



A HAPPY ENCOUNTER 13 YEARS LATER!

This past June I was approached by a woman who immediately remembered me from **13 years ago**. As soon as she showed me her feet, I remembered her, Alicia. She had come to us barely able to walk because of two club feet. As a teenager, she had few prospects for a life outside the family home - but now she is married with two children and her smile reflects how that surgical repair 13 years ago changed her life.

For me, that was the highlight of the week and once again reminded me of the importance of the work of **Partner for Surgery**.

Frank Peterson, President of Partner for Surgery



WORKSHOP AND NEXT STEPS

We are happy to report that the **June Workshop in Guatemala** on **causes and means to prevent cleft lip and palate birth defects** was a big success.

This event was the result of PfS building a team of mostly Guatemalan organizations led by the **George Washington University Milken Institute of Public Health**.

Over 80 participants attended and based on the presentations,

inadequate micronutrients in the diet of a newly pregnant mother is a very important factor in formation of cleft defects.

A summary of the workshop and ideas on how to address the unusually large number of these birth defects in Guatemala is now being prepared and we will keep you informed on this exciting endeavor.

Melisa, on the left, is part of our program. Our health promoter taught Melisa's mother feeding techniques using a special bottle to make the process easier.



HELP US CONTINUE TO CHANGE LIVES

We are very hopeful our future efforts to reduce the incidence of cleft defects will be successful.

Today however, children continue to be born with these life threatening deformities and need surgery.

As we go to print with this newsletter, **162** children are in the **PfS Cleft Infant Nutrition Program**.

UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO FUNDING LIMITATIONS, WE ARE NOW TRAGICALLY BEGINNING TO TURN BABIES AWAY.

Selvin Caal and his mother, Carmen, with Ariel Marroquin, the Director of Operations. Selvin was part of our nutrition program and had two surgeries to repair a cleft lip and a cleft palate. Today, with perfect speech, he is in first grade and top of his class.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

DONATE: Make a tax-deductible donation:

- Visit the PayPal or GlobalGiving link at partnerforsurgery.org. Payments can be securely made via **credit card**.
- Mail a **check** in the enclosed remittance envelope.

SPREAD THE WORD: Find us on Facebook, Twitter or LinkedIn and share our updates with your friends, families and co-workers.

VOLUNTEER IN GUATEMALA: We are always on the lookout for new volunteers. If you would like to help us or know of someone who would be interested, please call at (703) 893-4335 or send a message to info@partnerforsurgery.org.

OUR PROGRESS JUNE-AUGUST

Surgical missions:
200 surgeries performed

Medical missions:
1021 patients evaluated
434 surgical candidates

Cervical cancer prevention:
698 women screened
26 women treated

Cleft infant nutrition:
162 children enrolled

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.



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