

Inauguration of the School of Continued Education



Dear Friends,

Happy Summer! May you enjoy wonderful weather and sunny skies. In Guatemala, we eagerly await the rains after a very hot season that has greatly affected the crops and incomes of the communities we serve.

We are pleased to communicate that we have started our training for the School of Continued Education for Health Promoters and we also have new team members we are excited to introduce. None of this would be possible without you, thank you for being part of our community!

Partner for Surgery initiated planning and fundraising for the **School of Continued Education for Health Promoters** in 2023 to support sustainable healthcare solutions. The Cleft Infant Nutrition Program (CINP) has aided over 3,000 infants. The training program started in May 2024 with 18 health promoters participating, thanks to donor support and team dedication.

The first day featured a nutrition workshop led by clinical nutritionist Andrea Marroquin. This session effectively enhanced the health promoters' skills in growth metrics, identifying deficiencies, and interpreting growth data through practical case studies, significantly boosting community health.

On the second day, health promoters improved communication and leadership skills through workshops led by expert Daniella Feterman. They learned about personality traits, teamwork, and conflict resolution, crucial for navigating Guatemala's healthcare system.

The progress of our School of Continued Education for Health Promoters reflects our unwavering commitment to excellence and community impact. We remain optimistic about the future, driven by the dedication and resilience of our team.

Our New Team!



Omar Ponciano / Executive Director

Omar brings over two decades of experience in multinational corporations to his role as Executive Director. With a Bachelor's degree in Construction Management and a master's degree, Omar's expertise in administration and operations is invaluable to our team.



Rosemary Hernández / Missions Director

As our Missions Director, Rosemary brings a wealth of experience in clinical psychology and medical procurement to Partner for Surgery.



Emily López / Resource Development Manager

Emily joins us as our Resource Development Manager, bringing with her a strong background in Business Administration and Digital Marketing & Social Media. With over four years of nonprofit experience.



Dr. Ramiro Quezada / Medical Director

With a specialization in Pediatrics and experience as a Health and Nutrition Specialist for UNICEF, Ramiro serves as our Medical Director for the Nutrition Project.

Year to Date Statistics

344

Surgeries Completed

195

Current Children in the Nutrition Program

80

Cleft Lip and Palate Surgeries



The Transformative Power of Community Support



René recovering at home with his family

It's not just children we treat and benefit from surgery; adults like René Muñoz, who is 52 years old, also find life-changing support. René, a devoted family man and hardworking farmer from an isolated valley of Jalapa, has faced challenges since birth due to a unilateral cleft lip and palate. His condition made communication difficult and led to frequent respiratory infections. Discrimination prevented him from attending school, limiting his job opportunities.

As a malnourished baby, René didn't qualify for surgery. Over time, he developed a fear of corrective procedures and resigned himself to his condition. However, his neighbor and friend, Byron Reynoso, offered a glimmer of hope by suggesting treatment in Antigua Guatemala through Partner for Surgery.

With Byron's encouragement, René traveled to Antigua, where he met Dina Salguero, a compassionate health promoter from Partner for Surgery. Dina guided René through consultations, evaluations, and surgery preparations. After a few months of overcoming obstacles like hypertension, René underwent a successful operation led by Dr. Christopher Tolan of the Love Without Boundaries team.

Though his recovery journey continues, René's story showcases resilience and the transformative impact of community support. With Byron, Dina, and the Partner for Surgery team standing by his side, René now has a reason to smile again, proving that courage and hope can conquer any challenge.

“ It is satisfying to support patients every step of the way and share the joy of saying to a waiting patient **'Your Surgery Has Been Approved.'** ”
-Dina Salguero , Health Promoter PFS

Donate to PFS

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

To make a donation, use the QR Code or visit us online
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