

## ☀ Values

- Forgiveness
- Integrity
- Unconditional Compassion
- Perseverance
- Social Emotional Learning

## ☀ Reflection Questions

If you were Dr. Juan, could you have forgiven Arturo? What does it take to forgive?

Have you ever felt torn between helping others and fearing someone else's judgment?

If you lost your ability to be a surgeon, like Dr. Juan, what would you do with your life?

What does it mean, to heal our minds and souls as well as our bodies?

## ☀ Lessons Learned

We can always find ways to use our gifts and talents to help others.

Forgiving those who have hurt us takes great courage and compassion.

By helping others, we can heal our own hearts.

America's democratic system can help people "learn to be human again"

# A Healing Heart

Dr. Juan Romagoza

Washington D.C.

As a surgeon, Dr. Juan felt it was his sacred duty to treat people from both sides who were fighting the long Civil War in El Salvador. But his government judged his caring for the peasants as political - and imprisoned, tortured and left him to die. After making his way to a new life in the United States, Dr. Juan created a clinic where the Latino community helps each other heal their minds and souls as well as their bodies. In this story, we learn about an amazing encounter between Dr. Juan and one of his former captors, Arturo, and of the healing power of forgiveness and love.

## ☀ Language Arts: SEL & Diversity and Social Studies : Diversity

Study the Civil War in El Salvador and how it has affected young people in this country. Write a story comparing the life of a young person in this country with one in El Salvador. Invite someone from El Salvador to share their experience of living in this country - both before and after the war. Ask them to help you arrange for pen pals with students or create a sister-city program with one of the villages.

## ☀ Community Service : Service Learning

Give the gift of health by volunteering at a local free clinic. Invite a medical professional to teach CPR to students. Have them research stories about young people who have saved others lives. Write a list of instructions to remind them. If you know of medical professionals or bi-lingual translators who could help Dr. Juan provide free medical care, health education, mental health and social services, write to him at 1470 Irving St., N.W., Washington D.C. 20010. Contact the National Alliance for Hispanic Health (<http://www.healthyamericas.org>) learn about Latino clinics in cities across the country who could use your help.