

September through November

Surgical Missions:

107 surgeries performed

Medical Missions:

606 patients evaluated

203 surgical candidates

Cervical Cancer Prevention:

313 women screened

1 woman treated

Cleft Infant Nutrition:

130 children enrolled



4th quarter 2015

More Medical Miracles...



Partner for Surgery hosted a mobile medical mission a few months ago in a region of Guatemala that was new to us. During that week of patient evaluations, we were able to identify more than 150 surgical candidates. **Yezenia** (top left), the mother of five children, suffered from ovarian cysts for more than two years. **Humberto** (right), a farmer from San Marcos, suffered from a hernia for more than 13 years. **Ana** (bottom left), the mother of four children, suffered from fibroid tumors for more than six years.



Patients like Yezenia, Humberto, and Ana have no access to the national health system in Guatemala. But **thanks to you and your steadfast support**, all three – along with more than 100 others - received the surgery they needed to regain full health.



We cannot thank you enough for supporting our work as we continue to change lives!

A message from Dr. McNeill Gibson...

I have just finished my **4th mission trip** with Partner for Surgery and Asociación Compañero para Cirugía in Baja Verapaz, Guatemala. I am a general internist from Blowing Rock, N.C. Each of the missions I have been on with PFS has been to a different and ecologically unique area of rural Mayan villages which one would rarely see as a tourist. The **Mayan people we see are without exception poor, appreciative, and friendly**. The common conditions we see to evaluate for surgical referral include: cleft lips and palates, poly/syndactyly, diverse hernias, various lumps, masses, and cysts, burn scars with contractures, cholelithiasis, uterine prolapse to name a few. Surgical teams are usually scheduled to come a few weeks after the triage missions. There is an **excellent tracking system for patients** with provisions for transport to and from the surgical sites, and a **post op hostel** with a nurse and supervising physician. **Dr. Mynor Alvarez** is the medical director and attends all of the triage mission trips. He is fluent in English, witty, and wise. His clinical acumen and understanding of the Guatemalan health system are invaluable. Each mission has excellent Spanish and Mayan translators.

In addition to surgical triage, the mission team has an experienced **group of Guatemalan nurse practitioners** who perform VIA cervical diagnostic procedures and are able to treat cervical ca/dysplasia with cryotherapy at the same visit. I have been on medical missions with other organizations in Latin America and Africa over the years. It is easy to feel overwhelmed by the complexity of the medical and social ills encountered and to wonder what good can come of your efforts. **The specific focus on surgically treatable conditions in a population that would otherwise be unlikely to receive adequate care is the strength of PFS, and the compelling reason I am drawn to return each year.**

McNeill Gibson, MD

A message from Frank Peterson...

As 2015 draws to a close, I thank all of you who donated time and financial support to Partner for Surgery. **We raised more than \$70,000 toward our \$100,000 goal during our annual appeal** ending October 31st. Without your significant contributions, we could not have provided medical and surgical care to the

thousands of rural Guatemalans who have no other options. We hope to raise the additional \$30,000 from our donors who give toward the end of the calendar year.

2015 was a successful year. Partner for Surgery **transferred program management** to our Guatemalan partner, Asociación Compañero para Cirugía (ACPC). ACPC has also become an **active fundraising partner**. This structure is critical to promote long term sustainability to our programs, and allows for **optimal use of donor funds**. ACPC's evolution has been a key goal in our provision of medical and surgical care to those in Guatemala's rural impoverished communities. **Together we are changing lives in a country that ranks 4th highest globally for chronic malnutrition, and where 50% of children are physically and developmentally stunted.**

Poverty and malnutrition in Guatemala result in an unusually high occurrence of cleft lip and palate birth defects. Our **hallmark Infant Nutrition Program has been recognized as an outstanding success** in saving the lives of many of these children. As a next step, we are partnering with organizations in both the U.S. and Guatemala, and **working together to identify ways to reduce the number of children born with cleft defects**. Success at this highly challenging goal will impact children and their families throughout and beyond Guatemala.

We appreciate your continued support of our efforts and look forward to letting you know of our progress.

Warm regards,

Frank Peterson, President, Partner for Surgery

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.



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