



HealthRays™ UPDATE



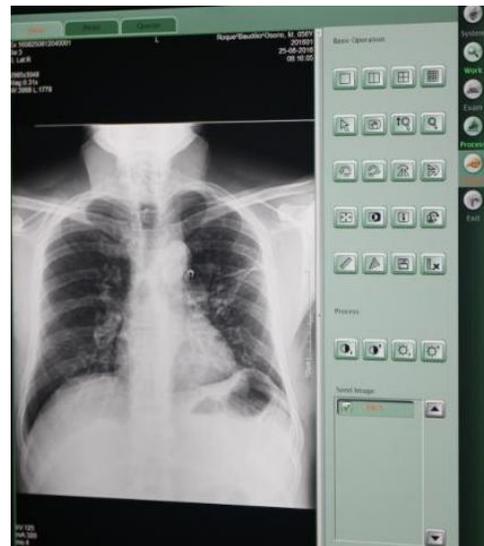
Bringing digital x-ray technology to those in need

November 28, 2016

Dear Friend:

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

[More and more Rotarians](#) – in the United States and internationally – are learning about our project and joining us, and we have a lot of news to share in this issue of the newsletter.



First, we are delighted to say that our installation schedule is moving along at a record pace, following some delays related to the political upheavals in Guatemala last year. In just the last several months we have completed four more installations, bringing our completed total of clinics that are now up and running to seven!

We are now focusing on plans for two more installations during the spring of 2017. When those units are installed, we will officially be almost one third of the way toward meeting our goals.

In conjunction with these four new installations, we are also excited to report that the Pan American Health Organization has scheduled a training course for clinic operators between November 22 and 25 in Guatemala. The PAHO continues to be an essential partner in our project.

We have surpassed the \$600,000 mark in funding commitments, with more than 50 Rotary clubs, 17 Rotary districts and multiple individual Rotarians participating so far. HealthRays will continue to seek support both within and outside the Rotary world.

Finally, we are ecstatic to share that the Rotary International Exhibits Team has informed us that Rotary District 6440 HealthRays has been awarded a booth at Rotary's International Convention in Atlanta. This will be an amazing opportunity for all of us to help showcase our progress and our impact on hundreds of thousands of people in Guatemala!

HealthRays is making incredible progress! Stay tuned for even more great news to come – we will keep you posted on new developments.

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.

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: **9**

Total financial pledges and contributions to this effort: **\$637,227**

Total Rotary clubs participating: **53**

Total Rotary districts participating: **17**

Estimated # of residents impacted by our first seven installations: **350,000 to 700,000**

Great News...Not One, Not Two, Not Three, But Four Installations Completed in 2016!

The HealthRays project took a major step forward over the last several months when four new digital x-ray unit installations were completed in Guatemala. Inaugurations took place on:

- August 25 in Palencia
- September 12 in Villa Canales
- October 25 in Livingston
- November 10 in Fraijanes

As soon as the customs process was fully functioning again in Guatemala, the HealthRays initiative was able to regain momentum in a big way. Installations once again began to occur, including an announcement on August 15 that digital x-ray

equipment for installation at the Livingston clinic (the fourth HealthRays clinic to become operational) had arrived and was being installed, with the help of the Guatemalan Coast Guard, which delivered the equipment to this remote region.

This is an excellent example of the kind of partnership that continues to characterize the HealthRays project. Local Rotarians worked with the Guatemalan Coast Guard to deliver the digital x-ray equipment to be installed. HealthRays has worked closely with the Guatemalan government since the inception of the project.



The Guatemalan Coast Guard assisted in delivering x-ray equipment for a recent installation.

The first of the four inaugurations occurred on August 25 in Palencia, Guatemala, observing and celebrating HealthRays' progress to date now that the temporary interruptions last fall and winter had passed. Officials from the Ministry of Public Health and Social Welfare, and representatives from the Rotary Club Guatemala de la Asuncion, Rotary District 4250 from Guatemala, Rotary District 6440 from the United States and Rotary District 3490 from Taiwan were present.

The September 12 inauguration, which was held at a health clinic in Villa Canales, Guatemala, included special guest Rotary International President John Germ and his wife, Judy, as well as Rotary Director Jorge Aufranc, District Governor Rick Rivkin from District 6440 and other Rotary dignitaries. The mayor of Villa Canales expressed much pride that his town had been selected to have the equipment and challenged his community to maintain and effectively use the equipment and the clinic.

October 25 marked the third inauguration and took place in Livingston at the clinic that was the beneficiary of the Guatemalan Coast Guard assistance.

The most recent inauguration took place on November 10 in Fraijanes. The plaque dedicating the installation of this digital x-ray system recognized a special gift from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois and others from Rotary District 6440.



RI President John Germ and his wife, Judy, were on hand for a HealthRays ribbon cutting Sept. 12 in Guatemala.

If everything stays on schedule, digital x-ray units will also be installed in the spring of 2017 in Gualan, which is scheduled for March, and Nahualá, which is scheduled for an April/May timeframe, bringing the total number of units that are up and running to nine. With a tenth unit in the works, HealthRays will be more than one third of the way to reaching its goal of 29 digital x-ray systems installed in Guatemala.

When the next two clinics are installed this spring, the total estimated population that will have access to digital x-ray technology will be 450,000 to 900,000 Guatemalans.

We will keep you posted on progress as additional installations continue and plans for new ones evolve.

More coverage of HealthRays by the Guatemalan Media

HealthRays continues to receive strong coverage from a variety of media outlets in Guatemala.

A recent example is a story about the HealthRays installation ceremony held August 25 in Palencia, which stated:

"The system takes X-rays of any part of the body and has a storage capacity between 500,000 and 1 million x-rays, in addition to providing access to real-time queries. The units in remote clinics are connected to regional hospitals through the Internet... This project could eventually benefit more than a million and a half people in Guatemala. Also it benefits the country's economy by creating new jobs in the 29 remote clinics and potentially improving long-term health and work productivity of Guatemalans through better access to health care."

Another headline in a publication following the September 12 inauguration in Villa Canales announced that the digital X-ray equipment installed will benefit 158,000 people served by the clinic in that area.

Media coverage is helping to bring visibility to the problems of Guatemala's underserved populations and to our long-term efforts with HealthRays.

Clubs, Districts and Individuals Continue to Pledge Their Support for HealthRays Project

As the HealthRays installations continue to move forward at an exciting pace, our fundraising continues at a steady pace, too. We are delighted to announce that we have now surpassed the \$600,000 mark in funding commitments, with more than 50 Rotary clubs, 17 Rotary districts and multiple individual Rotarians participating so far. Funding has been received for 9 of the 29 remote clinics identified for installation of the digital x-ray technology systems.

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



Villa Canales installation to benefit 158,000.

also visit www.healthrays.info to learn more.

We thank all of the generous Rotarians who have joined the HealthRays project and pledged their support!

Fundraising News

Funding for Additional Clinics Needed

Now HealthRays needs your help to bring this critical health tool, digital x-ray technology, to the remaining 20 remote clinics in Guatemala. Please continue to help us enlist the support of Rotary individuals, clubs and districts. In addition, providing us with leads to gain the support of those outside of the Rotary world—corporations, foundations, or individuals that are not affiliated with Rotary—would be extremely beneficial.

Here are other ways to help to contribute:

- Online through the [Rotary District 6440 Charitable Fund](#), with **credit card or PayPal account**
- Through the [Rotary District 6440 Charitable Fund](#), by completing a downloaded form and submitting it with a **check**
- Through the [Donor Advised Fund for HealthRays, established at The Rotary Foundation](#) with "Guatemala Digital X-Ray DAF 466" noted in the memo field
- Through the existing Club Foundation of any Rotary club in District 6440, with designation of the contribution specifically for "HealthRays"

Donations from corporations, foundations or non-member individuals receive a 50-cents-per-dollar match from The Rotary Foundation and can receive an additional district match if the donations are received through an eligible District 6440 Rotary club.

Interested in Helping? Join Us at the HealthRays Booth in Atlanta 2017!

We are delighted to announce that Rotary District 6440 HealthRays has been granted booth #2224 at the 2017 Rotary International Convention House of Friendship in Atlanta. More details and information will be forthcoming on how you can participate. We hope to see you there!

The HealthRays Steering Committee Needs Your Help

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.

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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Rotary HealthRays | [Learn more](#)