

¡GRACIAS!

by Jeanie Daniel, PFP Account Manager

Last week I had the incredible opportunity to go on a Physicians for Peace (PFP) training initiative in pediatric burn care at Hospital Roosevelt in Guatemala City, Guatemala. I saw first-hand what PFP is all about. In the six years I have worked at PFP, I've come to understand that our founder, Dr. Horton, Sr., envisioned our organization establishing a collaboration across borders through medicine. I think he would be very proud and pleased with this training.

From the minute we stepped out of the airport, collaboration abounded. We were driven around and cared for by Dr. Lourdes Santiso, a plastic surgeon and head of the pediatric burn unit at Hospital Roosevelt, and her team of doctors, nurses, physical therapists and psychologists. Each member of the multi-disciplinary team attended the burn nurse training sessions at every opportunity. The amount of support these professionals gave each other (and us) was impressive. They were clearly a team working together, and doing it well considering their resources, and they were enthusiastic to learn how to better serve the children they work with every day.

Our PFP trainer was Meghan Metivier, a pediatric burn nurse from Shriners' Hospital in Boston, MA, who was part of a PFP training team at this same hospital four years ago. Other participants included Yanyll Espinal, a pediatric burn nurse from the children's burn unit UNIQEM in the Dominican Republic and Sonia Morales, head pediatric burn nurse from the burn unit of Hospital Benjamin Bloom in El Salvador. Both Yanyll and Sonia have previously received theoretical and hands-on training from PFP and were motivated to receive additional training to share with their teams back at home.

After the first day at the hospital, Meghan switched gears a bit and decided to ask Yanyll and Sonia to assist her in presenting lecture topics to their Guatemalan colleagues. Being that they work at hospitals in Latin America and the Caribbean which face similar resource constraints, Meghan thought they might have a unique insight into the challenges that the Guatemalan staff faces. They were happy to jump right in and stay up late preparing together for the next day. I don't speak Spanish but could clearly see the passion that these women have for their work. I could see the eagerness to help and learn from each other. I could see the enthusiasm in hands-on "how to" sessions and the mutual respect and kindnesses.

This was not a trip about going somewhere and telling people what they should be doing and how they should be doing it. This was a trip about working together to educate each other and help children who have suffered severe burns which are often complicated to treat.

I think Dr. Horton was right. How can people coming together for a common good, working, eating and socializing together and really getting to know each other not inspire peace? Gracias ladies! You have been an inspiration to me.

Sincerely,
Jeanie



After collaboration in the classroom setting, Dr. Santiso (2nd from left next to Jeanie on the left) orchestrated a spectacular guided tour of the Church and Convent of the Capuchinas in Antigua, Guatemala. (2nd from right is Mary Daniel, Jeanie's daughter, who is a trauma nurse in Virginia Beach, VA, and accompanied Jeanie on this trip.)

*"In the tapestry of life, we're all connected.
Each one of us is a gift to those around us,
helping each other be who we are,
weaving a perfect picture together."*

— Anita Moorjani —



Dr. Santiso on the left and Meghan Metivier, PFP volunteer, (third from left) while touring the new outpatient burn clinic at Hospital Roosevelt in Guatemala City, Guatemala.



Last morning wrap-up session: Mary Daniel in the center, with Yanyll, from the children's burn unit Uniqem in the Dominican Republic, in the scrub cap to her left.



Living out our mission to **teach one. heal many.** are (L-R) Dr. Lourdes Santiso, Yanyll Espinal, Meghan Metivier, Leslie Toledo, Sonia Morales and Mary and Jeanie Daniel in front of a mural in the new out-patient pediatric burn clinic at Hospital Roosevelt in Guatemala City, Guatemala.



The end of an intensive, day-long workshop on initial care of patients with burn injuries — attended by nurses from several different departments of Hospital Roosevelt.