

LMV Central America Chapter Update

2006 in Review

In 2006 we had another very successful year providing medical, dental, eye and education services to the people of Central America. Below is a snapshot of last year's accomplishments. This could not have been done without the active participation of our members, in-country partners and donors.

- ✓ 4 Medical Missions
- ✓ 7,250 patients
- ✓ 80 Trip Participants
- ✓ 555 Wheelchairs
- ✓ 2 containers of medical supplies, mammogram machine, 57 hospital beds, 41 walkers, 28 canes, 30 newborn cribs to the Hospital San Pedro in Usulután, El Salvador
- ✓ 1 container with 2 ambulances to El Salvador for the communities of Osicala (Morazan) & Las Tres Ceivas (Sonsonate)

2007 Medical Missions

We have two Medical Missions planned for this year and we welcome your participation. We will be returning to Guatemala in August and plan to go to El Salvador/Honduras and possibly Nicaragua in November.

If you are interested in participating on the Guatemala Medical Mission, please contact Milt Camp @ (209) 743-2667 or miltcamp@aol.com to insure that there is room on the trip. The cost of the trip is \$1200.00. This cost includes transportation from SFO or LAX, in-country transportation, meals and lodging. You will only need cash for tips, souvenirs and alcoholic beverages. If you arrange your own commercial flight to Guatemala or plan to go down earlier, the cost of the mission is \$625.00. There is a \$150.00 supplement if you require a single room.

If you are unable to go on our Guatemala Mission, we would love to have you volunteer for our El Salvador/Honduras Medical Mission in November. I have put a brief description of both missions below.

I have attached a trip planning form and a liability waiver along with a membership form for those of you who are not members and would like to join LMV. If Milt signs you up for the Guatemala mission, you will then to complete the attached trip planning form, the liability waiver form and membership form if you are not a member and submit them with \$600.00 by March 1, 2007. Please make your check out to Los Medicos Voladores and send it to the address on the form.

Guatemala – August 4th – August 12th
Trip Coordinator – Milt Camp – (209) 743-2667
miltcamp@aol.com
Asst. Trip Coordinator – Janice Rosner –
feabee@sbcglobal.net

The trip participants will fly together on a commercial airline from San Francisco to Guatemala City. We then transport to Antigua, Guatemala for rest and relaxation. There are also participants coming in at different times from other parts of the US and those that choose to use airline mileage or purchase their own ticket. Our stay in Antigua allows everyone to gather and get to know each other before we start our clinic work. Antigua is a historic provincial city founded in the early 1500's. It is absolutely charming with much to see and excellent shopping. In Antigua everything is in walking distance and it is very safe. ATM machines are readily available to obtain cash in the local currency, Quetzals. Most businesses, however, will take American Dollars.

We then transport on Sunday to Quetzaltenango (Xela), which is the 2nd largest city in Guatemala and located at approximately 8,000 to 9,000 feet. The altitude produces a very mild climate. The days are in the 70's and 80's and the nights require a turtleneck and jacket. The team will stay in Quetzaltenango (Xela) near the center of town so that walking to restaurants, entertainment and shops is readily available. The clinic will be 40

miles outside of town and the team will shuttle to the clinic daily.

El Salvador/Honduras – November
Trip Coordinator – Monte Short – (415) 606-3969
Monteshort@mindspring.com

We are in the initial planning stages of a trip that will involve both El Salvador, Honduras and possibly Nicaragua. At this point, the best time to go seems to be the mid to latter part of November. This trip will actually be two consecutive trips that will encompass 10 to 12 days. Participants will have the option of going on the first "leg" or the second "leg" or going on both legs. Furthermore, the second leg will overlap the Thanksgiving holiday. So for some of you, this is a better time to go. At this point, it is likely we will again partner with our friends at *Amesol* in El Salvador and *Rotary International* in Honduras and Nicaragua. In May of 2006, the *Trip to Two Countries* was a huge success so we are attempting to duplicate some of the elements of that trip. As usual we will focus on the areas in these countries that have the most need. An area under consideration is "The Hollows" which is an area of extreme poverty between El Salvador and Honduras. A return to our friends in Monjaras in Honduras is also possible. Based on recent planning sessions, there will likely be several in-country doctors, nurses, dentists and volunteers that have expressed a desire to work with us in a combined effort. The logistics and details are still being put together. We should have a much better idea of the trip in the next 30 to 60 days.

The trip participants for this mission also fly on commercial airlines from San Francisco or LAX directly to Central America.

Marian Stahl
Los Medicos Voladores
Central America Chapter