



December 2021

PfS Newsletter

partnerforsurgery.org

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Hope Springs Eternal

After two long years of cancellations, lockdowns, and other effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the upcoming year is looking great. With fully vaccinated medical volunteers and Guatemalan staff, we anticipate a return to a full surgical schedule in 2022. The enthusiasm is palpable!

In January, the first of five rural medical triage missions will resume evaluating new patients in the rural communities. In March, the first of fifteen confirmed international surgical teams will arrive. Additionally, the amazing Guatemalan plastic surgeons who have donated their time throughout the

pandemic will continue to commit two days each month for cleft repairs.

What does this mean for our patients? It means that an incredible 400 cleft lip and palate repairs and more than 1,100 total surgical procedures are within reach! Can you imagine? All of the efforts to support the growing Cleft Infant Nutrition Program, as well as recruiting the Guatemalan plastic surgeons and the support that they have provided have all prepared us for a fresh start in 2022.

It looks like 2022 could be Partner for Surgery's most productive year yet, thanks to the donors who maintained their confidence in our ability to come out of the pandemic stronger than ever. ♦

Health Promoters Are Gold for PfS

As we have known since founding Partner for Surgery, our health promoters are the key to our success — our "gold." Take the recent experience of Magdalena, Andres, and Diego.



Diego & Dr. Loarca

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“Health Promoters Are Gold” cont.

Magdalena and Andres were shocked when their son, Diego, was born with a cleft lip. They had never seen one before. Fortunately, the local midwife, Elsa, who helped Magdalena deliver Diego, knew to contact our local health promoter, Miguel, for help. Miguel arrived quickly to help the new parents and reviewed effective breast-feeding options, as well as provided a breast pump and five bags of nutritional supplies for new mom Magdalena. Miguel also showed the family before-and-after photos of other children born with clefts and reassured them that Diego’s cleft lip could be fixed.

After the visit, Magdalena and Andres felt better knowing that they had help for their son. Miguel visited the family every month to check on Diego’s health, and also

encouraged the family to accept help from Partner for Surgery to correct Diego’s cleft. Happily, the family agreed to surgery. In October 2021, 7-month-old baby Diego had his cleft lip repaired by our wonderful volunteer surgeon, Dr. Daniel Loarca.

“I was afraid and did not know what to do when I saw our son born with a cleft. Miguel was a great support. I don’t know what we would have done without him,” an emotional Magdalena said after the successful surgery.

This is why our health promoters are the key to our success — our gold! ♦



Diego getting ready for surgery



Diego at home, post-surgery

Guardian Angel

Our Guardian Angel Program Has Its Wings

Partner for Surgery recently launched our new Guardian Angel Child Sponsorship Program as we’re excited to share that four of the 250 children awaiting cleft lip and/or palate surgery have already found their Guardian Angel Sponsors! However, we still need 246 donors to become sponsors. This holiday season, please consider becoming a Guardian Angel and sharing the program with your friends and family.

Becoming a Guardian Angel is an opportunity for you to follow a child’s progress through what is typically two cleft surgeries. Guardian Angels will get email reports in English, direct from the rural health promoters, which provide insight to the child’s life and progress.

With this sponsorship, you will receive photographs of the child and family, as well as background information. Every month after, you will receive an update on the child’s progress with additional photographs. An individual or a group can hold this sponsorship. We encourage you to request more information by emailing us at info@partnerforsurgery.org or sending a text to (703)-338-8068. Info is also available at partnerforsurgery.org.