

The Boletín

Medicos en Accion Guatemala Surgical Teams
Summer 2019

Supplying the Guatemala Missions

Over the past few years, medications and surgical supplies have become more difficult and costly to obtain from our partner hospital or purchase in Guatemala. Volunteer teams have had to increase the amounts of medications and surgical supplies being taken to Guatemala to ensure that they have the supplies needed to complete their mission.

The Vancouver-based Health for Humanity Society has facilitated the purchase of bulky surgical supplies (mainly drapes and gowns) and we are again partnering with them to share in the capacity and cost of a container that will be shipped this month from Vancouver to Guatemala.

The Compassionate Resource Warehouse (Victoria, B.C.) has continued their support for our work and have provided 24 boxes of surgical supplies. These were inventoried and repacked by Joanne Marceau and her sister then transported to Burnaby by Barb Daykin to be included in the container shipment. Special thanks to these awesome Medicos en Accion volunteers!



Packing supplies. Photo: Joanne Marceau

We will be reaching out to our current team and alumni later in the year to advise what supplies are still needed and ask team members to try to obtain these for the mission. Stay tuned!

People Helping People

When it comes to planning our Guatemala missions, it seems that there is never enough time. Planning for the next year's mission begins a couple of weeks after returning in February. Budgets are set, supply inventories checked, scrounging for needed supplies begins and applications begin to trickle in. We also receive many inquiries about volunteering thanks to the stories that team members take back to their communities. And come the end of June, it goes quiet, too quiet sometimes. Team leaders ask "is this it?" Improving the lot of Guatemalans depends on you volunteering your time, skills and money to make a difference to their lives. Seeing the smile of a child who hears her mother's voice for the first time after receiving a hearing aid, or the relief of a father who works in the field after a hernia repair or the mother who has been uncomfortable for years because of a gynecological problem who now, because you took time from your busy schedule, can live a better life.



Life is a constant struggle for many of the Guatemalans that we meet in our missions. Take a minute to look at our recruitment needs for the upcoming missions. If you or, someone you know, is interested in joining us, we and our Guatemalan patients would love to hear from you.

YES, I want to make a difference to someone's life!

I am sponsoring ____ surgeries X \$75 each: _____

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Make cheques payable to: Medicos-en-Accion (Antigua Mission)

Thank you. Tax receipts will be issued for donations supporting this project.

Medicos-en-Accion (Antigua Team) c/o 450 Greenstone Drive Kamloops, BC V2C 1N9



Upcoming San Benito Mission

Medicos-en-Accion will be returning to San Benito in the Pé-ten Department in November and February as the need is there for medical services that are inaccessible to many living in the area. "While our previous missions have been limited to ENT and audiology, there is capacity at the hospital for general surgery, too" said team leader Norm Weir.

Hospital Shalom, <http://www.newcovenantworldmissions.org/Hospital-Shalom.html> is a relatively new facility that is operated by a non-profit from Canton, Ohio. It has two ORs on the main floor and a number of patient rooms on the second floor. In addition to surgery, the team also offers an audiology clinic. MeA is exploring opportunities for expanding the surgical program to include general surgery.

Teams that visit Hospital Shalom tend to be smaller as the hospital is just developing its surgical program. If you are interested in joining the November 2020 team, you can apply using the Medicos-en-Accion Guatemala application form.

Flores is best known as the jumping-off point for the UNESCO World Heritage Site at Tikal, a 90 minute drive away. Closer to Flores, and not to be missed, is the large Mayan site of Yaxha, with over 500 structures and 40 stelae.

San Benito 2019 mission dates

Saturday, Nov 10 - Saturday, Nov.16
Recruiting: Anaesthetist
PAR nurse

Antigua: 2020 Mission Recruiting

January 25 - February 9

Anticipated Team Composition

Surgeons:

General: 2 (recruiting)
ENT: 2 (complete)
Gyne: 3 (complete)
Surgical Assistants: 2 (complete)

Anesthetists: 5 (recruiting)

OR Nurses: 12 (recruiting)

PAR Nurses: 6 (recruiting)

Audiologists: 2-3 (recruiting)

Hearing Clinic Support: 3 (complete)

Translators: 3 Complete

Please forward to colleagues who may be interested in joining us.

Information and application forms can be obtained by contacting us at MedicosCanada@gmail.com

Medicos-en-Accion Canada

Medicos-en-Accion

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V2C 1N9

Medicos-en-Accion/Guatemala

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Medicos-en-Accion Board

President: Koos Meijerhof
Vice President/Team Leader The Gambia: Jon Just
Vice President Surgery Guatemala: Brenda Uhrynuk
Vice President /Team Leader Medicine Guatemala: Brian Poelzer
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Medicos-en-Accion/Guatemala Surgical Teams

Vice President: Brenda Uhrynuk
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URL: www.medicos-en-accion.com

Medicos-en-Accion is a registered charity in Canada.

Next issue of The Boletín is our travel planning issue!

2020 mission Fundraising ideas

How to make a donation?

Direct:

Some people ask friends and family for donations to support their mission. Cheques can be sent to Medicos en Accion at our Kamloops address. Please ensure that the donor identifies that their cheque is to support you. Cheques are payable to Medicos en Accion.

Indirect:

On the home page of Canadahelps.org search for Medicos en Accion Society, or

<https://medicos-en-accion.com/donation/donation.htm>

- ◆ Under "donate to the charity now", enter the amount
- ◆ In the message box, please enter "Guatemala Surgery" for general team donations. If it is for a specific person, please enter the volunteer's name. Please include **Mission 2020**.
- ◆ After following the onscreen instructions, Canada Helps will promptly issue a tax receipt to the email address provided by the donor.
- ◆ Note: For 2019 tax receipts, donations must be made before December 31, 2019.