

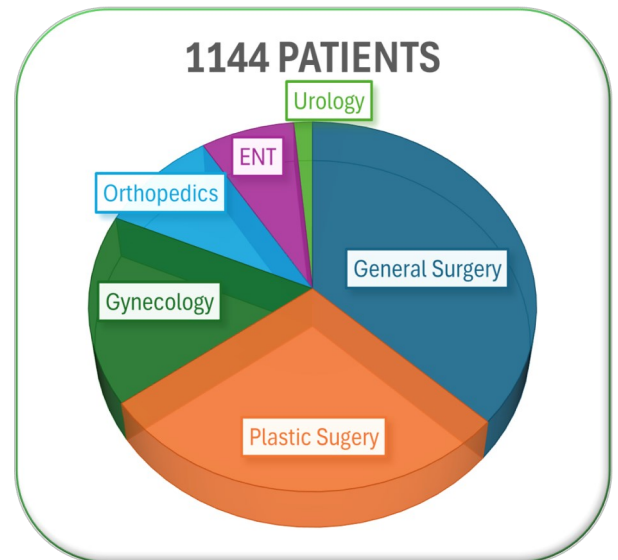
PfS Newsletter

Spring 2024



Partner for Surgery has started the year 2024 with a busy schedule, determined to achieve even greater success than we did in 2023. We are proud to take on this challenge. Together with our partner organization in Guatemala, *Companero para Cirugia*, we remain the only group that reaches out to rural Guatemalans using rural Health Promoters to support our patients throughout their journey to receiving surgical care.

To put this challenge into perspective, our five rural medical missions in 2023 had 71 volunteers who evaluated 1616 patients of which 979 were referred for surgery. The 18 surgical teams we supported resulted in 1,144 surgical procedures, including 204 for cleft lips and palates. We are happy to report that our five Guatemalan volunteer plastic surgeons provided 35 of those procedures. As you can see on the graphic, the care we provided covered a broad spectrum of surgical issues.



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Checks may be mailed to us at:

Partner for Surgery
PO Box 388
McLean, VA 22101, USA



We had hoped that the need for our Cleft Infant Nutrition Program would diminish over time, but unfortunately, rural poverty is still pervasive. In 2023, 273 children with clefts were supported with nutritional supplies, lip taping, and monthly monitoring, and their families were mentored in best practices for the care of infants with clefts. At the end of 2023, 192 children remained in the program, with 90 percent having both a cleft lip and cleft palate and thus requiring at least two separate surgeries. In contrast to patients with other surgical needs, children with clefts remain in our active care for typically one year or more.

We have been fortunate since 2001, when we began our efforts in rural Guatemala, to have had a relatively stable crew of health promoters and management staff. In 2023, after over ten years working with the volunteer surgical teams, Ariel Marroquin resigned for a less stressful job, and of course, we wish him well. Rosemary Hernandez joined us last fall and has done a fantastic job of carrying out the responsibilities of supporting the volunteer surgical teams. More recently,

the executive director, Liset Olivet, resigned after keeping the organization functioning during the difficult COVID pandemic. We are excited to announce that Omar Ponciano has recently assumed leadership responsibilities in Guatemala, and we are fortunate to benefit from his extensive management experience. I am sure you will be reading more about these new staff members in our upcoming newsletters.

We are always looking for more medical and non-medical volunteers to go on rural medical missions and additional surgical teams. If you are not able to volunteer --- please consider helping sustain our efforts with a donation.

We would appreciate any support you could provide.

The PFS Board of Directors

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