

Frank Houser, MD (1941– 2008)



Frank Houser and his wife Joyce were living in Atlanta when Jim Alley brought Henry Perry to meet them around 1983 and tell them about his work in Bolivia. At that time Jim was the Director of Public Health for the State of Georgia and Frank was one of his Health Officers. Previously, Jim had been a Methodist medical missionary working in Montero, Bolivia. A few years later (1986 or so), Frank and Joyce attended a promotional event for Andean Rural Health Care in Atlanta, and Frank got hooked. As a pediatrician who began his practice in 1971, Frank had a deep interest in maternal and child health, and as a public health professional, he was also interested in population health and child survival issues. Joyce shared in these interests as a pediatric nurse and nurse educator.

Frank went on to become a world expert in measuring quality of care in health systems and developed a passion for maternal and child health. As a member of the Georgia Council on Maternal and Infant Health, Frank helped develop minimum standards for neonatal and maternal healthcare for the state, leading to significant reductions of infant and maternal mortality rates in Georgia childbirths. He later went on to serve as Georgia's Director of Public Health and Medical Director and Senior Vice President of Quality for the Hospital Corporation of America where he was the architect of the patient safety framework in place for HCA's 190 hospitals at that time.

Frank's gift for organizational management quickly became apparent, and he graciously agreed to join the Board of Directors in 1985 and served for over 20 years, including 12 years as a Chairman of the Board.

Frank's devotion to Andean Rural Health Care and Curamericas Global were motivated in part by his devotion to his mentor Jim Alley. Frank's long-time service and dedication to Andean Rural Health Care and Curamericas Global were instrumental in the growth and development of the organization, and his friendship and support to Henry Perry were a source of great comfort.

Dr. Henry Perry says about Frank, “Curamericas’ bright future today is due in no small part to Frank’s persistent and long-term engagement, leadership, and support. Frank has made the world a better place through his personal engagement of concern for the less fortunate and through his gifted leadership, and his investment in Curamericas will pay ongoing dividends as the organization continues to grow and improve the health of ever larger populations.”. Following Frank’s passing in 2008, his wife Joyce began serving as a Curamericas Board Member to continue Frank’s legacy.

The total value of this fund as of 1/31/2022 is \$145,975.