

## Statistics for June through August

### Mobile Medical Missions:

evaluated 445 patients  
scheduled 180 surgeries

### Surgical Missions:

completed 147 surgeries  
(101 pediatric surgeries)

### Targeted Infant Nutrition:

120 infants enrolled

### Cervical Cancer Prevention:

screened 331 women  
removed 1 pre-cancerous lesion  
referred 2 to Ministry of Health



## Newsletter - 3rd quarter 2014

### Walter's story...

This is the story of a ten year old boy named Walter, one of the hundreds of patients whose lives are transformed by Partner for Surgery each year. Walter was seen by one of our health promoters near his rural village of San Miguel, Chisec, and later escorted to Antigua, Guatemala for successful surgery. Translated from his indigenous language into Spanish and then English, here are the words of Walter and his father, Don Juan:

**Walter** (On being examined prior to surgery): I feel sad about the tumor that I have.



My mom tells me I was born normal, but when I was three the tumor appeared and my dad **never had money to take me to a doctor**. It gradually grew more and more until it reached this size. Now I am ten years old and in second grade. Other **students tease me** because of my tumor and because we have no money to do anything about it."



**Don Juan** (explaining how Walter's surgery was possible): "Someone came to Walter's school to help students and families who had health problems and no money. They saw Walter and took his information. A month later this person told me they had arranged a medical day for our village and that I should take my son to be seen. They told me 'do not worry, we will take care of your transportation and food and someone will go with you.' **That's when I learned about Partner for Surgery.**"



**Don Juan** continued: "After Walter was seen during the medical day, Nativity (the name of a Partner for Surgery Health Promoter) told me we would have to travel to Antigua so that **my son could have an operation**. We traveled with Nativity and a small group of people who also needed surgery. When we got to the hospital, we were told they first had to do a test called an MRI or something and I was desperate because I told them we were poor and did not have money for such a test, but thank God, they paid for this test to examine my son. **Then I was told we had to wait another week** so doctors could see Walter and decide if they could operate. I said no, that I must return to work so my family could have enough to eat. Thankfully, I was convinced to wait - I didn't really want to but they persuaded me. **Thanks to God, they operated on my son and he is happy**. We are a poor family. Our house is made of straw and sticks and **we would never have had money for surgery.**"

Walter received his surgery on August 27th of this year from **IBERMED**. When he woke up, the first thing Walter said was "Thank you, thank Señora Isa (another Partner for Surgery Health Promoter) for convincing my dad to stay and thank you for staying with us. I'm happy because now I'm going back to school and **no one will tease me** because I'm cured. Thanks to Partner for Surgery, I can fulfill my dream of **being big and healthy** in my life. Thank God for saving me from everything and also Partner for Surgery, thank you very, very much."





*One of our wonderful volunteers, Nurse Carol Wise, attends to one of our young patients.*

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*Some of our grateful patients pose for a photograph with our Guatemalan partner, ACPC*

## **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 \* P.O. Box 388 \* McLean, VA 22101 USA**

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