

MEDICAL MISSION TO GUATEMALA 2004

Stephen J. Miller, DPM

Sixteen people volunteered to fly into Guatemala City to participate in another medical mission specializing in foot and ankle surgery November 5-14, 2004. Sponsored by the Oregon and Western Washington chapter of Healing the Children for logistics, the mission also received financial support from three Rotary clubs in northwest Washington, as well as from the Podiatry Institute of Atlanta, and a number of corporate donors. The host organization in Guatemala was the Pediatric Fundacion of Guatemalteca.



The team, lead by Dr. Stephen Miller of Anacortes, Washington, consisted of four foot and ankle surgeons, two third-year podiatric surgery residents, two anesthesiologists, an internist, two OR nurses, two PACU nurses, and one scrub tech. Lori Graham did a super job as the team Administrator, and Charlie Urbick provided data collection among other support tasks. All participants paid for their own airfare and hotel costs. Maria Jose was the local host coordinator and Giovanni Fratti provided a lot of unexpected help locally.



Saturday was a day for everyone to get oriented to Guatemala. On Sunday, while the OR crew set up at the hospital, the surgeons and medical team screened 20 children for foot and ankle deformities in need of surgical correction. Ten were scheduled for surgery during the upcoming week. As the cases progressed another 11 children trickled into the clinics and four more surgical cases were scheduled for a grand total of 19 feet repaired during the mission. Prescriptions for alternate care were written for most of the non-surgical patients.

Cases included clubfoot repair, revisional clubfoot surgery, spastic diplegia, tibialis anterior tendon transfer in a myelomeningocele patient, rigid flatfoot repair, polydactyly revision and a distal tibial osteotomy among others. "This was the best medical mission team I have ever worked with," beamed Dr. Miller as he commented on the lives touched by the team's cooperative efforts.

Although the team finished the surgical cases by Wednesday evening there was much work to do to pack up the equipment used not only by this team but by the four different Healing the Children teams that preceded it. It was this team's additional responsibility to get the surgical instruments and other equipment

home to the Seattle chapter, as well as to store the supplies for future missions and donate as many supplies as possible to organizations in Guatemala. As is always the courtesy, extra dressings and cast materials were given to the local orthopedic surgeon and clinics to care for the children who underwent surgery. The team





was also able to examine two young patients who underwent successful surgery by Dr. Miller's team to repair their clubfoot deformities the previous year.

The extra time was well-used to take the team to the Camino Segura project at the city dump. The team internist, Dr. Jose Gude, spent his time seeing 20 patients there over a couple of days once rounds were accomplished for the children. The Camino Segura project is the brain-child of Hanley Denning whose goal is to provide food, shelter, medical care and education for children of the poor people who live in and around the city dump.

Several members of the medical mission team spent another day traveling two and a half hours southeast of Guatemala City to the city of Zacapa to assess another pediatric clinic and small hospital for the potential of future medical missions. Gustavos Fratti, a Guatemala businessman and Rotarian, was the host and had spent many years building and equipping these facilities. It was the consensus of the team members that they could help finish equipping the hospital and organize a future medical mission to provide care for the people in this region. During this site visit several doctors examined a young girl by the name of Maria with the congenital absence of one hand. It was decided that, using the resources of Healing the Children, several members of the team would work with this girl's family to bring her to the United States and get her fitted with a prosthetic hand, possibly with some rudimentary function. Lori Graham will be staying in the Zacapa area for a year to set up nutrition programs for the poorest children in the region. The team is grateful for all the help from the staff at Healing the Children in Seattle, and to corporate donors, especially BSN Medical (casting supplies), K-Medic (medical instruments), Doak Dermatologics (medications), Musculoskeletal Transplant Foundation (bone allgragfts), DePuy Orthopaedics International (fixation devices), and North Atlanta Surgical Center (OR gowns).



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“Healing the world.....one child at a time.”





SUMMARY REPORT

Healing the Children – Medical Mission Trip for Foot/Ankle

Guatemala City – Pediatric Fundacion

November 5-14, 2004

Team Leader:	Stephen J. Miller, DPM	Anacortes, WA
Surgeons:	Byron Hutchinson, DPM	Seattle, WA
	Louis Jimenez, DPM	Snellville, GA
	Jay Morgan, DPM	Mobile, AL
	Jennifer Saam, DPM	Seattle, WA (Resident)
	Dorian Jimenez, DPM	Atlanta, GA (Resident)
Anesthesiologists:	Dan Baldini, MD	Seattle, WA
	Tony Silva, MD	Atlanta, GA
Medical:	Jose Gude, MD	Seattle, WA

Summary:

Total Children Screened:	31
Total Children Treated Surgically:	14
Total Feet Reconstructed:	19
Total Number of Surgical Procedures:	41
Casts Applied with Sedation:	2
Follow-up Examination of Previously Operated Patients: ...	6
Medical Care for Patients at Camino Segura:	20

(Dr. Jose Gude)

Visit/Tour: Camino Seguro
Pediatric Fundacion Clinic
(Both at Guatemala City dump)

Visit/Tour/Assess: Seeds of Hope Pediatric Clinic and Hospital
Zacapa, Guatemala
Contact: Gustavos Fratti

Mercy Medication: Delivery of ~\$1,000 US of medication (topical and oral) to treat dermatological debilitating and fungating lesions on the soles of the feet of **Juan Carlos Quezada** ----- with specific prescription instructions for the use of the medication. To last one year.

Stateside Project: Introduced to a 10 year old girl in Zacapa, Guatemala with a congenitally absent right hand. Plan on arranging to bring her to the United States for surgery and to have her fitted with a functional prosthesis.