

December through February by the numbers

Surgical Missions:

186 surgeries performed
(52 cleft lip surgeries and
24 cleft palate surgeries)

Cervical Cancer Prevention:

800 women screened
21 pre-cancerous lesions removed

Cleft Infant Nutrition:

124 children enrolled



Newsletter 1st quarter 2015

Vidalia...



Vidalia was born in July of 2013. She weighed 7 pounds and appeared to be in good health – except she was born with a cleft lip and palate. Her parents Catalina and Hector walked for hours to two different hospitals, both of which told them this was not an urgent case. Because of the family's extreme poverty, they were referred to a social worker.

When Hector's family learned that Vidalia was born with cleft lip and palate, they shunned Vidalia and Catalina and told Hector to take his family away "to avoid suffering and shame to the family". Says Catalina: "In order to have a place to live, we didn't have enough money for food. Often Hector and I ate once per day, or sometimes skipped a day, so the children could eat. In spite of this, Vidalia lost weight and became malnourished."

"Thanks to God and to the social worker, we learned about Partner for Surgery and beginning in January of 2014 a Health Promoter helped us with milk for my daughter. I don't know what we would have done without them. I have given birth to five children, and three of them have died. Only Vidalia and her 7-year-old brother survive."

After two months, the Health Promoter became concerned that Vidalia was not gaining weight, and also noticed that the baby sweated excessively. Her parents took Vidalia to a hospital to be examined, and it was discovered that Vidalia suffered from a heart condition. Vidalia was admitted to the hospital to be monitored, and Catalina stayed with her while Hector returned to his community with his son so he could work. Two months later, Vidalia received corrective heart surgery, and in October of 2014, the cardiologist cleared Vidalia for cleft lip surgery. Vidalia is expected to receive her cleft palate surgery in the spring of 2015.



Said Catalina: "Thank God for Partner for Surgery. God is the only one who can repay them for what they have done for my daughter, thank you."

What is Voluntourism?...

Simply stated, it's travel that includes **volunteering for a charitable cause**. Voluntourism appeals to **students** who wish to boost resumes, travel with friends, gain world experience, and see new countries. But travelers come from **all age groups** - participants are often seeking activities that give new meaning to their lives. Voluntourism appeals to travelers who want to **make a positive change** in the world, while still providing an escorted opportunity to see the country.

Does this describe you? Beginning in 2015, we invite **non-medical volunteers to participate** in medical triage missions. You will visit the communities we serve, **working side by side with the medical team**, meeting and serving our **patients and their families**. Roles include:

- Helping in the pharmacy
- Patient registration and intake

- Patient escort services
- Trip historian – take pictures of patients and the clinic site, gather stories, and interview community members.

This is an opportunity to **go beyond the boundaries** of the sites in the history books and travel guides – to **experience the smiles and tears** of the people. All persons **18 years and over** are invited to participate – spread the word! For details, contact Frank Peterson directly at 703.893.4335 or info@partnerforsurgery.org.

Another Bonus Day is coming up...

Our second **matching opportunity** with Global Giving happens next **Wednesday, March 18**. Thanks to you, our generous supporters, the last Bonus Day in October was very successful. Global Giving matches **30% of every donor's gift up to \$1000** (maximum match \$300). It's important to remember that \$75,000 in matching funds are available, and many charities participate – so **make your donation as close to 9am EDT as possible** to maximize odds of receiving the match. Visit www.globalgiving.org, search for Partner for Surgery, and select one of our projects.

Do we have your email?...

In an effort to **trim expenses**, we would like to acknowledge gifts with **email tax receipts**. Each emailed receipt **saves more than one dollar** in expenses (stationery, ink, postage). **Online donations will automatically receive a tax receipt via email**. If you mail a check and wish to receive an emailed tax receipt, **include your preferred email address** on the remittance envelope (or the memo line of your check) and we will use that email to send your tax receipt. If you prefer a mailed tax receipt, omit your email and we will send you a postal receipt. *Thank you for your continued support!*

How YOU can help...

- ✓ “Like” us on Facebook - /partnerforsurgery. Share our activities on your timeline and help spread the word!
- ✓ Are you a cyber shopper? Shop via **Amazon Smile** and designate Partner for Surgery using the following link: <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/54-2034427>. It costs you nothing, and Partner for Surgery gets a percentage of every purchase you make!
- ✓ If you can, make a tax-deductible donation:
 - Via Global Giving at <http://goto.gg/18508> or <http://goto.gg/14869> (See **Bonus Day** item above!)
 - 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)
 - Via US Mobile Phone: donate \$10 by texting **GIVE 18508** or **GIVE 14869** to **80088**
 - Mail a **check** in the enclosed remittance envelope.

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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