



Rotary HealthRays UPDATE



Bringing digital x-ray technology to those in need

March 4, 2014

Dear Friend:

Welcome to *Rotary HealthRays Update*, an electronic newsletter that will provide you with news and developments from the [Rotary HealthRays](#) initiative - Rotary's effort to bring digital x-ray technology to needy populations around the world.



One of the most basic tools of modern health care is the x-ray. Since its discovery just over a century ago, x-ray technology has either improved -- or in many cases saved -- the lives of millions and millions of people.

And yet as many as four billion people around the globe - basically two thirds of the entire population -- have little or no access to simple x-ray technology, which is taken for granted as a basic health tool in most industrialized nations.

Rotarians in [Rotary International District 6440](#) - near Chicago, Illinois -- have launched an effort to address this problem, with a new cross-sector model for action that we have introduced in Guatemala and hope to replicate eventually in countries around the world.

Our model is simple: We raise funds for the purchase of digital x-ray machines, which are shipped internationally to medical clinics in impoverished areas, where local citizens are trained to use them. The technology can be administered by non-physicians. Digital images from the machines are sent via the Internet to hospitals or medical centers, where physicians read them and diagnose medical conditions for those in need.

Working with partners that include the Guatemalan government, the Radiological Society of Guatemala (RSG), the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and

other Rotary clubs and districts, we have installed two digital x-ray stations so far in Guatemala, with another 27 planned. We estimate that our HealthRays: Guatemala project could eventually impact more than one and a half million people in that country, where health care outcomes are among the worst in Central America.

In addition, our project will benefit Guatemala's economy by creating new jobs at the 29 medical clinics and by potentially improving the long-term health and work productivity of Guatemalans through better access to medical care.

Most importantly, we believe this model can work in other countries, as well. Our long-term goal is to expand Rotary HealthRays from Guatemala to the rest of the world - working with Rotarians everywhere and building cross-sector partnerships along the way.

Rotary HealthRays Update will keep you apprised of our progress as we move forward. If you are reading about our project for the first time, we hope you will consider becoming a partner.

Please read on -- and stay tuned for upcoming issues. If you would like to learn more right now, visit www.healthrays.info.

Sincerely,

Pamela Kerr and Carlos Früm

Past Governors, Rotary District 6440

Co-Chairs, Rotary HealthRays

Why you are receiving this newsletter

If you are receiving this newsletter, you are one of many people who have been selected based on your relationship to our project -- this ranges from being a financial supporter or a Rotary leader to being a representative of one of our partnering organizations. **Please note that if you do not want to receive future issues, you can easily unsubscribe** -- just click on the "unsubscribe button" at the bottom of this page. If you know of others who might want to receive our newsletter, please forward it on to them and ask them to subscribe.

Two digital X-Ray Clinics now officially open in Guatemala

Rotary HealthRays has successfully installed digital x-ray units in two locations in Guatemala: **Mixco** and **El Amparo**, small communities located near Guatemala City. Twenty seven other locations are targeted throughout the country for future installations.

A team of Rotarians from Rotary District 6440 was on hand in Guatemala for our El Amparo installation in February and to share information about the project during the Central American Rotary Project Fair. Pictured at the fair are (left to right, above) Rotary HealthRays Co-Chair **Pamela Kerr**; **Vivien Rueda**, Executive Director of Alianza Joven, a Guatemalan youth organization; Rotary HealthRays Co-Chair **Carlos Früm** and Rotary District 6440 Governor **Sarah Oliver**.



Our project is already benefiting Guatemalan patients

HealthRays is having an impact! Here are just a few highlights gleaned from District 6440's recent trip to Guatemala:

More medical personnel: A trauma physician is now available at our Mixco clinic, due to the added load of cases that can be treated there, thanks to its new digital x-ray equipment installed last fall. Patients are now spared from having to take the long trip to Roosevelt Hospital in congested Guatemala City.



Greater convenience: Medical professionals are reporting that the Mixco clinic has already significantly improved conditions for local residents -- who can come to the clinic after 5 p.m., thus avoiding losing time away from work during the day. Local citizens often put off health visits due to their impact on working hours -- an obstacle to preventive care.

Government support: Guatemala's national Minister of Health, Dr. Jorge Alejandro Villavicencio, was on hand February 25 when the new El Amparo clinic was formally dedicated, and he remains a strong supporter of the project. Awareness is spreading about our work.

Thank you to our partners in Guatemala!

District 6440 is deeply grateful for the partnership and assistance of partners so far in launching the HealthRays project. They are:

Guatemala's Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare
The Radiological Society of Guatemala (RSG)
The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO)

Rotary districts: We need your help

Financial support from Rotary districts is integral to the future success of Rotary HealthRays. We are looking for funding districts who would like to join in on this effort.

Please contact Pamela Kerr at gov.pam@rotary6440.org or Carlos Früm at gov.carlos@rotary6440.org to learn how your district can be part of the project.

The districts providing funding support currently include:

District 6600 - Northern Ohio, USA

District 7150 - Central New York, USA

District 7610 - Northern Virginia, USA

Thank you to all!

District 6440 clubs show their support

Twenty Rotary Clubs from District 6440 have provided financial support for the Rotary HealthRays project. Thank you for your commitment!

Algonquin - Lake in the Hills

Arlington Heights - Noon

Batavia

Bloomington - Roselle

Chicagoland Korean

Crystal Lake

Deerfield

Dundee Township

Evanston Lighthouse

Evanston - Noon

Highland Park - Highwood

Grayslake

Lake in the Hills

Mount Prospect/Prospect Heights

Northbrook

Schaumburg - Hoffman Estates

Skokie Valley

Wheeling

Wilmette Harbor

Winnetka - Northfield

About Rotary

Rotary International is an organization of business and professional leaders united

worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world. In more than 200 countries worldwide, approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 34,000 Rotary clubs. To learn more, please visit www.rotary.org.

CONTACT US!

For more information about becoming a partner:

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