

# A Month for Kindness



## FEATURED STORY

## Restoring Hope and trust through care and compassion

Alberto, a person with special needs, drew comfort from his parents' care. Yet, his world shifted when his mother fell seriously ill and passed away two months ago. Amidst their sorrow, his elder sister Claraluz stepped in, fulfilling a promise to their mother to care for Alberto devotedly. Their journey was challenging due to Alberto's longstanding hernia issue, compounded by his fear of strangers, especially doctors. But Claraluz's determination led them to Dina, our highly regarded health promoter in their community. Dina's compassion quickly gained Alberto's trust, opening the door for his much-needed hernia surgery. On evaluation day, Dr. Heather Osterbrink, known for her kindness, established a connection with Alberto through

his soccer jersey, easing his apprehensions. Despite concerns that Alberto might resist or react adversely, the team, including nursing staff, Dina, and Dr. Heather, united to support him. Claraluz guided him into the surgical room, holding his hand. Their collective efforts bore fruit as Alberto finally received the essential surgery. Beyond the physical healing, what truly touched the hearts of everyone is that we are reminded every patient belongs to someone and carries a story that makes them whole. Our work centers around building partnerships that bring healing. Yet, in cases like Alberto's, these partnerships transcend medical boundaries. They become conduits for compassion, community, and togetherness so that love and care can overcome even the most daunting challenges.



*Alberto, Clara Luz and Dr. Heather Osterbrink sharing a special moment during post-op rounds.*

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To make a donation, use the QR code or visit our website at [partnerforsurgery.org](https://partnerforsurgery.org)

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Partner for Surgery  
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McLean, VA, 22101, USA



**FEATURED STORY**

## A unified front for a lifelong impact

**Dr. Osterbrink, Surgical team leader**

Reflecting on our recent surgical mission in Guatemala with Partner for Surgery, I'm humbled by the selfless dedication of each person that week. Housekeepers worked tirelessly without complaint, kitchen staff ensured meals for all, PFS health promoters toiled day and night for patients needing care, local pre-op nurses showed gentleness to anxious patients, OR nurses comforted nervous individuals. Recovery room nurses cared for post-surgery patients. The team from the US and Canada sacrificed family time, vacations, and personal funds to work long days in an unfamiliar setting. Amidst it all, the joy of contributing to something greater united us across differences. We're forever changed, and I, for one, am eager for our return.



*Our dedicated team of medical volunteers from the US and Guatemalan came together to make a real difference.*

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■ ■ THIS IS YOUR INVITATION

## Experience Guatemala from the inside.

Guatemala's unparalleled beauty, vibrant culture, and breathtaking landscapes only scratch the surface of what makes this place magical. When you visit this country through the experience of Partner for Surgery, you'll dive in deeper—discover remote villages, meet the rural Mayans we serve, hear their stories, and see their families. And if you're like us, you'll fall in love.



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