**Medical Mission Jorge Arévalo Iquitos, Peru**

Vision Statement

Seek volunteers to work in partnership with nationals in the population of Iquitos to help further the development of homegrown mission movements aided to improve the quality of care of those in need.

Cultural understanding

Iquitos is the largest city in the Peruvian rainforest and the capital of the Amazon region of this country. It is located in the northeast part of the country with a current population of close to 500,000. Iquitos is the largest city in the world without access by road. This is a city with a very international and colorful past. The rubber boom of the late 1870’s through the late 1920’s left an indelible mark on the city of Iquitos as it attracted many European immigrants who contributed to its social and commercial development and its unique urban and cultural identity. Over 250,000 tourists visited Iquitos in 2012, a number that is expected to increase since the ranking of the Amazon River as one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World in 2012. Iquitos was also included on the list of “top 10 cities for 2011” by Lonely Planet (a reputable travel guide book). The inhabitants of the hamlets, villages and towns along the rivers are primarily descendants of various tribes, but most speak Spanish as their main language. Iquiteños are known for being easy-going, jovial, and friendly people; relationships and friendships are extremely important to them. It has been said that the dwellers of the jungle are people who are ‘serene, profound and contemplative.’

Needs in the community

Out on the river, most of the **people have little or no access to even the most basic medical care**. Many suffer from very serious infections such as tuberculosis, yellow fever and typhoid fever. Also, eye and teeth conditions as well as malnutrition are predominant among dwellers. Children are afflicted primarily from parasites and malnutrition and all, adults and children, are very susceptible to infections of all kinds due mainly to the deplorable conditions they live in. They rely on river water for drinking, cooking and bathing. This water is polluted by garbage, human waste and thus contains many harmful bacteria and parasites. Two other common diseases this community is continually exposed to are malaria and dengue fever. People in these villages are extremely underprivileged; they, many times have to travel 4 to 8 hours by wooden boats to reach the closest doctor and emergency medical facilities. They can barely meet their needs for food and shelter, and have very limited resources to procure medical assistance, and much less for securing medications, clothing and many of the essentials needed for human survival. To put it in perspective and to better grasp the pressing needs in this communities: a household has only ONE dollar a day to live on, and consequently most of the time they have to make decisions between feeding their families and seeking medical care.

How the mission trip is striving to address these needs

This mission’s main goal is to enlist as many volunteers as possible to go help those people in Iquitos who are in much need of medical assistance. Our group of volunteers will be working together with local physicians and nurses at the hospitals and health clinics in town providing free medical care.

This short-term experience is an excellent opportunity for cross-cultural exposure while participating in an important and worthwhile mission that is undoubtedly bound to leave a profound, meaningful and fulfilling experience for the rest of our lives.

The Mission’s Year-Round Program

The short-term mission project is a great way to help this community within just a few days, but it is also imperative to create an infrastructure that will support, help sustain and continue the work that is left after the volunteers depart. For this reason, the mission is committed to creating a medical pilot center and providing them year-round technical, and material support. The clinics is: Centro de Salud Morona Cocha in the city of Iquitos. This year-round program will strengthen the knowledge of the staff at these clinics and will help them become better medical providers.

**“The greatest gift you can give someone is the strength and power not to need you…”**

 ~Neale Donald Walsh, Conversations with God – Book 2

Specific medical opportunities for short-term service – How and where YOU can plug in

The first questions most people ask when considering a short-term medical trip are: (1) Where can I serve?, and (2) What will I do? Often, those without formal healthcare training think they cannot be of value on such a trip, but that just isn’t true! Of course, licensed professionals are a fundamental and critical part of the team for diagnosing and prescribing treatment, but just like them, other volunteers are also an integral part of the crew; they help support the whole project by performing various important tasks that include: directing/managing the crowd, preparing treatment sheets, checking vital signs, identifying chief complaints, obtaining patient histories, sharing their testimony/giving the plan of salvation, helping with the pharmacy, gathering trip statistics, and many other functions. All of these are essential tasks for the clinic to run smoothly and efficiently.

Logistics: preparations, requirements, accommodations, travel and cost information

To ensure everyone arrives at the right location and at approximately the same time, we are set up to assist with the air travel arrangements, lodging and transportation for the entire trip.

**Tourist Visa for Peru**

Citizens of the countries in the listing below do **NOT** need to get a visa at an embassy or consulate before arriving to Peru. A passport that is valid for at least six months longer than you intend to stay in Peru is enough to get a Tourist Visa directly at the border or at the airport.

* North America: Citizens of the United States and Canada
* Central America: Citizens of most Central American countries (except Costa Rica, Cuba, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic)
* South America: Citizens of all South American countries
* Europe: Citizens of all countries within the European Union and Switzerland
* Africa: Citizens of Brunei, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Laos, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand
* Oceania: Citizens of Australia and New Zealand

We have prepared a budget for the trip that includes airfare, lodging, local transportation and food for the entire week of the mission trip.

We have also prepared two touristic packages for those interested in spending a few more days to travel either inside the jungle (Iquitos, Peru), or the Andes (The Inka ruins of Machu Picchu in Cuzco, Peru)

The cost for the mission trip is estimated to be around $2,000. If you choose to do some tourism and decide to go to the Amazon River and into the jungle of Iquitos, the additional estimated cost is around $500-$700. The trip to the Inka ruins of Machu Picchu in Cuzco is approximately another $1,500.

Six months before the trip, participants will be provided with comprehensive information about suggestions and requirements for the preparation and planning for our travel. Some of the items included in this package will be: how to pack, what to bring and what not to bring, what to expect on location, how our clinics work, what you will be doing, vaccinations required to travel to Iquitos, etc.

How you can sign up

Check the website listed on the budget sheet, read brochures, talk with others, check your schedule. You may already have the feeling of going and wanting to help on this mission trip, or you may still be undecided. That’s ok. You may already know how you are going to pay for the trip, both financially and time taken away from your current responsibilities; or you may not really know how all that is going to work out. However, all we want to stress to you is that this trip will be a tremendous help to so many needy people in Iquitos and it will make a huge impact in your life forever! So please, if at all possible JOIN US!

If you decide to join this mission trip, please fill out the registration form enclosed. It is also important to know that this mission trip has the support of the Peruvian American Medical Society (PAMS). Please visit our website and learn about past mission trips to Peru and the role of PAMS:

<http://www.pams-iquitos.weebly.com>

[**http://www.pamsweb.org**](http://www.pamsweb.org)

DONATION

If you consider making a donation, please make it in the form of a check payable to:

(PAMS) PERUVIAN AMERICAN MEDICAL SOCIETY-ENDOWMENT FUND

Write on your check: Iquitos – Jorge Arevalo Medical Mission 2018

Mail to:

PAMS

41360 Fox Run Rd. #519

Novi, MI 48377

Your donation is tax-deductible. Any donation amount is welcomed and will help many people during our mission trip.

THANK YOU SO MUCH AND I HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!

Please call us or email us if you have any questions

Iracema Arevalo, MD

Director of the Medical Mission

Cell # (646) 265-8542

Iracema.Arevalo@gmail.com

Otto Gonzalez

Assistant and Volunteer

Gonzalez.otto@gmail.com

Cynthia Zinni

Assistant and Volunteer

czinni@bellsouth.net

Ing Lisbino Elaluf

Translator and Volunteer