

GUATEMALA 2014 BOCA COSTA MEDICAL MISSIONS

Serving the Mayan people in the jungle villages of Xojola, San Antonio and Paquila

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This was my seventh year serving in Guatemala with Boca Costa Medical Missions. I lead a team of 17 that consisted of three MDs, one NP, one pharmacist, six RNs, one LPN, one nursing student, and four non-medical personnel. We worked in two jungle village medical clinics, two local elementary schools and a deaf school (HALO Guatemala). We treated 670 indigenous Mayan men, women and children in the Xojola clinic in 3 days, and 458 children from the local schools.

At HALO Guatemala, we treated 358 patients, some from local community, a girls' orphanage and students and families who attended the school. Our care consisted of dental extractions, fluoride treatments and minor surgical procedures. All patients who came in to seek medical help at the clinics were treated with Albendazole for intestinal parasites, and a month supply of vitamins for all women and children. Depending on medical assessments, other medications were also dispensed. We also treated several cases of general malaise, diabetes, high blood pressure and children with asthma. The clinics are open and staffed by local trained nurses, who were provided scholarships to nursing school by donations from Boca Costa Medical Missions. These clinics are open twice a month to serve the people of the village of Xojola, and twice a week in the village of Paquila, and the surrounding villages of people who need follow up care throughout the month after the mission teams from the US have returned home.

I will again be leading a medical team in July of 2015 to Guatemala to serve with Boca Costa Medical Missions. For information on the missions we serve, please go to <http://www.bocacostamm.org/>, or for HALO Guatemala, <http://haloguatemala.es.tl/>. Boca Costa also has a profile on Facebook with the pictures of the teams' work that is done.

I would like to thank ASPAN for the Humanitarian Mission Scholarship that will help offset the cost of the medical missions of which I volunteer my time and services. It is greatly appreciated.