



Rotary HealthRays UPDATE



Bringing digital x-ray technology to those in need

Oct. 3, 2014

Dear Friend:

Welcome to *Rotary HealthRays Update*, an electronic newsletter that provides you with news and developments from the [Rotary HealthRays](#) initiative - Rotary District 6440's effort to bring digital x-ray technology to needy populations in Guatemala -- and eventually, around the world.



We are making excellent progress and have exciting news to share!

As you know, 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 primary goal is to install 29 digital x-ray units in underserved areas throughout Guatemala. To date we have installed three machines -- which are already making it possible to improve the lives of thousands of patients.

We are excited to announce today that we have just received funding approval for our fourth unit! We are now preparing for installation of the next digital x-ray unit in Livingston, Guatemala (see story below), with a projected completion date of early 2015.

We have also received new funds from Rotarians interested in being a part of this effort, and have included information about them in this issue as well.

We continue to receive wonderful support for HealthRays from our partners, the Guatemalan government, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and other Rotary clubs and districts.

Eventually, our project will impact more than one and a half million people in Guatemala, where health care outcomes are among the worst in Central America.

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.

Funding approved for new unit, to be installed in Livingston

Rotary HealthRays has received funding authorization for our FOURTH unit, which will be installed in Livingston, Guatemala, in early 2015!

Livingston is an area many District 6440 Rotarians are familiar with -- it is located in the region of **Ak 'Tenamit**, right, an extremely remote area of Guatemala for



which Rotary has provided assistance to help Mayan children and families. Many

teams of local Rotarians have visited Ak 'Tenamit in recent years, where they have helped build educational facilities, installed clean-water systems and provided a host of other services. The patients who will benefit from Rotary HealthRays in Livingston are among the most poverty-stricken populations in Guatemala.

Third x-ray unit becomes operational in Guatemala City

Guatemalan health leaders and government officials joined Rotary volunteers in [a special ceremony August 21](#) in Guatemala City, Guatemala officially unveiling the third of 29 planned digital x-ray units being installed through Rotary HealthRays.



The new digital x-ray unit will serve patients in one of the most underserved areas of Guatemala City and in regions nearby. Guatemala's Minister of Health, **Dr. Jorge Alejandro Villavicencio**, pictured above, was on hand to formally dedicate the new x-ray unit on behalf of the Guatemalan government during the special ceremony. Pictured with Dr. Villavicencio is **Juan Carlos Botrán**, former President of Guatemala Sur Rotary Club. The Guatemalan Ministry of Public Health and Social Services continues to be a key partner in this project.

Read our new concept paper!

The Rotary HealthRays team has written a [comprehensive concept paper](#) that explains in detail how our projects works and what it is intended to achieve. Please download this resource to learn more about the project.

The paper explains:

The vital need for this project and why digital x-ray technology is so important

How HealthRays evolved and background information about the major partners

Background information about health and poverty in Guatemala

Operational and cost details

Interest is growing in the HealthRays project

Our development team continues to reach out in search of new partners and is getting great feedback...For example, Rotarians from all over the north and central United

States were on hand in LaCrosse, Wisconsin recently for **Rotary's Zone 28 and 29 Leadership Training Institute**, where the Rotary HealthRays team presented the latest facts and figures on our project. A number of Rotary clubs and districts have inquired about the project as a result of our information booth and presentations. If you know of Rotary clubs, districts or other organizations that might be interested, please put them in touch with us by sending an email to Pamela Kerr at gov.pam@rotary6440.org or Carlos Früm at gov.carlos@rotary6440.org.



How our model works

The HealthRays project model is simple:

Technology. 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.

Partnership. Working with partners that include the Guatemalan government, the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and other Rotary clubs and districts, we are installing digital x-ray stations in various underserved areas of Guatemala.

Local Development. In addition to bringing much-needed health services to between 50,000 and 100,000 people per digital x-ray unit installed, 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.

Sustainability and Growth. Most importantly, we believe this model can work in other countries as well as Guatemala. 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.

Fundraising News

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

District 5420 - Utah, USA

Thank you to all!

District 6440 clubs show their support

21 Rotary Clubs from District 6440 have provided financial support for the Rotary HealthRays project to date. 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

Highland Park/Highwood

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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