

# Hearing Project Panama

During ten days in December of 2005, an international team traveled from the Pacific to the Atlantic to the Caribbean to provide hearing tests and distribute donated hearing aids to needy hearing-impaired Panamanians. The team was lead by Briseida (Brisy) DeLeón Northrup of the University of Texas at Dallas Callier Center for Communication Disorders and Leyda Díaz de Rodríguez of the Clínica de Audición, Lenguaje y Aprendizaje (CALASA). The team included Barbara Ortiz and Lauren Butler, students from the University of Texas at Dallas, Sarah Sydlowski, a student from the University of Louisville, Dimio Quintero of the Panama Ministry of Health, Ivan Rodriguez, assistant in the Panama City clinic, and Jude Ortiz. During their trip, the team tested scores of patients and dispensed some 30 hearing aids. The hearing aids were donated by Phonak and the Callier Center. Patients were evaluated in the difficult conditions of outpatient regional health centers, as well as the CALASA's Panama City Clinic. Testing was also conducted in Changuinola in the Bocas del Toro province. In all, 32 people were tested and several children received hearing aids and counseling in their care and use. The team tested the hearing of more than a dozen babies suffering from malnutrition and illness at a nutritional center. The team provided additional hearing services on Isla Colón, an island in the Caribbean. Twenty-two people were tested and the team gave out six hearing aids. The final day of testing was in the town of David in the Chiriqui province. The local health center had announced on the radio that anyone who needed a hearing aid would receive one. The team expected around 30 people, but 67 showed up! Brisy Northrup has been providing hearing services in Panama since 1992 and is always in need of additional hearing instruments. To donate hearing aids or for information on how you can help, contact northrup@utdallas.edu. — Submitted by M. Jude Ortiz



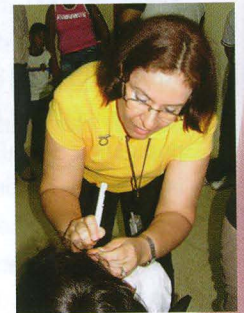
*Lauren Butler assists with pediatric audiology testing.*



*Brisy Northrup, Sarah Sydlowski and Barbara Ortiz work together on OAE testing.*



*Brisy Northrup and Leyda Rodriguez conducting play conditioning audiometry.*



*Leyda Rodriguez sets otoblock in patient's ear.*



*Tympanometry with restless child by Barbara Ortiz.*



*Smiling youngster confirms hearing aid success with Brisy Northrup.*