

Dear Friends of the Mission Clinic Guadalupe,

Last month we celebrated our tenth anniversary. Since our doors opened on November 9, 2001, our volunteers have treated more than 75,000 patients and performed over 1,700 surgeries, ranging from cataract to ear to hernia. Cleft palate repair has been added to the offerings, transforming the lives of severely disfigured children. Many hundreds have been fitted with dental prostheses, hearing aids and eyeglasses.

Nearly 500 multi-faith medical and dental professionals from 16 countries have experienced the joy of serving the indigenous people of southeastern Ecuador. We are always in need of more doctors and nurses, dentists and dental technicians, so if someone you know might be interested, please steer them to our website. **We have an acute need for dental and primary care help in 2012. See our Calendar openings: http://guadalupe-ec.org/CLINIC/Clinic_en.htm.**

The Clinic has come a long way from its modest beginnings of ten years ago. We now have a modern facility with examining rooms, dental suites with x-ray, an air-conditioned operating theater, a pharmacy and a basic laboratory. A second Residence has been built, with apartments for long-term volunteers and their families. Last year we installed a high-output generator, needed for the unexpected power outages.

Your generosity and interest, whether as a volunteer, a donor, or both, have helped make all this happen, and on behalf of the many who have benefited, you have my heartfelt thanks. Much of our equipment and supplies has been donated by medical, dental and pharmaceutical companies, and for this we are most grateful.

The Clinic is almost entirely funded by donations, and along with the growing demands of such an ambitious undertaking, we're facing new challenges.

Recently imposed government regulations now limit the amount of foreign-donated supplies we can import, forcing us to buy more drugs locally. Many patients cannot afford medications for long-term treatment of high blood pressure, diabetes, and other serious conditions; we would like to be able to subsidize at least part of this cost. We need more dehumidified storage space for supplies that deteriorate quickly in the warm humid climate. Our equipment requires ongoing maintenance and repair. High on our dream list is an automated chemical analyzer for lab testing, and a new sterilizer for surgical instruments. And the list goes on.

With the Christmas season drawing near, I hope you'll want to add the Mission Clinic to your gift list. If everyone who reads this made even a small donation, we'd be able to meet many of our goals, the overriding one being to provide the impoverished with health care otherwise unaffordable to them.

Good News! You can now make a donation in most any currency using PayPal or a major credit card. Or if you prefer, you can mail a check.

If you would like to make a contribution to the Clinic, please click here:
http://www.guadalupe-ec.org/CLINIC/DONATIONS/F_Donation_en.htm

More Good News! The Friends of the Mission Clinic of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Inc., has finally been approved as a charitable Foundation. This allows U.S. taxpayers to make tax-deductible contributions to the Clinic.

In closing, a note about other progress in our midst. Most visitors fondly remember the picturesque hanging bridge that connects the village to the Mission. It is still in use for foot traffic, but as of last May, vehicles can now cross the river on the new concrete Friendship Bridge, festively decorated with murals of flora and fauna and the local Saraguro and Shuar cultures. The ill and infirm no longer have to stagger across the swaying bridge to the Clinic, competing with bicycles and horses.

Thank you very much for your continued support. May God bless you.

Sincerely,

P. Jorge Nigsch
Founder and Director of the Mission Clinic Guadalupe
www.guadalupe-ec.org

P.S. Kindly forward this message on to your friends and relatives who might be interested in learning more about the Mission Clinic Guadalupe.

