

# GLOBAL HEALTH VOLUNTEERS

## The Global Health Volunteer Times

Summer 2022 Edition, Volume 3, Number 3

### Volunteer Voice

*Reflections from 2022 Guatemala and Peru Missions*

#### Guatemala-May 2022

*Story submitted from Dr. Vanessa Lalley-Demong, DO-Guatemala Volunteer May 2022- St. Joseph Hospital Syracuse, NY*

"This trip re-instilled my faith in humanity. With all the craziness happening in the world this reminded me there are still amazing, caring people and communities.

One of my happiest memories was of a patient and her husband who was being seen as she was struggling to conceive and the couple was depressed. We had the



opportunity to share with them that they were early on in their pregnancy. The couple was elated!!

The home visits I had the privilege of participating in showed how people do so much with so little.

One story that I was devastated over was a family who had suffered a tragic loss, and how it was affecting them emotionally and physically. Between Dr. Arrazola and I, we saw the entire family and hearing how this tragedy affected each member was heartbreaking. There was no medicine for this, just a listening ear.

On a personal level - **it was great to get to know complete strangers who bonded together for one cause.** They have become colleagues/friends and mentors. I also miss the commutes out to the clinics - the ability to be present, try not to fall out of the truck, and enjoy the scenery."



*Dr. Lalley-Demong with patients during home visits. The sites were remote and hiking was involved on the journey.*



*The 2022 May Guatemala Team*



*Patients at Centro Pastoral waiting patiently to be seen by providers.*



*The 2022 June Peru Team*

## **Peru-June 2022**

***The following is an excerpt of a story written by Tim Moxey, Peru June volunteer, titled Strength-see link below for full reflection***

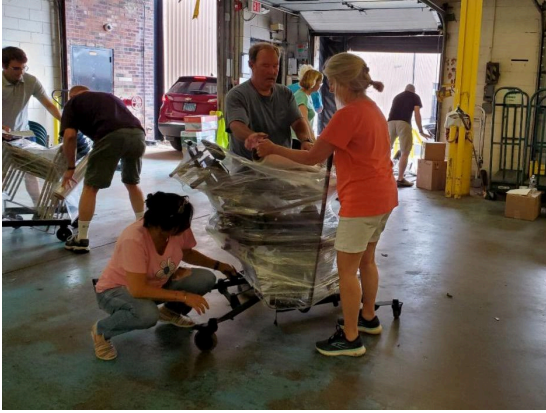
"Because whatever strength we have, whatever strength we use, is nothing compared to the strength that we see. Men who walk hours and hours to get on a bus for the rest of their day, just to get Ibuprofen so that the days they spend working tirelessly in the fields can be a little more bearable. Mothers with no resources waiting patiently, simply to hear for the first time that her baby is going to be okay. Children who've walked every step of their life with pain being fitted with a boot that gives them the confidence to now strut with pride. And then there are those whose strength is unimaginable: those who come from far away, in desperate search of a cure, who discover that what they have cannot be fixed. It's this visible strength that makes our own struggles, our own fatigue with these days, our own wishes for another hour of rest fly right out of our minds..."

[Click here to read full reflection](#)

## **MISSION UPDATE**

### **Container Packing Party-Success!**





*Larry and Nancy Fitzpatrick, with Gisella Alvarez shrink wrap wheel chairs, one of the many items that are packed and loaded on the 40-foot container.*

On Saturday July 16th, 24 enthusiastic volunteers drove to Edison, NJ to pack the shipping container in 90+ degree weather. The container, which arrived in Peru on August 15th, allows GHM to send a large amount of supplies to be donated as well as surgical items to be used for future missions. Many of the volunteers at the Container Packing spend months gathering supplies that are donated and shipped. This year's container consisted of 347 items that will be unpacked upon arrival in Chulucanas, and donated accordingly in addition to some items being stored for next year's surgical and medical missions. Thank you and "snaps" to all who sent or brought supplies, along with those who helped to pack!

## Peru-October Mission



*Outside view of the construction at Hospital Chulucanas in June 2022*



*The inside of Chulucanas hospital that has been delayed due to supply chain issues.*

Due to supply chain delays in the construction for the Chulucanas Hospital that was scheduled to open in June, GHM is unable to conduct the surgical portion of the Peru October mission. We will still be conducting a small Sierra team mission (all positions have been filled) during the first scheduled week of the mission. It is with much disappointment to both GHM and the patients who have been waiting for much needed surgeries since before the pandemic. We are hopeful that the hospital will be fully equipped and furnished by June of 2023.

## 2023 Mission Schedule

### GHM 2023 Missions -- Tentative calendar

<u>Mission Location &amp; Service Focus</u>	<u>Dates of Mission</u> (lv US to arv US)	<u>Orientation</u> (at GHV Ofc /via Conf/Video Call)
<b>UPCOMING TEAMS</b>		
<p><b>ALL DATES ARE VERY TENTATIVE AND SUBJECT TO CHANGE.</b></p> <p>We will notify all applicants of any date changes or confirmations when they occur.</p>		
<b>Jamaica, Kingston</b> – <u>Primary Care</u>	<b>1/27 to 2/5, 2023</b>	Thurs 7-9 pm Sept 9, 2022
<b>Guatemala, Esquipulas</b> - <u>Primary Care</u>	<b>3/17 to 3/26, 2023</b>	Thurs 7-9 pm Jan 19, 2023
<b>Peru, Chulucanas</b> – <u>Primary Care and Surgery</u>	<b>6/9 to 6/23, 2023</b>	Sat Mar 4, 2023 8:45 a.m.- 12 p.m.
<b>USA, Edison, NJ</b> – Help inventory and pack supplies and equipment that will be sent to Chulucanas.	<b>9am to Noon, Sat., July 22, 2023</b> In Edison, NJ (No Orientation) Email <a href="mailto:marie.robson@trinity-health.org">marie.robson@trinity-health.org</a>	
<b>Peru, Chulucanas</b> – <u>Primary Care and Surgery</u>	<b>10/6 to 10/21, 2023</b>	Sat. April 15 2023 8:45a.m.- 12 p.m.
<b>Jamaica, Kingston</b> – <u>Primary Care</u>	<b>Jan.Feb. 2024</b> <b>TBD</b>	TBD Thurs Sept 12 or 7-9 p.m.

\*\*\*\*We are suspending missions to Haiti until the current political and civil unrest improves.

[Printable PDF of Calendar](#)

## Current Covid-19 Data for Partner Countries (as of 8/15/22)

**Over the past 7 days**  
World

**Cases per 100,000**  
10.32

USA	33.73
Guatemala	12.41
Peru	25.73
Jamaica	4.34
Haiti	No reliable data

Information from [Our World in Data](#).

## From the desk of the Jefe (chief) Sr. Mary Jo McGinley, RSM

*"Back to normal – or at least the new normal. Our May team to Guatemala and June team to Peru received warm and grateful welcomes from our in-country partners and our patients. We felt like the proverbial prodigal sons and daughters returning home. Stories of folks in remote communities with few material goods went the extra mile to care for each other amidst the Pandemic inspired us. Observing how Peruvian and Guatemalan communities continue to "mask up" and follow Covid restrictions helped us understand why their "statistics" continue to be better than the US. Our faithful volunteers, many from our canceled 2020 missions, inspired and energized each other to go the extra mile and push the limits to care for over 2,000 patients. Recording over 15,000 steps each clinic day became the norm. Everyone gave witness to our mantra 'Keep Moving Forward'."*

## Educational Opportunity-Virtual Learning Series



Dr. Lou Durkin and Dr. Michelle Duffelmeyer, two veteran Peru volunteers, have generously offered to facilitate a virtual learning series aimed at improving health care delivery throughout GHM's mission sites. Each session, which will be held on the last Thursday of the month, will focus on a health care topic delivered by a GHM veteran, followed by group discussion. The first session will be focused on Diabetes and will be run by Dr. Duffelmeyer. For more information, to volunteer to host a session, and/or to sign up, [click here](#)

## Interesting Reads



**CNN:** Gangs gain the upper hand in war with Haitian police

**WHO:** World Health Organization releases global Covid-19 vaccination strategy update to reach unprotected

## Upcoming Events

**El Grupo de Español**  
August 30, 2022  
7:30-8:30 p.m. ET  
To join, email [marie.robson@trinity-health.org](mailto:marie.robson@trinity-health.org).

**Jamaica Orientation**  
September 22, 2022  
7:00-9:00 p.m. ET on Zoom  
Information will be emailed to Jamaica volunteers

**Virtual Learning Series**  
September 29, 2022  
8:00-9:00p.m. ET on Zoom  
See information in section "educational opportunity" above

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