

Friends of the Mission Clinic of Our Lady of Guadalupe

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

2013 has been yet another extraordinary year for the Clinica Misional Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe. This remarkable facility has provided ongoing primary care to the local indigenous population of the Oriente of southern Ecuador supplementing the services of the public health system, as well as at times rendering consultation to those who have traveled long distances to hear an independent second medical opinion. It has been the periodic venue for various specialty services including ophthalmology, general surgery, otolaryngology and dermatology just within the last few months. We hope to have further varied representation this coming year with additional gastroenterology and gynecology brigades. We may for the first time have an Ecuadorean urologist attend to our clients.

Although we have struggled to stock our pharmacy fully from local vendors, in fact the variety of locally manufactured affordable generic medications continues to grow. This year for the first time inexpensive inhalers have appeared, and after a gap of two years we are now able to at least offer some men an alternative to prostate surgery for their difficulty with urinary frequency.

Our dentists and dental technicians continue to provide exceptional care for the poor, including the proper epoxy material for permanent fillings and the manufacture of partial dentures otherwise unavailable in the community.

We have passed various government inspections as we strive to comply with local regulations while still being able to keep our costs low enough to give care to the poorest and neediest as well as others who have limited access to the medical services that they require. Our ability to coordinate with local physicians has improved, as access to most specialty and more urgent services is overseen by the physician at the government Centro de Salud.

The international effort has been impressive. I attended from November 8 through 30 of 2013. During this short time we had volunteers from Colombia, Austria, Switzerland, the United States and Germany. There were 448 general medical visits, 51 otolaryngological surgeries, 23 partial dentures made, and innumerable dental procedures. More than 600 ambulatory specialty examinations were completed. Additional patients were triaged to return to the clinic for hearing aids or surgical procedures with an upcoming group of German ear, nose and throat specialists in 2014.



Our ability to organize outreach activities and mobile health fairs has been impaired by our need to operate within the local legal framework for provision of medications and services. Our purpose remains evident, witnessed by the number of people who come to us to be seen.

None of this is possible without your help. It is impossible to do as we have done, and continue to do, without some degree of outside financial support. Yet again I appeal to you this holiday season to help to support the Clinica Misional Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe through your US tax deductible donations. You may give on the website:

www.guadalupe-ec.org/CLINIC/DONATIONS/donate.html

You may directly forward a check inscribed to Friends of the Mission Clinic of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Inc. to:

Mrs. Marie Salazar Glowski, Treasurer
Friends of the Mission Clinic of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Inc.
75 Town Beach Road
Old Saybrook CT 06475
USA

Thank you for your generous donation.

Sincerely,

Serle M. Epstein, M.D., F.A.C.P.
President of the Foundation

I as the Clinic Director am thankful for the ongoing support of so many and wish you a Merry Christmas Season and all the best for the New Year.

Father Jorge Nigsch