



Rotary HealthRays UPDATE



Bringing digital x-ray technology to those in need

November 3, 2015

Dear Friend:

Welcome to the latest edition of *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 have great news to share in this edition of *Update*, including new details about our fundraising efforts. As of today we have received more than \$500,000 in funding commitments, with 40 clubs and 14 districts participating so far!

In addition to the three digital x-ray machines we have already installed, we now have secured funding for five more machines -- bringing our total to eight!

We estimate that each digital x-ray machine we install can serve between 50,000 and 100,000 Guatemalans in need. Our efforts are already impacting between 150,000 and 300,000 Guatemalans, who previously had no access to this important health care technology.

Please read the various news items in this edition of *Update*, and help us spread the word to interested Rotarians and to other organizations throughout the world. If you would like to learn more right now, visit www.healthrays.info.

We will keep you posted as momentum continues to build!

Sincerely,

Pamela Kerr and Carlos Früm

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.

Rotary HealthRays at a Glance

Here are just a few statistics to give you an idea of how our initiative is making a difference in Guatemala:

Digital x-ray machines funded to date: **8**

Total financial pledges and contributions to this effort: **\$551,092**

Total Rotary clubs participating: **40**

Total Rotary districts participating: **14**

Estimated # of Guatemalans already impacted by our project: **150,000 to 300,000**

Turmoil in Guatemala and its Impact on HealthRays

If you follow the news, you may be familiar with the political situation in Guatemala, where major political upheavals in recent months have impacted the government.

Guatemala's president recently resigned amid political pressure, and other senior government officials have also been forced out of office.



We are happy to report that the problems in Guatemala have not caused issues with the operation of our digital x-ray clinics at all. They continue to function as originally planned.

But during this period of turmoil, some governmental regulatory processes have been affected. One example is the issuance of customs-duty exemptions for not-for-profit organizations, which were suspended temporarily.

Because our HealthRays project relies on customs-duty exemptions, progress on upcoming installations has been delayed until the exemptions are restored.

In a special election on Oct. 26, Guatemalans chose Jimmy Morales as their new president. With his election, we expect that pending questions such as status of the customs-duty exemption will be resolved and we can resume with our installation schedule. We will keep you posted!

Rotary Districts Continue to Sign On with HealthRays!

Rotary districts 5950 (Minnesota) and 7360 (Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia) recently became the latest Rotary districts to join our HealthRays initiative, pledging \$10,000 each.

2017-18 District Governor Nominees in Rotary Zones 28 and 29 have organized a "class project" in hopes of garnering support from additional districts for our project.

We reported in our last *Update* on the generosity of several districts in Taiwan that also joined our effort. Awareness of HealthRays is growing throughout the Rotary world and we are encouraged by it!

We thank Rotarians in Minnesota, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia for their contributions!

New HealthRays organizational team formed in Guatemala

With our project growing and funding now in place for a total of eight digital x-ray clinics, HealthRays has added an organizational team to help with logistics in Guatemala. Rotary International Director-Elect **Jorge Aufranc** and Rotarian **Jurg Egli** will co-chair a new group to help oversee the implementation process locally as digital x-ray machines are installed. Also assisting with several of the clinic installations are Rotarians from the **Rotary Club of Guatemala Asuncion** and the **Rotary Club of Guatemala Sur**.

We thank Jorge, Jurg and the Rotarians from Guatemala Asuncion and Guatemala Sur for taking on this important role at a time when HealthRays is moving into a significant new phase of development.

Interested in Helping? Join HealthRays Steering Committee

The Rotary HealthRays Steering Committee is seeking help as our project continues to grow. Expertise is needed in the several areas, including fundraising and PR/marketing.

If you would like to be a part of this international effort, please contact Pamela Kerr at gov.pam@rotary6440.org or Carlos Früm at gov.carlos@rotary6440.org.

Fundraising News

Rotary districts: We need you!

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:

- * Districts 3470, 3490, 3500, 3510, and 3520: Taiwan
- * District 4250: Central America
- * District 4370: Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Venezuela
- * District 5420: Utah, USA
- * District 5950: Minnesota, USA
- * District 6440: Northern Illinois
- * District 6600: Northern Ohio, USA
- * District 7150: Central New York, USA
- * District 7360: Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, USA
- * District 7610: Northern Virginia, USA

Thank you to all!

District 6440 clubs show their support

Thirty eight Rotary Clubs from District 6440 -- which launched the Rotary HealthRays project -- have provided or pledged financial support for the project to date. Latest to join the list of supporters are the **Barrington Breakfast and Barlett Rotary clubs**. Thank you for your commitment!

Watch our New Video!

The Rotary HealthRays team has created a [short video](#) that explains how our project works and what it is intended to achieve. Please use this resource to learn more! We encourage you to share it with others.

The video 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

Rotary HealthRays in brief

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. Working with the Guatemalan government and the PAHO, our primary goal is to install 29 digital x-ray units in underserved areas throughout Guatemala.

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

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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