes policies and sets priorities within a framework of environmental regulation and economic stability. It also addresses health care, education, gender equity, and other social issues.

"This strategy takes a long-term view



*Cheddi Jagan  
Guyana's President*

of our country's growth prospects and requirements and the special needs of less-favored groups in society," said President Jagan during a 1996 meeting with international donor agencies at The Carter Center.

"This is the first time that Guyanese of all races, religions, and political persuasions have come together to draft a blueprint for our future."

GDI staff now will advise Guyanese officials on administrative, legislative, and investment requirements for implementation of the strategy. Said Dr. Streeb, "If this plan can be implemented successfully, this collaborative effort could become the model in the foreign aid community for supporting a country's effort to achieve sustainable development." ■

## New Sculpture Depicts Suffering Caused By River Blindness

Visitors strolling through The Carter Center's grounds now come upon a new sight—a striking bronze sculpture of a child leading a blind man by the end of a long stick. The man is a victim of river blindness (*onchocerciasis*), a parasitic disease that threatens more than 100 million people, primarily in Africa.

The statue—the first major piece of sculpture in the Center's gardens—was unveiled in a November ceremony. Created by internationally recognized sculptor R.T. Wallen, *Sightless Among Miracles* represents the Center's commitment to ending river blindness. The statue was donated by John and Rebecca Moores, who established the River Blindness Foundation in 1990.

People become infected with the disease through the bite of blackflies that breed in fast-flowing rivers and streams. River blindness causes incessant itching, skin rashes, eyesight damage, and eventually blindness.

The Carter Center sculpture is identical to a work placed at the world headquarters of Merck & Co. Inc. in New Jersey. Merck discovered Mectizan®, a drug that controls the effects of river blindness with a single yearly treatment.



More than 150 guests helped dedicate the statue "Sightless Among Miracles" including (from left) John Hardman (seated), Rebecca Moores, Jimmy and Rosalynn Carter, John Moores, and Raymond and Gladie Gilmartin.

this horrible disease," said Mr. Moores, who is a member of The Carter Center Board of Trustees. "Like the Center and Merck,

In 1987, Merck decided to donate Mectizan® to all people infected with the disease for as long as necessary and has since given more than 75 million tablets of the drug through the Mectizan® Expert Committee, which facilitates its distribution. The Committee is housed at The Task Force for Child Survival and Development, an Atlanta-based partner of The Carter Center.

"Merck is in the battle to stay," said Raymond Gilmartin, the company's CEO. "We will provide Mectizan® free of charge for as long as people suffer from *onchocerciasis*. However long that takes, Merck will be there."

"I hope everybody who sees this statue understands that they, too, can help fight

their generosity can help so that people might have sight."

In May 1996, The Carter Center acquired the operations of the River Blindness Foundation and began the Global 2000 River Blindness Program. The program works with other organizations to achieve global control of river blindness. Experts estimate that 18 million people are infected and more than 750,000 suffer from serious sight impairment, 270,000 of whom are blind.

"I look forward to the day when the only places you'll see a child leading an adult with a stick is at Merck headquarters and in the garden of The Carter Center," said former First Lady Rosalynn Carter. ■

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