

Laparoscopic equipment for El Fuerte, Mexico 2010

Each month, roughly 15-20 small aircraft leave southern California with up to 80 people consisting of pilots, medical personnel, and in some cases medical personnel who are also pilots. This program, led by Liga International, a US 501 c (3) charitable entity, has been going on since the mid-1930's, and has literally impacted the lives of thousands of people in this area of Mexico and also all of the people, both American and Mexican, who have provided these services. It is a great a story

Background

Medical services are being provided by volunteers in three clinics near El Fuerte, Mexico, a town with a population of about 30,000, much of which is rural. Liga International volunteer medical personnel have worked in conjunction with Mexican physicians to hold monthly clinics for indigent persons of that area since the 1934. Numerous surgeries are performed over the course of a weekend. Dentists, audiologists, and optometrists are also part of the parade of medical personnel who head south to the state of Sinaloa Mexico, on a monthly basis, normally paying their own way for the privilege of helping men, women, and children, young and old, many of whom walking for many miles and patiently standing in line for the opportunity to see the doctors and nurses.

The primary project objective was to purchase laparoscopic surgical equipment. Such equipment allows for less invasive surgeries and thus a safer and quicker patient recovery. These clinics are also provided in the nearby communities of San Blas and El Carrizo and once or twice annually for the indigenous people of nearby Copper Canyon. With limited availability of follow-up patient care, the laparoscopic equipment and surgeries provide for a much more comfortable and positive patient outcome.

The Matching Grant

This matching grant was led by the San Marino Rotary Club and the Ciudad Obregon Rotary Club of Mexico. Liga played an important part in the identification, acquisition, and utilization of the equipment. The cost for the project was \$16,000, with funding from the Rotary Clubs of San Marino, Pasadena, Arcadia and Ciudad Obregon. There were matching grants from Rotary District 5300 and The Rotary Foundation.