



Health Outreach Dentistry for Honduras 2016 Report

Dentistry for Honduras 2016 was a huge success. Team #1 left Toronto early in the morning on Saturday February 13, 2016. The team consisted of Dr. Bill Kerr, his wife Lisa, 3 of their children, a hygienist and a hygiene assistant. Their flight was delayed in Toronto for an hour but the airline held the connecting plane in Newark, New Jersey so the team made its connection and arrived in Honduras with all 15 suitcases. After a 3 hour bus ride they arrived in El Porvenir just after dark. Sunday was spent unpacking and setting up the clinic and meeting Dr. Jenny Vega (a Honduran dentist) has spent the last year at the Centro de Salud dental clinic as part of her required year of community service. This clinic has been well equipped by generous donations from many sources from Canada and the United States. The team was short of hygienists and fortunately Dr. Jenny Vega recruited 2 of her classmates, also working in their community service year, to come and help the team working as hygienists, and diagnosing children to send to the dental clinic. These dentists were also able to help in the dental clinic later in the day. Team #1 also had many volunteers (Honduran and American) help their team as well.

With all the additional help and only minor equipment failures, the team had a great week. Team # 1's hygiene team saw 429 children for scaling, fluoride varnish, oral hygiene and diet instruction, and assessment for urgent dental care. They looked after children from grades 2-6 from the local school as well as children from a nearby orphanage.

At the village dental clinic, the dental team completed 10 root canals, 48 extractions, 119 restorations, and took impressions for 2 partial dentures. Dr. Kerr's son Steve who is in his final year of denturism at George Brown took the models back with him and fabricated the partial dentures and Dr. Michael Cusato brought them down with him and inserted them on his week.



After a long week, Team # 1 packed up Friday evening, had their volunteer appreciation dinner and left for the airport early Saturday morning. The hygienist (Lindsay) from their team stayed in Honduras and saw 64 children from another school doing scaling, fluoride and oral hygiene instruction as she waited to work with Team # 2. As the rest of Team #1 headed for home, none of their luggage made it to Toronto with them.

They landed late Saturday night and had to take 2 trips back to the airport on Sunday to collect all their luggage.

Team # 2 arrived in El Porvenir on Saturday February 27th. The team led by Dr. Michael Cusato, also included 3 hygienists, a hygiene assistant, and a level II dental assistant. There were other volunteers in the village that helped their team as well. The hygiene team travelled to different schools in the area looking after many children from each school. They had a very successful week with only minor equipment failures. Team #2 had a few last minute dental emergencies and finished quite late Friday evening. There stats for the second week were as follows:

The hygiene team saw 345 children for scaling, fluoride, oral hygiene instruction and assessment for urgent dental care.

The dental team completed 16 root canals, 84 extractions, 74 restorations, and inserted 2 partial dentures.

After they packed up and moved out of the clinic they hosted a volunteer appreciation dinner for all the volunteers that helped out during their week. The team left supplies and equipment so Dr. Jenny Vega could continue looking after the local children as she finishes her year of community service.



The final combined stats for Health Outreach Dentistry for Honduras Team #1 and #2 are as follows:

838 children were seen for scaling, fluoride varnish, OHI, and screening for urgent care by our hygiene team.

The dental teams completed 26 root canals, 132 extractions, 193 restorations, and 2 partial dentures.

Both hygiene teams loved the new portable dental chairs that were brought down this year. With a generous donation from The Rotary Club of Minden Ontario, The Rotary Club of Scarborough Ontario (Rotary International) and Health Outreach, the hygienists were able to see many more children. Their improved posture with these new chairs meant that there was much less back strain which made them much more productive.

One of the highlights of their project this year was having the opportunity to mentor 3 young Honduran dentists. They were very bright and keen to learn. Dr. Jenny Vega was able to work on her first 2 root canals at the clinic. Both Dr. Kerr and Dr. Cusato were encouraged about the future of dentistry in Honduras based on the skill and knowledge of these 3 new grads. It appears that the students are receiving sound dental training yet they continue to lack in funding to purchase the necessary sundries and supplies for the work they are being trained to do.

In the past 8 years, Health Outreach, Dentistry for Honduras has seen 4237 children and have completed 199 root canals, 848 extractions, 864 restorations, 14 partial dentures and 1 orthodontic appliance. They could not have achieved so much success over the years without the support of Health Outreach executive and without all the generous donations from so many people. Donations of equipment, dental supplies and financial support are critical to the continued success of these projects.

Thank you for all the support.



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