



A new school of continued education for health promoters

Since 2001, Partner for Surgery has supported over **2,000** in our Cleft Infant Nutrition Program. This success is due to our efforts to provide sustainable programs for the people we serve. Our health promoters are essential to these life-saving programs: our surgical, rural missions, and especially our cleft infant nutrition program. Their work within their communities has impacted the children’s holistic health and the family’s health education while providing appropriate support for patients recovering from a cleft condition.

We are convinced that utilizing our health promoters helps us to efficiently bridge the gap between the availability of healthcare solutions and the rural communities that need them. This is why, this year, Partner for Surgery seeks to continue training our health promoters to keep high medical standards and expand our programs to other areas of need. We will approach this by establishing a school of continued education for health promoters.

And now, you can support this new project and ensure it becomes a life-changing reality. A generous donor has agreed to match every gift up to a total of \$45,000. Now is the perfect time for an impact.

Please donate

to our matching grant fund to help us reach our **goal**

Your donation will be doubled.
Will you help us reach our goal and secure health and education for these families?



Donate to PFS

To make a donation, use the **QR code** or go to

partnerforsurgery.org.

Checks may be mailed to us at:
Partner for Surgery
PO Box 388
McLean, VA, 22101, USA

(703) 338-8068

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Partner for Surgery is excited to unveil our new logo!



The “Resplendent Quetzal” is a beautiful bird known for its stunning plumage, bright colors and long feathered tail. It is also an important national symbol of Guatemala. In the past, the Mayans considered the Quetzal to be divine, calling it the “God of Air”. It was seen as a symbol of goodness, freedom and light. The bird is a source of great pride that offers a sense of connectedness to the beautiful people of Guatemala.

This is why Partner for Surgery has always featured the Quetzal as the prominent image of our logo. As before, our new logo represents a commitment to bringing hope to the most rural and impoverished communities of Guatemala through life-changing surgical care. Through our rural health promoters, we overcome language and cultural barriers to build trust among rural Mayans so that, in a sense, we can also be a source of goodness and light. Our vision remains to provide quality healthcare to the farthest corners of this beautiful country, where no one else goes. After all, they are the reason we are constantly inspired to continue our work.

Why we keep coming back: to give life-changing hope

In January, Team Broken Earth traveled to Alta Verapaz in the Northern Highlands of Guatemala for a Rural Medical Mission with Partner for Surgery. After the 11-hour bus ride, we set up medical clinics to triage, treat, and schedule patients in need of surgery. To say the week was rewarding is an understatement. We met so many wonderful patients and their families, all thankful to see us. We even visited some of their homes, where we learned about their culture, their stories and profound struggles. One

of my fondest memories is meeting Sonia, a 16-year-old girl from Ixcán, and her mom, who never gave up the hope of finding a cure for her daughter’s cleft lip. Despite the pandemic’s struggles, we learned that the facemask was actually a blessing for Sonia because it allowed Sonia some newfound freedom. With it on, Sonia could move around freely without facing ridicule for her disfigured smile. At the clinic, Sonia walked slowly to the exam area where she removed the mask. Dr. Art Rideout, our plastic and reconstructive surgeon, met her with an extended hand and a smile and reassured her she was already beautiful. Her cleft lip repair was scheduled for the following month when our team would return to perform the surgeries. It was a tearful yet beautiful moment. In February, I accompanied Sonia to the pre-op area at the hospital in Antigua and

reassured her and her mother that everything would be okay. Just a few hours later, Dr. Rideout and the surgical team had successfully repaired her cleft lip. The next day, I visited Sonia and we exchanged heartfelt smiles. After 16 years, her dreams for a brighter future had come true; no more hiding. This is why Team Broken Earth keeps coming back – to reaffirm the power of hope to people like Sonia and her mother. We not only fixed Sonia’s smile, but we also changed her life.



Michelle Murphy, Team Broken Earth

