SANTO DOMINGO.- The Dominican Government bestowed the Order of the Merit Duarte, Sanchez and Mella in the rank of Grand Officer, on Dr. John P. Howe III, president of the charitable organization Project Hope, for his humanitarian work to the benefit the health of the impoverished Dominicans, through the delivery of valuable donations of medicine and the operation of two clinics in the country.

Howe, after thanking the Dominican people and president Leonel Fernandez for the recognition, said his efforts and those of his associates are rewarded every time he participates in efforts to provide the vaccines and other medicines to improve the health of the neediest. "When I visited the clinic in Herrera this morning and a little boy sat on my lap, I could only wish that he grows up, becomes a doctor and returns here to practice and also help those just like he is now."

Foreign Relations minister Carlos Morales Troncoso placed the sash and medal on Howe, who shares the distinction with the presidents of the pharmaceutical companies Merck and Co. Inc., Richard T. Clark; Sanofi Pasteur, Wayne F. Pisano; and Becton, Dickinson and Company, Edgar J. Ludwig.

During the ceremony held in the Foreign Relations Ministry, Morales said Project Hope's commendable work includes volunteer doctors who travel everywhere on board ships, conducting extensive vaccination programs and providing humanitarian help victims of devastating natural disasters.

Howe also praised the Dominican health authorities for providing services he said are much more advanced than in similar countries he’s visited.

Enthusiasm for Project Hope’s 50 years

For his part, Rand Walton, Project Hope director of Strategic Communication, asked by Dominican Today about his organization's efforts in the country, expressed his enthusiasm for the work in the two clinics, at Herrera, Santo Domingo, and Monte Plata (east), and the fact the distinction coincides with its 50th anniversary.

Dominican Government decorates Project Hope’s Dr. John P. Howe III

I have included his bio as well as the website of project Hope for those like me who knew nothing of this program. I do have to crow a little, he’s a Texan if not born here been here long enough. Interesting reading about project hope, mainly through donations is how they operate and 98% of monies collected are used in the program.

http://siepr.stanford.edu/people/Howe_Bio.html
We need more gringos like him, not the blowhards who come on cozy government jobs and sneer down on us.

gringos sneering down on Dominicans? really? i did not think that happened!