

One Group of Heroes on the Front Line of the Border Crisis A Driving Source of Humanitarian Response

One of the true honors of working on films involving human and social rights is the incredible people that we meet working on the front lines of these issues. A few recent examples of these people are Sister Norma Pimentel, Executive Director of Catholic Charities of the Rio Grande Valley; Cindy Andrade Johnson, migrant advocate, and now field producer for Worldwide Documentaries; Lee Gelernt, Deputy Director of ACLU's Immigrants' Rights Project; Pastor Abraham Barberi, who is the Founder of Dulce Refugio Shelter in Matamoros, Mexico. These inspiring and meaningful encounters tend to stick with our production team, and ones that bring us hope for all humanity.

In January 2021, when filming in the Matamoros, Mexico tent encampment, one connection in particular stood out.

Over the past year, Sam Bishop was the Project Coordinator for [Global Response Management](#)'s (GRM) response in Matamoros, Mexico where much of our film *Oh Mercy* was filmed and where thousands of refugees, migrants, and asylum seekers from Central America awaited court dates and immigration hearings in the US—many for well over a year. Sam, who is now GRM's Mexico Country Director, works with GRM on other training projects as well, and is a combat veteran of the campaigns in Afghanistan and Iraq. He has a Bachelor's of Fine Arts degree from Savannah College of Art and Design, and after serving in the military, started with GRM in their humanitarian response work.



**Sam Bishop and Cindy Andrade Johnson bringing medical supplies to the migrants
in the Matamoros tent encampment, January 2021. *Oh Mercy*.**

Global Response Management, according to their website, is “a veteran-led international medical NGO registered in the United States as a 501(c)(3) organization. [They] exist to bring emergency humanitarian medicine to vulnerable populations displaced by conflict, war, or disaster.” Their belief that every human being should have the best possible care available to them on the worst day of their lives is likely what brought the organization to Matamoros in the time of need for so many. After talking with Sam, however, our production team was struck by what he recalled as an early ‘introduction’ for his personal involvement in humanitarian work.

When Sam was in college, around 2013, he recalls watching *Not My Life*, Worldwide Documentaries' 2011 feature-length film that depicts the cruel and dehumanizing practices of human trafficking and modern slavery on a global scale, and was eager to tell our production team that it had a profound effect on him.

“In a roundabout way, I certainly wouldn't be here if I hadn't seen it,” Sam said in regard to *Not My Life*.

Director Robert Bilheimer and our production team were deeply touched by Sam's sentiments, and further convinced that the power of storytelling should never be underestimated. The hope with all of Worldwide's films is both to empower individuals and organizations that advocate for humanitarian issues, as well as ask the important questions of “what can we do?” Sam Bishop, Global Response Management, and every connection that our production team makes in the production of our films are shining examples of answers to that question.

To learn more about GRM's work and/or to donate, please visit <https://www.global-response.org/>

To view *Oh Mercy*, please visit ohmercyfilm.com and head to the 'watch' page.