

December through February

Surgical Missions:

142 surgeries performed

Cervical Cancer Prevention:

375 women screened

Medical Missions:

538 patients evaluated

96 surgical candidates

Cleft Infant Nutrition:

147 children enrolled



1st quarter 2016

Meet Rudy...

My name is Rudy. I am 27 and live in the village of Chaymal, Alta Vera Paz. I am married and have a one-year-old daughter. My house is made of wood with a reed roof.



Six years ago I got a hernia. When I walked I had **strong pain** and the hernia kept growing. In September I heard on the radio about the day Partner for Surgery was going to be at the health center.

I am very grateful to Partner for Surgery for giving me the opportunity for surgery and for the health promoters who support us at any time. **I hope Partner for Surgery will continue because in the rural areas there are many people needing surgery** and scarce resources makes it very difficult to use other hospitals. **God bless all Partner for Surgery teams** for their work and support.

Meet Hugo...

Hugo lives with his **mother, father, two brothers, and two sisters** in the Alta Verapaz region of the Guatemalan highlands. Like so many of our desperately poor patients, **Hugo's family struggles to survive.** They own a tiny home that has **neither electricity nor potable water**, so must drink water from the nearby river. His father works as a farmer and earns the equivalent of **\$38 per month.**



Hugo was born with **cleft lip and palate** and could not nurse effectively. At the age of **four months**, he suffered from severe malnutrition, **weighing in at only 5.7 pounds.** His desperate family learned of Partner for Surgery and brought him to a medical mission.



During his **first six months in the Nutrition program**, Hugo **gained enough weight** to qualify for cleft lip surgery. He traveled to Guatemala City with his mother to receive his corrective surgery from the Free to Smile Surgical Team – one of our most dedicated volunteer teams – in May of 2015. After another six months, Hugo was **ready for surgery to correct his cleft palate.**



Hugo's smile is worth a thousand words. **Thanks to supporters like you, he will live a healthy, happy life!**



Working to reduce the incidence of cleft birth defects...



Partner for Surgery launched its renowned **Nutrition Program** in 2009 to prepare children for surgical repair of cleft defects. This program proves that **early intervention in rural communities saves infants from a lifetime of discrimination and poor health**. In the years since then, more than 1000 children have received cleft surgery, half of whom were enrolled in the Nutrition Program. As a next logical step, Partner for Surgery is **now collaborating** with



George Washington University's School of Public Health and various Guatemalan organizations **to determine the causes of cleft deformities** and develop a plan to reduce cleft incidence in Guatemala.

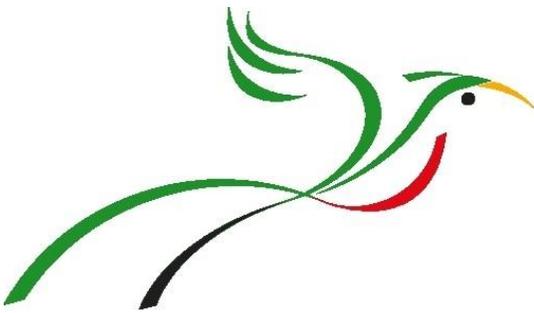


Experts have long known that cleft defects can be **caused by folic acid deficiency** during the first trimester of pregnancy. In the case of impoverished Guatemalans, deficiency causes are thought to be maternal disease during pregnancy, socioeconomic factors, poor nutrition, and microtoxins originating from fungus present in various local foods. **We will continue to work together** to determine ways to overcome the risk

factors that result in the **extremely high rate of cleft defects among these Guatemalan children** and will keep you informed of our progress.

How YOU can help...

- ✓ Make a tax-deductible donation:
 - Via our web site, www.partnerforsurgery.org. Click on the **PayPal** image on the home page. (You can use a credit card or your PayPal account)
 - Mail a **check** in the enclosed remittance envelope.
- ✓ Like our page, share our stories, or make a donation on Facebook - /partnerforsurgery.



Thank you...

...from our **volunteers**, from our **hard-working ACPC staff**, and from the thousands of Guatemalans whose **lives have been changed** because of you. Partner for Surgery is a registered 501(C) 3 non-profit organization and **all donations are tax deductible** to the full extent of the law.