



June 1, 2017

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 excited to say that our installation schedule is moving along as projected. One of the two installations that were projected to be completed by the end of this Rotary year was officially dedicated on May 25, 2017, with the second one in the works. These two, added to the seven installations that were up and running by the end of 2016, will bring our total of digital x-ray units in Guatemala to nine.

Following the delays related to the political upheavals in Guatemala during the previous Rotary year, it is amazing to think HealthRays is scheduled to complete six installations during the 2016-17 Rotary year!

Besides the May 25th installation in Gualan, Guatemala, you will read about a variety of additional ways the HealthRays story has been shared since the start of the 2017 calendar year in this newsletter, including:

- January - Rotary International Director Jorgue Aufranc's presentation at the Rotary International Assembly
- April - Rotary District 6440 District Governor Rick Rivkin's Rotary Foundation presentation at the Annual District 6440 Conference; separate presentation for youth and Power of ONE
- June - Rotary International President John Germ's comments included in the President's message on page 1 of "The Rotarian" magazine



Guatemalan newspaper announces digital x-ray unit installation in Gualan.

Another wonderful opportunity to spread the word about HealthRays will be available to those of us who will be attending this year's Rotary International Convention in Atlanta. It's not too late to sign up to help staff the booth or simply stop by and visit Booth #2224 when in the House of Friendship. This is such a great way to showcase HealthRays and the sustainable impact this technology is bringing to hundreds of thousands of people in Guatemala.

With your support, we will continue to make a difference by purchasing, shipping, and installing one digital x-ray unit at a time in remote regions of need throughout Guatemala. Thank you for helping us reach our goal of 29 units!

Sincerely,

Pamela Kerr and Carlos Früm

Past Governors, Rotary District 6440

Co-Chairs, Rotary District 6440 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: **\$657,997**

Total Rotary clubs participating: **53**

Total Rotary districts participating: **17**

Estimated # of residents impacted by our first seven installations: **400,000 to 800,000**

RI Director Jorge Aufranc Highlights HealthRays to Rotary Leaders Worldwide

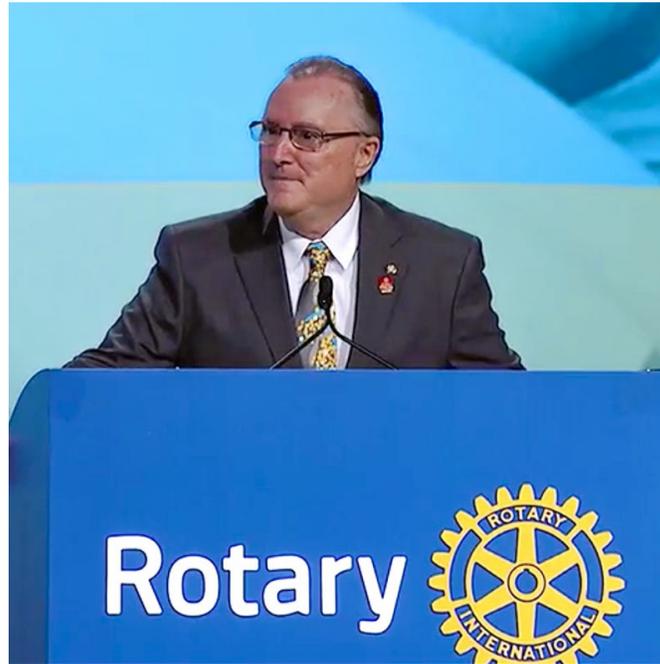
Jorge Aufranc, a Guatemalan Rotarian and member of Rotary International's Board of Directors, highlighted the work of the HealthRays project in a speech to Rotary leaders at RI's International Assembly January 19.

Director Aufranc, who has played an instrumental role in helping develop and implement HealthRays in Guatemala, spoke of the impact our project is already

having on low-income and needy Guatemalans – using the project as an example of an inspirational service project that has impact.

"Access to quality health care is a serious problem in Guatemala," he said. "Many people die daily, due to the lack of proper diagnosis and treatment." HealthRays, he said, is impacting "the lives and health of thousands of Guatemalans."

We deeply appreciate Jorge Aufranc's leadership, support and contributions to HealthRays' success. To see the video clip of his speech where he references HealthRays, visit the home page of our website at www.healthrays.info – or you can watch Director Aufranc's speech in its entirety, by [watching it online here](#) .



Jorge Aufranc, a member of Rotary International's Board of Directors, highlighted the success of our project in a presentation to Rotary leaders from all over the world in January 2017.

HealthRays Clinics among Several Chosen for Resources to Improve Patient Care

Six HealthRays clinics are among a group of health facilities in Guatemala slated to receive resources to improve patient care, according to an announcement from Guatemalan officials at a press conference in early January 2017.

A major Guatemalan newspaper, *Prensa Libre*, reported that the effort is part of a plan to reduce the burden on two hospitals in Guatemala. The article reported that "eight health centers and five regional hospitals will be improved this year to reduce about 145,000 patient consultations that go to Roosevelt and General San Juan de Dios, according to projections of officials, who will allocate up to Q[Quetzals]70 million for this goal." All of the HealthRays clinics serving these two regional hospitals are to receive this special status.

The six HealthRays clinics that will potentially be impacted include Primero de Julio, El Amparo, Paraiso II, Villa Canales, Fraijanes and Palencia. These clinics will receive preferential treatment for more human resources and improvements in laboratories, supply of medicines, furniture and equipment, according to the *Prensa Libre* report.

This commitment helps reinforce why bringing digital x-ray technology to those in need in municipal clinics outside of Guatemala City through the HealthRays project is so vital.

Dedication of Gualan Clinic -- Eighth HealthRays Clinic to Serve an Additional Population of 95,000 Guatemalans

On May 25, 2017 the installation of the digital x-ray equipment at the newly built clinic in Gualan was officially dedicated to begin operation. An estimated number of 95,000 Guatemalans in remote areas surrounding Gualan will benefit from this equipment that will help provide images to radiologists at more advanced medical centers for diagnosis and referral of treatment.

The dedication was organized by the municipality, which has great plans for the clinic and the entire district. The Governor of the Department of Zacapa, the entire Rotary Club of Gualan, three members of the X-ray Committee Guatemala and community members were present for the inauguration ceremonies.

Donations by Rotarians in Taiwan and the United States, provided through District 6440 HealthRays, were recognized.



Ribbon cutting ceremony at May 25, 2017 dedication of clinic in Gualan, Guatemala.

HealthRays Recognition at District 6440 Conference

The Rotary District 6440 Conference, held April 28-30, provided a variety of opportunities to highlight HealthRays to attendees representing the – clubs across northern Illinois.

HealthRays received significant recognition during the Rotary Foundation Lunch & Power of One Awards on the first day of the conference. After providing a brief history, updating the audience about the installation activity, thanking the district clubs and individuals who have donated to the project, and reminding everyone about the continued need for support, the [HealthRays informational video](#) was shown. In addition, District Governor Rick Rivkin presented Certificate of Merits from the Guatemalan Ministry of Health in honor of Northwestern University and Walter and Jeanne Reed.

The Bio Engineering
Department at
Northwestern
University donated

the WHIS-RAD machine used in helping to develop a digital x-ray system that would work successfully in third world country conditions. The use of this equipment in 2007-2008 was instrumental in the development of a low-cost, sustainable system that now has evolved into the HealthRays project in Guatemala. This



Certificate of Merits from the Guatemalan Ministry of Health presented at District 6440 Conference.

equipment was updated by the HealthRays supplier to the current configuration at a significant savings for one of the clinic installations. Ryan Bertram, who as a student at Northwestern was involved in the project, accepted the certificate of recognition on behalf of the University.

Walter Reed was one of our first HealthRays team members involved in PR and Marketing strategies for funding our global grants. Walter also held multiple district positions, visiting every club to encourage Foundation giving. "You get when you give" was his slogan and message at club presentations. Walter and Jeanne Reed's names are on one Clinic plaque at the request of an anonymous donor to HealthRays. Jeanne, wife of the late Walter Reed, accepted the certificate of recognition on their behalf.

A HealthRays presentation was also provided during the Youth Conference on Saturday morning and incorporated into a Power of One presentation later that afternoon.

This is not the first time Certificates of Merit have been presented by the Guatemalan Ministry of Health. Last fall both District Governor Rick Rivkin and HealthRays Co-Chair Pam Kerr received certificates of merit and honor at the Villa Canales clinic installation ceremony, from the Ministry of Health for their continued support of the HealthRays project.

Rotary International President John Germ Includes Reference to HealthRays in his June "President's Message"

In the June 2017 issue of "The Rotarian" magazine on page 1 in the *President's Message*, Rotary President John Germ made reference to the HealthRays project and the good work being accomplished in Guatemala.

President Germ and his wife, Judy, attended the installation ceremony for the Villa Canales clinic on 12 September 2016. It has been estimated that the installation in Villa Canales alone will benefit 158,000 Guatemalans!

Join Us at the HealthRays Booth #2224 in Atlanta!

If you are a Rotarian bound for this year's Rotary International Convention in Atlanta, Georgia, we want you! The District 6440 HealthRays project has been granted booth #2224 at this year's Rotary International Convention House of Friendship in Atlanta. All convention attendees and supporters of this project are invited to be part of this amazing opportunity to showcase how the HealthRays project is bringing digital X-ray technology to those in need and is impacting hundreds of thousands of lives in Guatemala.

Please show your support by stopping by the House of Friendship (HOF) District 6440 HealthRays booth #2224 in Atlanta to greet visitors and/or visit the HealthRays booth from Saturday, June 10 through Wednesday, June 14.

We look forward to seeing you in Atlanta!

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 \$650,000 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 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.

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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