

Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation *Newsletter*

Fall 2023

“And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God, and to perform healing.” Luke 9:2

A Note from the President — Jane Jones

I am blessed to be able to partner with each of you in the work of the Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation (PBMCF), to join in praying together, giving, telling the story and in July to go once again to Paraguay. The trip this past July was one of not only partnership and collaboration but also one of a joyful family reunion.

This opportunity to return and serve alongside our Paraguayan brothers and sisters was much anticipated and God did not disappoint. He put together a team of just the right people, with just the right gifts to serve on the ground. He brought together donors from around the nation to provide

for needed supplies and medicines, including generous donations of vitamins and toothbrushes. He provided prayer support from so many partners, without which our work would have been in vain.

All of you were part of the Paraguay 2023 trip. Thank you for obeying!

As I reflect on the trip Proverbs 16:9 stands out “The mind of man plans his way, but the LORD directs his steps.” We planned considering so many details, but in the end, God directed our steps.

Partnering in Medical Missions

This past July, Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation (PBMCF) embarked on our eleventh medical mission trip to Paraguay, joining Centro Médico Bautista (CMB) in community outreach.

We brought 25 volunteers: doctors, nurses, an eye clinic team, occupational therapists, and translators, and even an engineering and computer systems consultant. We worked alongside CMB doctors, medical residents, and chaplains as well as residents from Fundación Visión at clinics hosted by four Baptist churches in urban and rural locations: Loma Pyta, Teko Pyahu-Caaguazú, Limpio, and Mbujapey.

Cintia Patiño, coordinator of the Department of Community Health at CMB, organizes this week of mobile clinics called CMB en tu Comunidad (CMB in Your Community). She testifies from personal experience to the importance of this ministry. Cintia grew up in a remote community, and she remembers every year that CMB en tu Comunidad would come to visit. Instead of walking eight kilometers to see a doctor, she and her eight brothers and sisters could receive

medical care at the nearby church. Cintia says it’s wonderful and a great blessing to see a doctor and receive medications at no cost. “We would all get well,” she remembers.

While the medical team traveled to the four clinics, occu— *Continued on page 2*

Medical Mission Trip Results

- Approximately 959 services were provided at the clinics
- 457 medical consultations
- 271 people received vision exams
 - 192 fitted with glasses
 - 40 were referred for more complex care
- 231 people visited with CMB chaplains



CMB physician Dr. Gabriel Rodriguez and Dr. David Algea with PBMCF work with medical residents to offer consultations at the clinics.

Partnering in Medical Missions ...

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pational therapists, Chelsea Miller and April Highfill, shared lectures and demonstrations with nurses and medical residents at CMB during the day and with students at Universidad Centro Médico Bautista (UCMB) during the evenings. With Chelsea and April, we are attuning ourselves to the new field of occupational therapy in Paraguay. We celebrate UCMB's leadership in developing the profession, and we are thankful to be invited to participate in this growth.

In measurable and immeasurable ways God was at work among us during our week in Paraguay. Thank you, friends, for the many, many generous donations you gave to provide medications and occupational therapy supplies, as well as cover other costs associated with the trip. Your support has been an encouragement to our volunteers, to CMB and UCMB staff, and to every family that visited the clinics.

Thank you!



CMB Chaplain Elvio Carrera visits with a patient.



Chelsea Miller, O.T., gives occupational therapy lecture to UCMB students.



PBMCF volunteer Connie Bushey administers a vision test.



Dr. Dewey Dunn with PBMCF and CMB medical residents offer consultations.



April Highfill, O.T.A., demonstrates occupational therapy techniques with CMB nurses.

Update on Community Health Programs at Centro Médico Bautista

Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation (PBMCF) continues to support community health outreach at Centro Médico Bautista (CMB) as we have done since our inception.

Cintia Patiño, coordinator of the Department of Community Health at CMB, and Alicia Díaz de Lezcano, who previously led the department for 18 years and now in her retirement serves as the president of Fundación Centro Médico Bautista, secretary of the CMB board of directors, and president of the UCMB council, both contributed information on the current programming in this department.

Your donations towards community health help to support:

- CMB en tu Comunidad (CMB in Your Community) which provides health care attention to communities in locations away from the hospital. Baptist churches in urban or rural areas of Paraguay host these one-day clinics in their church buildings. Before the COVID-19 pandemic, every year a team of CMB health care professionals would schedule several clinic days at various sites and

travel to each location. On the alternate year, PBMCF would organize a medical mission trip and join the CMB team for a week of mobile clinics. During the pandemic, CMB en tu Comunidad was on hiatus. The 2023 PBMCF medical mission trip renewed this important ministry of CMB.

- Bloque D clinic, the original community clinic, which is a building on the CMB campus with easy access to the street that continues to provide reduced cost health care to “comunitario” patients who qualify on a sliding income scale.

- Financial assistance to hardship requests from “comunitario” and “hospitalario” patients, two of the lowest classifications on a sliding income scale. Patients in these categories now receive health care services throughout the hospital, not limited to the original community clinic.

- Medications and supplies to a small site in Carapeguá that provides basic health care services to the surrounding community.

Thank You Mission Trip Volunteers

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|---------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| ■ Alba Ahow | ■ Dr. Dewey Dunn | ■ Jeffrey Kyle, D.Ph. |
| ■ Dr. Dave Algea | ■ Camila González | ■ Chelsea Miller, O.T. |
| ■ Dr. Patricia Barrington | ■ Marilyn Graves, R.N. | ■ Laura Roche, N.P. |
| ■ Connie Bushey | ■ David Hale | ■ Donna Stiles, R.N. |
| ■ Nick Bushey | ■ James Harper, R.Ph. | ■ Bob Thomas, R.N. |
| ■ Dr. John Chapman | ■ Charles Harper | ■ Dr. Tom Traylor |
| ■ Dr. Alfredo Colmán | ■ Al Hethcock | ■ Elke Ynciarte |
| ■ Gabriela Colmán | ■ April Highfill, O.T.A. | |
| ■ Bobbie Dunn | ■ Jane Jones | |

Give to the PBMCF

Online: <https://pbmcfoundation.org>

Check: Payable to Paraguay Baptist Medical Center Foundation and mail to 4300 W. Waco Drive, Ste 2, Bldg B, Box 400, Waco, TX 76710

PBMCF is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Your donations are tax deductible as allowed by law. We do not share your information with third parties.

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- Dr. Mark & Rosana McIntosh, Neptune Beach, FL

Other Views of Mission Trip 2023



PBMCF volunteers and CMB staff pose together outside of one of the four churches that hosted clinics.

Our new mailing address is —

PBMCF
4300 W. Waco Drive
Ste 2, Bldg B, Box 400
Waco, TX 76710



Dr. David Algea of PBMCF examines a girl during one of the clinics held as part of the medical mission trip 2023.

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