

St. Michael's Guatemala Project – 2012 at a glance

St. Michael's Guatemala Project is a nonprofit, non-sectarian informal partnership with the Maya of the CPR-Sierra [Communities of Population in Resistance of the Sierra], who became refugees within their own country during Guatemala's 36-year internal conflict.

2012 Summer Teams

- ✘ **14 volunteers – 3 teams**
- ✘ **46 total volunteer weeks** – almost a year of work days
- ✘ **21 rural Maya communities** – from isolated mountain retreats beyond roads in the Ixil Area, northern Quiché, to hot and humid resettlements on the Pacific coastal plain and one coffee *finca*.
- ✘ **1000 “consultas”** – always with community health workers of the CPR-Sierra – including increased hemoglobin and glucose testing
- ✘ **Accompaniment and funds for patients needing treatment outside their communities, especially children**
- ✘ **In-country networking and experience** – meetings with the Episcopal Diocese and Bishop; visit to a shrimp processing plant employing women of El Triunfo for long hours under difficult conditions (but employment is a big boost for the struggling community);



meetings with Nebaj-area Health Ministry leaders and with the Director of ASECSA, a trusted training program for community health workers; a firsthand look at hydroelectric construction in the Ixil Area (hostile guards, no benefit for the locals); direct observation of increasing militarization and suppression of dissent under the present government; as always, lumpy, sometimes perilous roads, landslides, and muddy mountain foot-paths; simple pleasures, and moments of unfettered joy.

New – For the first time, 2 University of Arizona first-year medical students joined the most difficult “gira” (circuit) as part of their studies.

At a time of continuing economic stress and high air fares, Guatemala Project fielded the largest number of volunteers in its history. All paid their own way. They included 4 nurses, a nurse practitioner / midwife, the 2 medical students, a graduate student in public health who is an EMT, a Berea College religion professor, the Coordinator, and others.

Funds 2012

Most funds are expended in Guatemala for incentive payments to volunteer Maya health workers, emergency travel and tests for patients, medicines, and related health and support needs. The Episcopal Church of Guatemala holds funds for in-country distribution and releases them to the lead health team of the CPR-Sierra at Guatemala Project's request, after the Coordinator reviews accountability for earlier distributions.

Of approximately \$14,331 expended in 2012, over \$13,207 was used in Guatemala. Expenses in the U.S. were primarily for medicines and materials not available in Guatemala, with small amounts for event space and web maintenance. The figures do not represent total need.

Anticipated need for full Project continuation, 2013 \$21,000

Special need: 2013 is our 20th anniversary year. We need to develop other financial resources to bring Maya health leaders and the Episcopal bishop to the U.S., and to arrange a reciprocal celebration in Guatemala.

Heartfelt Thanks to all who gave their support, including

Church of Christ, Union, Berea, KY – two team volunteers, and first-time support of medicines and \$1,915 for in-country needs.

Denver “Promesa” support group – \$1,325 continued support for resettlement community Tesorito.

South Shores Baptist Church, Monarch Beach, CA, for an unanticipated end-of-year donation.

St. Mary's Hospital Pharmacy, which orders medicines not obtainable in Guatemala at cost.

Tucson Samaritans, whose volunteers remain among our most loyal donors and team participants.

WorldCare and Southwest Medical Aid, Tucson.

St. Michael's parishioners, who continue their generosity, their interest, and their prayers.



Needed – More consistent followup for patients with severe problems.
Better exploration of grant resources.
Stronger and more broad-based administrative organization in the U.S.
Respectful planning with the CPR for future challenges facing the communities and the Project as present leaders for both age out.
Continued full, varied, and flexible participation on summer teams.

St. Michael's Guatemala Project

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