



- » [Donate](#)
- » [Testimonials](#)
- » [Projects](#)
- » [Annual Gala](#)
- » [Speakers Bureau](#)
- » [Press Releases](#)
- » [Volunteer](#)
- » [Golf Outing - 2006](#)
- » [U.S. Hurricane Relief Effort](#)
- » [OMATKids](#)
- » [Founder / Board](#)

## Annual Gala

OMAT 2005 Gala -- A Success!

The rain did not stop about 150 friends and supporters of the Overseas Medical Assistance Team (OMAT) from gathering for the Annual Gala on Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2005, at Terrace On The Park in Queens, New York.

**Drs. Mark J. Wade, MD** and **Mayra Suero Wade, DDS, MPH** were honored for founding Arise and Walk Ministries, an international humanitarian agency that provides medical and dental care to impoverished communities. Dr. Wade is a pediatrician and Dr. Suero-Wade is a dentist. The husband and wife team say their commitment to serving humanity is driven by their belief in the great gospel commission to heal the sick.

OMAT also paid tribute to **Bernadette Sheridan, MD**, President & CEO of Grace Family Medical Practice. Dr. Sheridan's humanitarian achievements include her involvement a Family Practitioner cultural exchange with physicians in Cuba. Dr. Sheridan was also lauded for being an OMAT who has participated in medical humanitarian trips to Haiti, Guyana, Dominica and the Dominican Republic.


"All of our honorees embody a caring and compassionate humanitarian spirit through their work here and abroad," said **Stephen S. Carryl, MD**, OMAT President and Founder. "It was an honor to present them with *The Carmen and Francis Carryl Humanitarian Service Award* at the upcoming Gala." The award, named in honor of Dr. Carryl's late parents, was created in 1997 to recognize volunteers who lend their health-related and medical expertise to assist persons in developing countries.

In addition to the notable honorees, a Gala highlight was a keynote address by journalist and author **Carol Bergman**. Ms. Bergman signed copies of her book during the cocktail hour. Her moving anthology, *Another Day in Paradise: International Humanitarian Workers Tell Their Stories*, chronicles the courage and compassion of relief workers during war and disasters. TrueYork Entertainment recording artist **Shannone Holt** lifted the spirits of everyone present with her amazing renditions. Described as 'the next great voice in American music', Ms. Holt is a debut artist on **Kevin Powell's** new label. OMAT Gala sponsors included **The Christopher Wallace Foundation, Masterpiece Studios Digital Group, CaribPR** and **DOSHI Diagnostics**, with printing by **Simply Forms Printing**.

OMAT is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving health care in the Caribbean and other developing countries. This year, OMAT made successful humanitarian missions to Haiti and Guyana. OMAT also conducted a successful flood relief campaign for Guyana and concluded its hurricane assistance effort for Grenada. Since its inception in 1992, OMAT has made humanitarian trips to Grenada, St. Lucia, Dominica, Dominican Republic and Botswana, Southern Africa. Proceeds of the Gala will enable OMAT to continue its humanitarian work and assist with the hurricane (Katrina and Rita) relief effort in the United States.

For more information about OMAT please call (718) 282-6628 or visit [www.OMATmission.org](http://www.OMATmission.org).

Gala honorees are recognized with the Carmen and Francis Carryl Humanitarian Service Award.  
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