

What's happening with Guatemala missions ?

This is the time of year when in past years a small ENT and Hearing Clinic team would be returning from a mission in the Peten and other volunteers would be working out the details of the upcoming January/February mission to Antigua. The Antigua team volunteers would have been finalized, lists of needed supplies compiled and being purchased, initial orientation materials being sent out, and anticipation and excitement about the mission starting to build. So, it is with a sense of loss that we are unable to travel to Guatemala again this winter to provide much needed services to the Mayan people there, while also renewing acquaintance with our volunteer colleagues and hospital staff from previous missions, meeting new colleagues and friends, and enjoying the beauty of Antigua.

However, the decision was made for us for 2022 as Hermano Pedro Hospital undertakes an ambitious 3 month project to renovate and expand their operating room, recovery, and convalescent facilities. After a month of site preparation, construction began on November 6th and is expected to be completed by the end of February 2022. They extended their thanks to the visiting teams for the generosity of time, trip fees, supplies, equipment, and general donations that we provide and have asked all teams to consider making a special gift towards this major project. The projected cost of the project is \$821,000 USD or 6 million quetzals. Sixty percent of the cost of the project is being covered through fundraising in Guatemala by the *Friends of Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro* who run an annual raffle. Obras needs to raise the remaining 40% or \$328,000.



The goal of the *Obras Sociales* is to increase surgeries at Hermano Pedro Hospital from 6,500 annually to 10,000 over the next 3 years. They have provided some ideas about how they can achieve this goal (e.g larger teams, two teams collaborating, adding more weeks in the OR schedule, local surgeons and volunteers working in the additional ORs alongside visiting teams) and have asked for our team's input. It will be an exciting and welcome change to be working in new facilities when we do return to Antigua!

We continue to monitor the situation in Guatemala and to develop and refine the criteria we will use to decide when to return. According to *ourworldindata.org* (accessed Nov. 18, 2021), daily cases in Guatemala peaked in late August at 4,000 and have fallen steadily since then. However, daily testing has also fallen recently. Just over 30% of the population has received a first dose of vaccine and 3.5 million people are fully vaccinated.

"Traveling to an area of low vaccination (and high Covid-19 case rates) is inherently risky...You can control the risk to yourself and the risk to others by ensuring you are vaccinated, wearing masks in appropriate venues, not traveling when symptomatic or if you have a recent exposure and getting tested frequently with antigen tests." [T. Tsai, The Guardian, Sept. 12, 2021]

Hermano Pedro Hospital shut down completely for 3 months at the start of the pandemic. It gradually reopened starting with outpatient services and is now operating at 75% capacity. Despite the challenges of travel during Covid-19 and significant decrease in visiting medical teams, as of the end of September Hermano Pedro Hospital had hosted 15 international teams in 2021.

Fundraising 2020/2021

Our appeal to Medicos en Accion supporters for donations to support Hermano Pedro OR staff last year raised \$14,605.00 USD that was sent by wire transfer in February. This donation covered the payroll costs of many employees over 2 months. We received a thank you (see page 3) and a report with copies of the payroll receipts of the employees sponsored, which was signed by the employees.

Looking towards 2022

As costs increase across the board, we know that by the time we are able to return to Guatemala the cost of the medications, anaesthesia, surgical, and hearing clinic supplies will have increased. We've been thinking about planning a unique fundraising event that will allow us to come together virtually. Stay tuned for the e-mail announcement coming soon!

Brenda Uhrynuk
Team Leader, Guatemala



Mission Planning

San Benito (Peten): November 2022. Dates TBD.

Antigua: Friday, January 27 to Saturday, February 11, 2023

Applications for 2023 will be available in April 2022.

Medicos-en-Accion Society

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 Board

President: Gareth Eeson

Team Leader The Gambia: Gareth Eeson

Team Leader Guatemala: Brenda Uhrynuk

Treasurer: Dennis Wallis

Secretary: Bill Beaton

Website: Blake Farren

Medicos-en-Accion/Guatemala Surgical Teams

Team Leader Brenda Uhrynuk

Surgical Team Leader : Jennifer Soucie, Norm Weir

Anesthesia Team Leader: Murray Reimer

OR Nursing Team Leaders: Gina Hawryschuk,
Robin Edwards

PAR Nursing Team Leader: Joanne Marceau

Hearing Clinic Team Leader: Cindy Reimer

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

Organization: Asociación Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro

Project: Payment of Payroll Surgery Team

Staff benefited: Doctors and nurses

Date of Donation received: February 16, 2021

Report Date: June 2021

Dear Friends Medicos en Accion:

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! We 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 people since 1982, ever since, friends like you allow us to continue and expand our charitable work.

For Obras Sociales the Pandemic has meant difficult moments, since last year the international missions that are our principal support and help for the our patients had been cancelled, although we continue working and in October 2020 we started the Surgery Program with Guatemalans doctors and two weeks ago we have reopen with one Mission from de United States.

Actually, our country continues with the necessary measures, the COVID-19 had increases a little because of the third wave that is affecting the whole world, although, and thank God our Institution doesn't have any case. The Hospital is working at 75% of its capacity.

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 we are facing more challenges than ever in our country.

Thanks to your support, we can continue our healing work, so THANK YOU very much.

This is the Report of the execution of the funds we received in donation from your group and it was used specifically for the payment of the surgery staff payroll. Thanks to your valuable contribution, we were able to continue giving the support to the staff of that important area, they are ready and available when we have the chance to work together again.

The total of the payroll in February was Q 70,816.62 with your contribution we were able to pay all the staff in that month, we also pay part of the payroll of March that was Q 65,516.32 because we pay approximately 11 people. We attached the receipts signed by our staff.

Fraternaly,



Fray Jesús H. Gómez

Direction

Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro



Fray Mario Alfonso Hernández

Human Resources

Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro



Dr. Jussé Pineda

Head of Surgeries

Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro

Thank you for support our colleagues at Hermano Pedro!

ASOCIACION OBRAS SOCIALES DEL SANTO HERMANO PEDRO FRAILES FRANCISCANOS O.F.M.
6TA CALLE ORIENTE ENTRE 3ERA y 4TA AVENIDA 20
ANTIGUA GUATEMALA, SACATEPEQUEZ
PBX: 7931-2100 NIT: 546198-7

RECIBO POR DONACION
A ASOCIACIONES DE ASISTENCIA O SERVICIO SOCIAL
SERIE A
No. 313034

Recibido de: MEDICOS EN ACCION
Concepto: Donacion de \$ 14,605.00 x 7.45, depositado a la Cuenta de Eco. G&T Continental
82-5800034-6 para Salarios de Personal de Sala de Operaciones.
Fecha: 16 febrero 2021
Caja No. 01

Valor en Letras: CIENTO OCHO MIL OCHOCIENTOS SIETE QUETZALES CON 25 CENTAVOS
TOTAL Q. 108,807.25

Brinda Maritza Santos
Cajero - Receptor

ESTE RECIBO ES DEDUCIBLE PARA EFECTOS DEL ISR, SEGUN ACUERDO GUBERNATIVO 213-2013 ARTICULO 19.
BASE LEGAL 10-2012 ARTICULO 21 NUMERAL 22.
AUTORIZADO SEGUN RESOLUCION No. 2019-141-78340 DE FECHA 11/03/2021. VENCE 11/03/2021. FORMULARIO STANDARD S.A. PBX: 2425-8000 - NIT: 153029-7 - 75,000 - 03/0019 DEL No. A-200,001 AL No. A-200,002.

Donation Receipt



Need a great Christmas idea?



**Make a difference to a life:
Sponsor a surgery!**

Sponsoring a surgery costs only \$80 !

1. Direct donation

Send a cheque for one or more surgeries to:
Medicos-en-Accion Guatemala
c/o 1431 Frontier Place
Nanaimo, BC V9X 1P5

Make your cheque payable to:

Medicos-en-Accion Society
Tax receipts are issued for donations supporting this project.

2. Online via Canada Helps

Go to: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/medicos-en-accion-society/>

Find: Apply your Donation ...
Scroll to: Option 4 - MeA Antigua Surgeries



Canada Helps will issue your tax receipt immediately after your credit card transaction is processed.