



Partner for Surgery serves to improve health, empower communities, and overcome barriers for the farthest rural areas of Guatemala. Together with our strategic partner, Asociación Compañero para Cirugía which implements in-country operations, we are on the frontlines of medical and surgical care in Guatemala, where the most impoverished live, bridging language, distance, and cultural barriers.

**Improve Health • Empower Communities • Overcome Barriers**



**1402 Patients evaluated on Rural Medical Missions**



**763 Surgeries performed during Surgical Missions**



**215 children enrolled in the Cleft Infant Nutrition Program**



**1533 Cervical Cancer Screenings**

**You are not just providing medical care; you are also providing a different way to live.**



## **A Different Story for Telma and Erick**

Having been born with extra fingers and toes, Telma is no stranger to being pushed aside and shamed for her appearance. Telma's hurt was enough motivation to look for a different way to live for her little boy, Erick, who was also born with extra toes. At three years old, hurtful comments directed at him had come too close for Telma's comfort.

Fortunately, Telma's husband is a kind man. He's always told Telma they cannot do anything to keep people from saying hurtful things. And Telma agrees: "I figure that people can be whomever they want. I cannot change them. But I can help my little one avoid feeling how I've felt: hopeless."

In their case, the best lesson has been to grow strong in a way not to feel let down easily, to learn not to judge by appearances only, and that it is good to care about others. This lesson Telma learned for herself, and she teaches it to her little Erick as he watches the "Ugly Duckling Story" on a borrowed phone. It is Telma and Erick's favorite story.

The solution for Telma and Erick's problem was a luxury they could hardly dream of reaching in rural Guatemala, let alone afford with their minimal income. Thankfully, our programs secure the solution each patient needs. Thanks to our donors, we can provide surgery and quality health care. They help us transform people's lives.





## Carlos has a Guardian Angel

Carlos is a sponsored child through the Guardian Angel Program. Monthly he receives visits from Marta, who follows up on his development and brings formula and supplies to support his growth. Carlos got to meet his Guardian Angels during the Surgical Mission, in which Carlos received his first lip surgery. Jim and Kristi were team leaders for the surgical team!



## David

David's life changed during a game of "hide and seek." When he innocently touched a power cord on his home's rooftop, half his body was burned. His mom says he gets highly discouraged by the hurtful comments and stares from people on the street. But on a PFS Surgical Mission, a Canadian surgeon teamed up with two Guatemalan surgeons so that David could receive reconstructive surgery to release a contracture of his back muscles.



## Edinson and his mom

Edinson told mom he would only return to school if he got surgery. He's been absent for most of the year because he got bullied to mental exhaustion. His classmates called him four-eyes and poked him incessantly with pencils because of two large scars on his head. During a Surgical Mission, the plastics team for CHOP helped his mom get him back to school and to get him there full of confidence.



## Francisca

In their youth, Francisca and her husband made a living as farmers. But as time passes, her elderly husband needs her full care. To support themselves, she sells 50 tamales once a week at three quetzals each; after expenses, her earnings average 50 quetzals (USD 6.47). When she sells, Francisca carries the 30-pound basket. Such effort worsened a prolapsed uterus. We met Mrs. Francisca on our July mission in Jutiapa, and she received surgery in August!

## The mission must go on

After two long years of cancelations, lockdowns, and other effects of the pandemic, we began this year with a lot of hope in our hearts. At the end of the year, we are grateful that such hope was not in vain. Our surgical teams and rural missions to Guatemala returned to a full schedule. Thanks to our donors, life-changing medical care and surgical procedures reached thousands of rural Guatemalans.

Unfortunately, the job is still ongoing, as the country still needs to work on providing these services to the communities that are farther and harder to reach. Thirty-five percent of the country's population lack access to basic health and nutrition services, and the healthcare system is in constant crisis where the poorest are more affected. So today, we ask you to please support our mission and help us reach the people of Guatemala with the dignity of quality medical care they deserve in 2023.

To make a donation, use the QR code below or go to [partnerforsurgery.org](http://partnerforsurgery.org).

Checks may be mailed to us at:

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