



Health for Humanity Annual Report 2005

The year of 2005 has been another year of progress for Health for Humanity (H4H) with much accomplished. We have completed our third successful mission in Guatemala and thanks to the collective efforts of our growing group of volunteers we are now in a strong position to move forward.

In May, we were again indebted to Sunsail Canada for hosting our fourth annual fund raising regatta through which we raised more than half of our needed funds the remainder of which come from personal donations. Together these funds pay for patient care expenses incurred in Guatemala. These include the cost of using the operating rooms in Antigua, transporting many of our patients from the rural villages, laboratory tests, and providing food and accommodation for our recovering patients. In addition, we are grateful to many individuals and companies in the Canadian Pharmaceutical and Medical Equipment and Supply industries who have continued to support our work. All of our medications and supplies for this year's mission were donated. A complete list of our donors and supporters can be found on our website www.h4h.ca

In addition to our main surgical mission, this year H4H sent a small group to evaluate patients with Partner for Surgery, a local NGO that works in the rural areas of Guatemala. This group also followed up on three patients from our 2004 mission and you can view the beneficial results of their surgeries on our website.



Our 2005 surgical team was smaller than previous years as we were limited to only two operating rooms due to ongoing renovations at the hospital. During our Sunday triage clinic, our physicians saw more than 120 patients while the nurses and support personnel unpacked the many bins and suitcases of supplies to prepare the operating rooms for the Monday surgery start. We were also happy to see two patients (their photos are on the website) from our 2002 mission who came back to show us how pleased they were with their surgery results. Over the next two weeks our team completed 75 surgeries, including cleft lip and palate repairs, hysterectomies, cholecystectomies, and hernia repairs. All of these surgeries have a major impact on our patients' lives as they enable a return to full activity. Again, we worked with local professionals and there was a useful exchange of knowledge. We also learned that the hospital is suffering from a shortfall in funds to run its volunteer surgical program. H4H has donated \$4000.00 to ensure we cover our share of this deficit. H4H also brought four used anesthesia monitors and will be donating funds towards the much needed renovation of the operating rooms. Now that we have seen some of the results of our previous surgery, we are even more convinced of the value of the volunteer work we are doing in Guatemala.

On the middle weekend, when we take a rest from surgery, some of our group visited Santiago Atitlan. This impoverished village was the site of the recent hurricane Stan mudslides that caused considerable loss of life and damage. The Santiago hospital, staffed by volunteers, was severely damaged and we will be looking for ways to assist with their rebuilding. This visit reinforced our view about the need to address ongoing poverty and its debilitating effects for those living in the rural areas of Guatemala. I encourage everyone to make others aware of the unacceptable inequality that exists in our world. Together we can make a difference. H4H will continue to look for ways to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of these villages.

Two other developments should be noted. H4H owes many thanks to Tania Maryniak for the production of our DVD, and to Susan Read and Sean Amundsen for the production of our brochure. I know these individuals volunteered considerable time working on these projects and we are very grateful. We now have a very professional DVD and brochure to spread the word about our work and the situation in Guatemala.

Plans are already underway for our next visit to Antigua which is scheduled to depart November 10th, 2006. Our major fundraising event, the 4th Annual Sunsail Sailing Regatta, will be held on May 6th, 2006. This event has always been a great experience and we encourage you to join us again. Also, to those corporate and individual sponsors who generously donated last year, please remember us again in the coming year. All donations of \$20.00 or more receive a charitable tax receipt. We remind you that we have no paid staff, our administrative overhead is minimal, and all team members volunteer their time and pay for their own transportation and accommodation. All donations are used for expenses related to medical care in Guatemala.

Thanks again to our Board, team members, and other volunteers for their commitment and hard work. Thanks also to our donors for their support in 2005. I look forward to Health for Humanity building on this very successful year in 2006.

Mike Morton. President, Health for Humanity.