

Mission Clinic Guadalupe Newsletter 2014



Volunteers from the USA and Germany

products for diabetes and hypertension for many years and now have added additional pharmaceuticals. With our donations we buy generic drugs to sell below our cost to those in need.

We have now completed our 14th year of service. Even as the government health system improves we fill a gap in care. We do second opinions, some primary and urgent services, dentistry and perform surgeries otherwise not accessible to the poor. We are now recruiting medical personnel for next spring.

Padre Jorge Nigsch and all of us who work at the Clínica Misional (Dispensario Misional) thank you on behalf of the numerous patients treated this year.

Be assured that your contributions make a difference. It was impossible to accomplish so much without your support. I appeal to you this holiday season to help sustain the Clínica Misional Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe.

Please consider a US tax deductible donation using the website: www.guadalupe-ec.org/CLINIC/DONATIONS/donate.html or forward a check inscribed to the

Friends of the Mission Clinic of Our Lady of Guadalupe, Inc.

Care of:

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

Sincerely,

Amanda Anderson, R.N.

Nurse Manager of the Clinica Misional

Serle M. Epstein, M.D., F.A.C.P.

President of the Foundation

I as the Clinic Director am thankful for your ongoing support. I wish you a Merry Christmas and a healthy and happy New Year.

Father Jorge Nigsch

We are very thankful for your generosity...

We are thankful for the generosity of so many volunteers, and the many people who have given us donations. This has allowed the clinic to continue its mission of service this past year. This has included 2516 general medical consultations and 2284 dental visits. These people were attended to by many of the 8 medical doctors, 11 surgical specialists and dentists, and three 3 dental hygienists who volunteered this year. The 10 dental technicians made an astonishing 243 dentures and repaired over 114 dentures. There were numerous individuals turned away without dentures due to the large demand.

In 2014 we had three surgical groups visit. The first was an ophthalmologic specialty team. In their three weeks they attended to an astounding 1134 patients of whom 151 were selected for surgery. We have never seen such a need for cataract extractions and implants as we did this year. There were also more people than ever coming looking for help for other eye problems. The government health system is improving in many ways but there is still a great need for these specialists. In the community cataract surgery is offered for the people who can pay \$800 to \$1500 but it is not offered to the people for whom this is unaffordable. The need seems to be expanding.

The second medical brigade consisted of otolaryngologists and their support staff. This lasted three weeks.

There were 686 people who came for consultation and 25 surgeries proffered. There was a great need for hearing aids and 78 were given out at limited cost. More would have benefited from surgery and hearing aids but there was not enough time or resources available. Sadly many people were turned away.

The third group was an Ecuadorean general surgical team from Cuenca. They operated on hernias and symptomatic gall bladders. There were at the clinic a busy four days. 34 candidates were screened for surgery of which they selected 11 for procedures. 2 endoscopies were also performed. Many more patients were deemed appropriate for elective surgery and a second date was scheduled for an additional 20 persons. Unfortunately this was postponed due to lack of an anesthesiologist.

We have at least 10 clients daily with visual acuity problems. They undergo eye examinations and purchase inexpensive corrective eyeglasses. There appears an insatiable need for this service. Much of this is subsidized by the Lions Club.

With our foundation funds we are able to discount the more expensive but essential medications for many chronic illnesses. In Ecuador for instance medication for prostatism costs over \$1 per tablet in the commercial pharmacy and is often unavailable in the government health center. We have discounted