

Health Talents International

May 6-13, 2023, Surgical Team

Trip Participants: **Surgeons:** Glen Blue, Stephanie Cross, Paul Humphrey, Kristen Lilly, **Physician:** Ed Wilson; **Anesthesiologist:** Brian Alexander, Sandra Lumby; **Nurse Anesthetist:** Ken Beach, Lisa Vandekamp; **Nurses:** Kylie Burdine, Dave Farrow, Roger Graves, Aileen Hawes, Rachel Hobbes, Karla Johnson, Ashley Jones, Jodi Pilot, Brenda Robinson, Susan Thomas, Misty Vance; **Surgical Tech:** Kathy Jackson; **OC Nursing Students:** Drake Earwood, Kenzie Pelletier, Olivia Rollen, Tamerra West; **Lay Circulator:** Paul Vandekamp; **Caregivers:** Tami Beach, Brooklyn Gipson, Lincoln Jones, Charlee Robinson; **Translator Intake/Discharge:** Rita Sills; **Sterilization:** Doyle Robinson, Cary Sills; **Team Leader & Trip Chaplain:** Rick Harper

Little by little, one step at a time, we are moving towards a full tilt surgical schedule. March was eye surgery, April we only ran two OR rooms and May, we ran three rooms with a tempered schedule. Our US shortage of healthcare providers, primarily nurses, is requiring us to hire Guatemala nurses for the evening shift, and while that has gone well, we eagerly await the day when we are optimally staffed with US nurses. (A full contingency of nurses allows us to care for a larger number of patients and still provide excellent care. We go for quality, not quantity.)

For one nurse on this trip, who remains unnamed, her time in Guatemala was a time of refreshing. Nurse anonymous was approaching the burnout stage and her time in Guatemala renewed her commitment and desire to be a nurse...a very good nurse and one who has already committed to returning this year.

The week yielded nine GYN cases and forty-eight general, a good week totaling fifty-seven patients receiving surgical care and a few stories. Life stories, heart stories, sweet stories...servant stories.

Charlee Robinson was our youngest team members, granddaughter of lone-term supporters and volunteers, Doyle and Brenda Robinson. Hailing from Panhandle, Texas where granddad, Doyle, serves as mayor, Charlee is now known as the "Panhandle Princess" with an official name tag proclaiming her new title.

Freckle-faced Charlee brought the energy you'd expect from one so young. It was a joy to watch her absorb and embrace a new culture, a new environment.

A little tentative on day one, to familiar and feisty on day five. Uncertain early on and confident when the week came to a close.

In the photo to the right, RN, and grandmother, Brenda is reviewing a patient chart with the Panhandle Princess. Brenda, like some many grandparents on past trips, is teaching in both word and deed. Brenda is modeling service, and Charlee is learning at her knee.





Jodi Pilot, a long-time veteran and a nurse highlighted in our June e-newsletter, is simply a servant. Jodi began serving with us while living in Florida, we followed her to Texas and now Tennessee. She stands with Jesus, resides at the foot of the cross. He is her savior and her Lord; as he serves, she serves. (Jodi is in the yellow scrub top, chart in hand.)

Also, part of our April team, Jodi volunteered to remain behind at Clinica Ezell Hospital and work with Sheri K until the May team arrived.

A full month in Guatemala, she was the answer to a prayer, and we know, she will answer again. In fact, Jodi has recruited a friend and plans to return in the fall.

Jodi brings to mind the writing of the apostle Paul from Galatians 6:9.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.

Dr. Brian Alexander, pictured on the right and conferring with patients, will be retiring soon...but maintaining his license so he can continue providing anesthesia care with Health Talents. Brian reaches out to me at least once a year with a simple question, "when do you need me." Like Doyle and Brenda, Brian has introduced many family members to Guatemala and HTI. From daughter, Molly, to nieces, nephews and young adults from his church family who have a heart for missions.



Our last highlight is a plug for our ABC Program. Doyle and Brenda were able to visit with their ABC child, a visit prompting Doyle to exclaim during our devo time, 'you should just do it.' (His grin says it all and his ABC child is truly precious.)

The May team of 2023 is pictured below, and a few people are missing...you!

If you possess a hear for service, translating or healthcare skills, please do more than 'consider joining us. Sign up today at www.healthtalents.org.

Rick Harper



