

SAN GABRIEL 2020, Report to Health Outreach Board of Directors

Team Meeting #2

As Chairperson for the 'Equipment & Sundries Committee', it was a bit discouraging that there was so little in donations at the community centre, as compared to previous years. What I did not know was that some dentists (Dr Perri, Dr Chong) did not bring their donated materials to the meeting. Also there was our last 2-week push from some suppliers that allowed me, Dr Serebenitski, Dr Cornelius to get donated the required materials for this year's project for Weeks 1 & 2. One new prestige sterilizer gasket was purchased for backup purposes. As in previous years, most of the supplies went down with Week #1. Team Rio Dulce (week 2) brought down mostly disposable supplies, toys, etc. There were 2 new wooden chairs that were recently purchased. Two older prestige sterilizers were repaired, as well as 1 Adec unit (Denmar Dental). There was 1 donated Prestige unit from Dr Patel's friend. I realized that 1 Adec unit (of the 8 in total) was long-term loaned to Honduras Project.

Saturday Toronto airport departure was good, no problems at airport. With 1 returning adec unit, 2 new wooden chairs, and 3 prestige units, there was 10 extra luggage in total. Extra baggage fee was \$55, however, when uoft students checked in, it was \$90. Use 'regular' volunteers for extra luggage. Baggage directly through to Guatemala, just need to clear immigration at Mexico airport. Arrival at hotel in Antigua around 9pm. After speaking at length with the driver (Adventure Travel), he says the route directly to Escuintla is safe at night. Much fatigue in unloading and packing on Saturday night, and then unloading again on Sunday night. If team can go to Escuintla directly, then able to settle one day earlier in the hotel (that we will stay for the entire week), and able to start earlier on Sunday without all the personal luggage on the bus all day.

Sunday doe SG 2020 was the best day for children turnout. At the end of the day, we had to turn away several children. Strategy will be doing a more full day for Sunday to maximize the number of children seen.... I will float the idea of leaving one day earlier (Friday) to start working on weekend to maximize 'weekend' days for more children to be seen. Another idea would be to start the project earlier in January (2nd week the month, leaving on Jan 8th/9th, 2021. The children return to school on Jan 18th, 2021). This year, we decided to see more adults on the weekdays. From Monday to Friday, we saw about half adults.

Team chemistry was great, with 8 new members to the Health Outreach family. It was very easy to pair up the family-pairs, and home-pairings (dds-assistant). The 2 'Chinese Girls' UofT dental students were the most energetic, and productive pair of students so far (3rd year having students). Volunteer health was good, without any missed days. Illness, two members did

express some abdominal issues, but was controlled by Imodium and Ciprofloxacin. Team recognition was moved to Friday night at our Escuintla hotel (Team #1 only, this worked out better than presenting on our shared appreciation dinner in Antigua).

2nd Saturday, some team members went by ATV or small motorcycle to Altamira for beautiful view. Cost was q150 for over 3 hours (group special rate, friends of Ronny/Eloisa). A must do for all volunteers. Saturday night was the joint dinner, which went smoothly.

2nd Sunday On return trip back to Toronto, no extra baggages. When transferring at Mexico City, one volunteer dentist (Dr Dino) lost a small tag portion of his Mexico customs form. He was not allowed to board the plane. Aeromexico removed his luggage, and he had to stay 5 more hours to catch next flight to Toronto (regrettably, he had to contact his office manager to cancel his Monday schedule).

STATS: 540 patients over 5.5 days, 829 fillings, 288 extractions, 8 root canals, 14 pulpotomies, 57 hygiene appts, 28 Fluoride varnish, \$230860 value

Volunteer feedback:

Would like the Health Outreach scrubs and baseball hats made available again.

Most prefer to go straight to Escuintla, rather than go to Antigua. The highway is repaired and safe for even night travel, directly from airport. Surgical instruments: more small straight elevators would be great. Some volunteers (including me) were surprised by the higher number almost 40% of the patients as adults. They were ok with that. Some wished for earlier notice of materials (Needs List) to ask from suppliers. Many enjoyed the morning National Anthem to start the day (encourage daily, gets the emotional and psychologic juices going each morning). Liked having dedicated translator. (Jim, one of my Oakville patients, was great, and would like to do the double week next year.) Volunteers want chance for 2-3day excursion at end of trip. More OHI.

Volunteers feel that the team treats patients respectfully. This enhances reputation of the charity, and of Canadians.

Volunteers would have brought more donations (used clothing), now that they have seen the needs.

Spanish-speaking Assistant, Iris Rendeiros is interested in helping for fundraising.

Dr Daniel Lee,

Project Leader, San Gabriel 2020,

Chair of Equipment & Sundries (New Dynamic Excel File for ordering)

Thanks to you friends for the 10th Year Tribute !! (Mar 21,20)