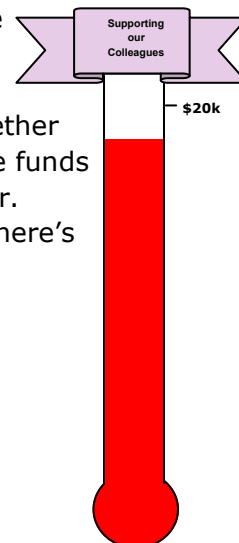




Planning update for future Guatemala missions

So many of our volunteers are missing their connection to the work we do, the Guatemalan people we interact with and serve, as well as the beautiful country itself! While we have not been able to travel to Guatemala this year, we have continued to support the operations of Hermano Pedro Hospital through our recent fundraising campaign.

More than half of Guatemala's 16 million people live in poverty and the pandemic has made the situation even more precarious for many. Those who enjoy regular employment often support many family members, either directly or indirectly. With this in mind, we focused our recent fundraising on supporting Hermano Pedro Hospital's surgical program staff. Together we raised over \$18,000 CDN and earlier this month sent \$14,640 USD for this purpose. The funds have been gratefully received and the Obras organization sent the attached thank you letter. Thank you to all who so generously contributed! If you would still like to make a donation, here's how:



1. Go to the Medicos en Accion website (medicos-en-accion.com), select **"Donations"** from the vertical menu bar at the left and go to the bottom of the page for the Canada Helps donation form (this may take a minute or so to load).
2. Under **"Fund"** on the form, use the drop-down menu to select **"7. Hermano Pedro Support"** and;
3. Complete the rest of the form to make your donation.

A tax receipt will be e-mailed from Canada Helps within hours of your donation.

Our teams will return to Guatemala when it is safe and practicable to do so. Based on what we know as of now, we remain optimistic that we'll return to Antigua in 2022 as scheduled. The first US teams are scheduled to return to Antigua in May and earlier this month, a Guatemalan team provided cleft lip and palate surgeries at Hermano Pedro Hospital.

It may be possible for a small ENT and Hearing Clinic team to provide services at Hospital Shalom in the Petén towards the end of this year. We can expect that our next missions will be at a higher cost and, because of restrictions, will serve fewer patients.

Some of the criteria we are monitoring to ensure the safe return of volunteers to Guatemala include:

- Government travel advisories and requirements (Canada, USA, and Guatemala) for pre and post-travel testing, self-isolation, vaccination status;
- Flight availability and cost;
- Accommodation and in-country transportation challenges;
- Procurement of needed PPE supplies;
- COVID sanitizing requirements during clinics and between surgical cases.

As well, we will need to develop contingency plans for different aspects of the missions. Your Medicos en Accion, Guatemala Surgery leadership team is committed to doing this work over the next months.

Antigua 2022 Mission Dates: January 28 to February 12

Applying for a future mission

We recognize that you need to plan for the time off to participate. Given the pandemic situation, we think it is still too early to invite applications for the next volunteer teams.

To help with us planning for the Antigua 2022 mission, however, we would appreciate knowing who is available and what in which area they are volunteering (Surgery, OR Nurse, PAR Nurse, audiology, translator, general volunteer). Please use this link to medicoscanada@gmail.com This will give us some idea of the number of people who are considering joining the Antigua 2022 mission and allow us to start building our "virtual team".

Thank you.

Brenda Uhrynuk, Team Leader, Guatemala Surgical Teams



Medicos-en-Accion Canada

Medicos-en-Accion

450 Greenstone Drive
Kamloops, British Columbia
V2C 1N9

Medicos-en-Accion/Guatemala

1431 Frontier Place
Nanaimo, BC V9X 1P5

Medicos-en-Accion/Guatemala Surgical Teams

Medicos-en-Accion Board

President: Gareth Eeson

Team Leader The Gambia: Gareth Eeson

Team Leader Guatemala: Brenda Uhrynuk

Treasurer: Dennis Wallis

Secretary: Bill Beaton

Website: Blake Farren

Team Leader Guatemala: Brenda Uhrynuk

Surgical Team Leaders: Jennifer Soucie, Norm Weir

Secretary: Cindy Reimer

Communications: David Hill-Turner

Volunteer Orientation: Joanne Marceau

Email: medicoscanada@gmail.com

FB: Medicos-en-Accion Guatemala Surgical Team

URL: www.medicos-en-accion.com



HOSPITAL

Antigua Guatemala, February 2021

Sirs
MEDICOS EN ACCIÓN
E.E.U.U.

Dear Friends:

Peace and blessings from Antigua Guatemala. You have been such a faithful supporter of Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro. Thank you from all of us. I want to express our gratitude for your ongoing support. Your partnership and dedication to our cause truly inspires us. Obras has been showing the love of God to the poor, abandoned and needy since 1982, ever since friends like you allow us to continue and expand our charitable work.

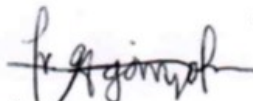
For Obras Sociales, the pandemic has meant the cancellation of many surgical missions, the temporary closure of the external consultation, the suspension of the visits of volunteers and the delay of the first disbursements that the State of Guatemala contributes each year. We have had to let go a good part of our faithful staff and that has been very painful for us.

The cases of Covid-19 have increased a little in our country due to the second wave of infection that is affecting the whole world, we continue with preventive measures, however, and thank God, at the institution at the moment we do not have cases. The hospital has been in operation at 75% although the international medical missions are still canceled, we have started a little surgery with national doctors.

We your Franciscan brothers, our collaborators, benefactors and Friends continue steadfast in our mission to bring Christ's love, health, education and rehabilitation to the poor of Guatemala. Right now Guatemalans in need of medical care are facing more challenges than ever and the patients who come through the doors of our hospital and centers truly have no other place to turn. Thanks to your support, we can continue our healing work, so THANK YOU very much, because for you we will continue in the fight to serve people, hoping in the future to see each other and work together again.

A hug from a distance and may the Lord be with you and keep you in peace and good health.

Fraternally,


Fray Jesús Gómez OFM
Director General

