

# Rotaplast

Guatemala City - Sept 2019

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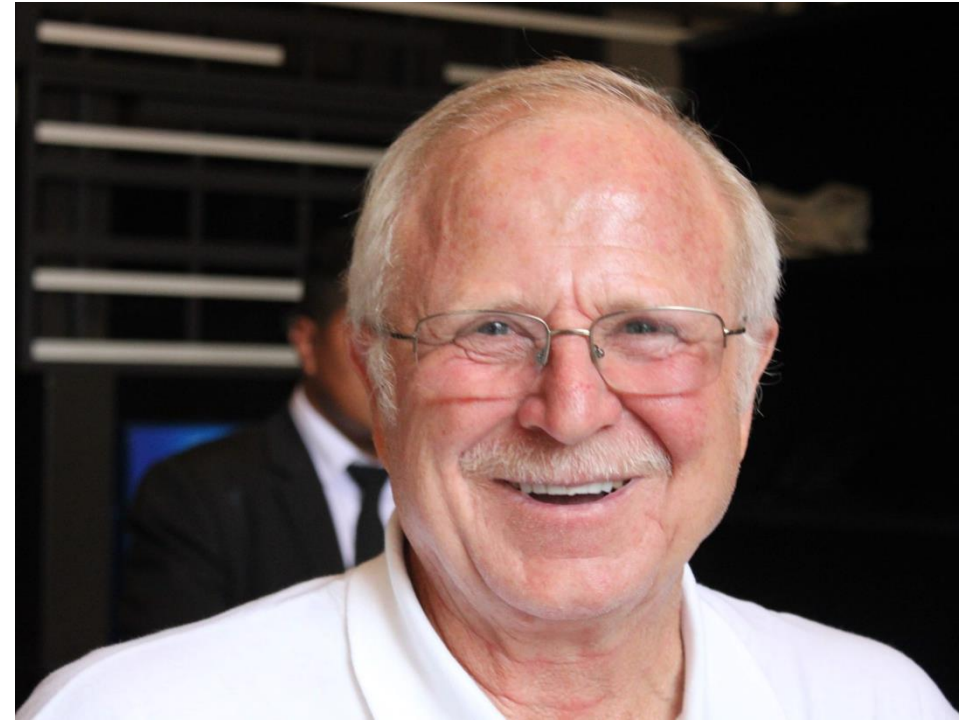
Rotary International -  
a lesson in making  
217 children feel  
loved



What will these 26 people (many don't speak Spanish, and don't look Guatemalan), do in Guatemala for 10 days?



They will do the best they can to give 113 children - who suffer multiple and serious impairments ranging from cleft lip to severe cleft palate - the ability to speak, to eat, to go to school and to be accepted by their peers.



Brian Walker – Mission Director



Buenos Dias!! This line was around the building in both directions from 3 AM until we arrived at 6:30 AM on Clinic Day. Some traveled for 15 hours to stand in that line, ...with hope.





On 'Clinic day', Rotaplast registered 214 children. A chart was created for each one, with their photo and number. Each had their vitals checked, and talked with 4 doctors. By 6 pm, everyone had been registered, and the first 15 patients had been chosen for surgery to begin at 7 AM on Wednesday.



Clinic Day would not have been possible without the help of about 15 local Interactors – who spoke English fluently and were full of enthusiasm!





Most of the heart-grabbing photos you will see on various websites highlight facial deformities. But what you don't see are often their most difficult issues, and which are the hardest to correct .... Cleft Palate.





These types of surgeries require the expertise of plastic surgeons (AKA. Milton, Hootan and Joe - who all regularly volunteer on medical missions).



And expert post surgical care from volunteer nursing staff, A sterilizer-specialist, and a Speech Pathologist, who show up year after year.

The anesthesiologists –  
(aka, Arun, Michael, Tom  
and Katrina)  
are the last people the  
little patient sees before  
going to sleep and the first  
when they awake. These  
critical docs specialize in  
ensuring the safety of  
these vulnerable infants –  
an incredible specialty, and  
Rotaplast has the best!





So, what did I say about 217 children feeling loved?



Note the quilts! Every child gets one on the way to surgery. It is full of love from women all over the country who have sewn them and sent them for the children. In addition to the love, it also plays an important role during surgery - keeping the little one's body temperature from dipping.





# And more...





And more...





# And more...





And more...





And more...

(Mike Scott –  
Quartermaster  
and this  
beautiful girl's  
guardian  
angel).



# And more....



The Pediatricians, Nan and Paula keep the 'whole child' in mind





And  
more...  
Love









Thank You to Rotaplast  
and to District 7430  
for sponsoring this  
mission.