



Partners in Health Of Maine

Compañeros en la Salud

Volunteers sharing the gift of health

December 2013

Our Mission:

Partners in Health of Maine is a group of medical professionals and technical experts who have given their time and expertise to improve the health care in Central America. Since 1976 we have been providing medical care, equipment, education, and technical assistance to the people of this area. Our belief is that caring individuals becoming "Partners in Health" with their third world counterparts can foster long-term improvement.

Dear Friends and Supporters of Partners in Health of Maine,

We have been blessed with several new volunteers who have made a real difference to the people of the RAAN region of Nicaragua, as seen in the pictures below.



Daniel Cassidy, Gastroenterologist from Eastern Maine Medical Center, training Sydney Antonio Muller in endoscopy.



Dr. Patricia Ballesteros teaching family member how to administer morphine for a palliative care patient at home



Samer Sabyi, General surgeon from Penobscot Valley Hospital in Lincoln, works with general surgeons and starts to teach them the techniques of laparoscopy.



Ernie Grant and his crew painting the new ambulatory surgery room.



Steve Johnson, from Bangor Rotary, visits villages along the Rio Coco with Patricia Ballesteros to assess their needs for sanitation and water.



Tom Cassidy performing an EKG on a patient in the intensive care unit.

HIGHLIGHTS OF 2013:

Continued improvement of our quarters for visiting teams thanks to **Jill Grant**. Construction of bunk beds for the prison, renovation of prosthetics clinic, construction of a new storage area and ambulatory surgery room at the hospital thanks to **Ernie Grant** and his crew.

Palliative Care lectures given in Port by **Megan Jordan**, a palliative care physician from the US who has already made two trips to Nicaragua to promote palliative care. A promise from the Director that a patient room will be dedicated to palliative care patients.

Establishment of a Palliative Care call center in Managua as well as formation of a palliative care working group of interested Nicaraguan physicians with the help and guidance of **Megan Jordan, Barbara Bach, Mike Ramirez, and Lillian de Lima**, director of the International Association of Hospice and Palliative Care.

Encouraging results from the Outreach project in the ten villages around Bilwaskarma showing more prompt treatment of pneumonia and dysentery, with new maternal policies resulting in lower infant and mortality rates.

Rejuvenated women's health program focusing on paps and colposcopies initiated by **Max Barus** with the help of **Tom and Abigail Hoke**.

Inventory and needs of pharmacy reviewed by **Tiffany Carlisle**, pharmacist at EMMC during her visit in March.

Completion of the mammography room, initially set up by Sharon Dow from EMMC breast center and James Remeschatis, as well as training of Nicaraguan X-Ray technicians.

Training of two Nicaraguan physicians in endoscopy by **Dan Cassidy** with the help of **Samer Sabyi**

Continued **pathology** services thanks to the efforts of **John Benziger**.

GOALS:

- Establishment of a Clinic at the Prison, as envisioned by Jill Grant
- Creation of Palliative care room, and formation of a voluntary home hospice program
- Initiation of laparoscopy program
- Shipment of container of medical equipment and supplies including two stationary X Ray machines, an operating ophthalmic microscope and probably another mammogram machine
- Phase one of the Rotary water and sanitation project in the villages neighboring Bilwaskarma
- Continued education and training about palliative care
- Construction of a new guest house in Bilwaskarma with the funds given by Andy Herriott

I thank every one of you for all the things that you have done in your unassuming way. Our continued efforts would not be possible without the help of our friends and supporters. A donation of any amount will be greatly appreciated to accomplish our goals of providing support for the underserved people in the RAAN region of Nicaragua.

With best wishes for the Holiday Season,
Robert Bach, President, Partners in Health of Maine

PS: You may check out our website (www.pihom.com) or join us on Facebook under Partners in Health of Maine.