



Healthcare Leadership Network
of the Delaware Valley

Guatemala Mission Trip **by Board Member Faith Needleman**

From March 2, 2019 through March 10, 2019, I participated in my first ever medical mission trip to Guatemala. The team was assembled through a church effort in Mount Laurel.

Approximately 40 multidisciplinary healthcare team members of varying specialties all came together to assist the local community in rural Guatemala. Members of the team had both clinical and non-clinical backgrounds. We stayed in a camp site 4 hours from Guatemala city. Each day we were transported by local vans to small towns where we set up medical clinics in school settings. The schools were closed for the day to give the community an opportunity to attend. We had 2000 total visits over the week long project. We were partnered with a local mission group to help guide, support and translate for us.

One day we came to a site that was temporary housing for victims of a volcano eruption in 2017. That was enlightening and heartwarming to meet the community that had been living in this shelter area. By the end of the week, the medical team and mission volunteers were all family. We spent time each night debriefing from the day and sharing stories of the people we met.

The efforts helped many people obtain much needed basic primary care visits. The experience was incredibly powerful and rewarding. The entire group has been communicating about our next trip in 2020. It was a trip that had been a long time planned for me and I am incredibly grateful to have joined in the efforts.

