In February, Medical Bridges staff members visited Guatemala. Medical Bridges, an organization based in Houston, Texas, recovers surplus medical supplies and equipment that, while still working, has reached its useful life in the United States. Their goal is to redistribute the products to qualified organizations located in emerging countries. Medical Bridges has sent valued at approximately US$ 80 million to at least 81 countries since it was established in 1997.

Amigos Pro Obras Sociales, Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro (OSSHP) will soon be receiving more medical supplies and equipment from Medical Bridges which will be used by doctors, nurses and by the patients who will soon live in “Virgen del Socorro”. Hogar de niños y adultos especiales. Likewise, what had been received previously from Medical Bridges will be used in the current facilities of OSSHP in La Antigua Guatemala, as needed.

We welcomed the President and CEO of Medical Bridges, Dorothy Bolettieri, George Bolettieri, her husband who volunteers as the Director of Business Development, and Al Carasco, the Director of Global Services. To know more of her relationship with OSSHP, we had a chat with Dorothy.
How did you hear about Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro?

Dorothy remembers with a smile the day Michael Ascoli, member of Asociación Amigos Pro Obras Sociales, came to the door of Medical Bridges. “He knocked and said he wanted us to send 12 shipments with medical supplies to Guatemala; to which we asked: Who are you?”

Mr. Ascoli explained that he was referred to Medical Bridges by a physician from the Texas Medical Center because he knew that we could help Mr. Ascoli with his work in Guatemala. Mr. Ascoli spoke with George and Al. After a time they introduced me to Mr. Ascoli. He and I talked about how to make it happen. We signed our first agreement that day; these 12 shipments were the start of this great partnership we now enjoy.”

What did you like more about your work?

“Everyone in the Medical Bridges organization is passionate about our work. Shipments of medical supplies and equipment are packaged and sent with respect, always with an eye on preserving human dignity. This is something we want obvious in everything we do. At the end of the day, even though we struggle with the same challenges and problems of any other business, we all go home knowing we did something positive; maybe today we saved a life. We are very aware of the huge need in many places around the globe, but we also realize that we can’t help everyone from our small corner in Houston. What we can do is make sure that the people we touch, receive the best we have to offer.”

Dorothy, George and Al, expressed how happy they are to support the development of Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro. They feel motivated to continue supporting the current facilities in La Antigua Guatemala and the new home Virgen del Socorro.

2014 Summary of Activities of Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro:

- In 2014, Obras Sociales del Santo Hermano Pedro received 50,859 more patients than in the previous year.
- In 2014, the provided care increased 25%.
- 337 more surgeries were performed in 2014 than in 2013.

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