



# HealthRays™ UPDATE



Bringing digital x-ray technology to those in need

June 29, 2016

## Dear Friend:

Welcome to the latest edition of *HealthRays™ Update*, an electronic newsletter that provides you with news and developments from the [HealthRays initiative](#) – Rotary District 6440's effort to bring digital x-ray technology to needy populations in Guatemala – and eventually, around the world.



More and more Rotarians – in the United States and internationally – are learning about our project and joining us, and we have a lot of news to share in this issue of the newsletter.

First, we are delighted to say that our installation schedule is back on track after being temporarily interrupted during the political upheavals in Guatemala last fall and winter. During this period of turmoil, some governmental regulatory processes were affected, including customs regulations for imported goods. But the customs process is now fully functioning again in Guatemala and we are busily planning new installations.

Our fundraising continues at a steady pace, and we are delighted to announce that we have now surpassed the \$600,000 mark in funding commitments, with more than 50 clubs and 15 Rotary districts participating so far!

We are now working on installation plans for our ninth and tenth digital x-ray units. When those units are installed, we will be more than one third of the way toward meeting our goals.

Our progress continues to draw attention and support from individuals and organizations outside the Rotary world. You can learn more in the article below about letters of support we recently received from U.S. Representatives Jan Schakowsky and Robert Dold – two members of the U.S. Congress who strongly back our efforts.

We are also excited to report that we have trademarked our name, HealthRays – part of our ongoing effort to raise our visibility widely.

As you can see, HealthRays is making great progress! Stay tuned – we will keep you posted on new developments.

Sincerely,

**Pamela Kerr and Carlos Früm**  
Past Governors, Rotary District 6440  
Co-Chairs, Rotary HealthRays

## **Why you are receiving this newsletter**

If you are receiving this newsletter, you are one of many people who have been selected based on your relationship to our project – this ranges from being a financial supporter or a Rotary leader to being a representative of one of our partnering organizations. **Please note that if you do not want to receive future issues, you can easily unsubscribe** – just click on the "unsubscribe" button at the bottom of this page. If you know of others who might want to receive our newsletter, please forward it on to them and ask them to subscribe.

## **HealthRays at a Glance**

Here are just a few statistics to give you an idea of how our initiative is making a difference in Guatemala:

Digital x-ray machines funded to date: **9**

Total financial pledges and contributions to this effort: **\$626,682**

Total Rotary clubs participating: **52**

Total Rotary districts participating: **15**

Estimated # of residents impacted by our first three installations: **150,000 to 300,000**

## **New HealthRays Installations Expected This Summer**

The HealthRays project is expected to take a major step forward this summer when three new digital x-ray installations are scheduled for completion in Guatemala.

If everything stays on schedule, digital x-ray units will soon be installed in **Livingston, Villa Canales** and **Palencia**, bringing the total number of units that are up and running to six. Installation of a seventh unit, scheduled for **Fraijanes**, may also be completed during the summer.

In addition to these units, which will begin operation very soon, several other installations are currently in development, including an eighth unit, to be located in **Gualan**, and ninth and tenth units for locations in Guatemala that will be determined later in 2016.

When the next three clinics are installed in his summer, the total estimated population that will have access to digital x-ray technology will be 300,000 to 600,000 Guatemalans.

An installation ceremony, observing HealthRays' progress to date, is being planned

for the **Palencia** clinic in Guatemala on August 25, 2016.

We will keep you posted on progress as additional installations continue.

## Members of U.S. House of Representatives Back HealthRays

HealthRays recently received the support of two members of the U.S. House of Representatives from Illinois – **Rep. Robert J. Dold** (R-10th Congressional District) and **Rep. Jan Schakowsky** (D-9th Congressional District).

In separate letters of endorsement, Representatives Dold and Schakowsky strongly backed the efforts of the HealthRays project in addressing global health issues by providing crucial medical services to patients in need in Guatemala.

## Press in Guatemala Provides News Coverage of HealthRays

Since its inception, the HealthRays project has received continuing coverage from a variety of media outlets in Guatemala. Members of the press, including newspapers and broadcast outlets, have attended HealthRays installation ceremonies in the past and continue to provide good coverage of our efforts.

A recent example is a story, right, that appeared in the Guatemalan newspaper *Nuestro Diario Oriente*.

It is important to remember that our project is impacting many lives in Guatemala – and as we continue to add new clinics, it will impact many more. Guatemala has one of the highest rates of poverty in Central America, and our services are making a difference for people in need – that's why the local media is interested in our work.

Members of the HealthRays steering committee periodically travel to Guatemala and we will keep you informed about future news coverage as more clinics are completed.

## District 6440 Clubs Continue to Pledge Their Support for HealthRays -- Total Now Stands at 49

Forty nine clubs in Rotary District 6440 have now become active supporters of the HealthRays project, and more have expressed interest and are expected to sign on in weeks and months to come, adding to our project's momentum. The support of individual clubs to our long-term success is vital and we are actively seeking club support – not just in Illinois, but in districts throughout the Rotary world.

Please contact [Pamela Kerr at gov.pam@rotary6440.org](mailto:Pamela.Kerr@gov.pam@rotary6440.org) or Carlos Früm at



[gov.carlos@rotary6440.org](mailto:gov.carlos@rotary6440.org) to learn how your club can be part of the project. You can also visit [www.healthrays.info](http://www.healthrays.info) to learn more.

We thank all of the generous Rotarians who have joined the HealthRays project!  
District 6440 clubs participating include:

Algonquin  
Arlington Heights Noon  
Barrington Breakfast  
Bartlett  
Batavia  
Bloomingdale - Roselle  
Buffalo Grove  
Carol Stream  
Cary-Grove  
Chicagoland Korean Rotary Club of Northbrook  
Crystal Lake Noon  
Deerfield  
Des Plaines  
Dundee Township  
Elgin Noon  
Evanston Lighthouse  
Evanston Noon  
Fox Valley Sunset  
Geneva  
Glen Ellyn  
Glenview Noon  
Glenview Sunrise  
Grayslake  
Highland Park/Highwood  
Huntley  
Lake in the Hills  
Lake Zurich  
Libertyville Noon  
Lincolnshire  
Long Grove, Kildeer and Hawthorne Woods  
McHenry Noon  
Mt. Prospect/Arlington Heights  
Mt. Prospect/Prospect Heights  
Mundelein-Vernon Hills  
North Chicago  
Northbrook  
Palatine  
Park Ridge  
Richmond/Spring Grove  
Schaumburg-Hoffman Estates  
Skokie Valley  
St. Charles Breakfast  
Waukegan  
Wheaton  
Wheaton AM  
Wheeling  
Wilmette  
Wilmette Harbor

## Interested in Helping? Join HealthRays Steering Committee

The Rotary HealthRays Steering Committee is seeking help as our project continues to grow. Expertise is needed in the several areas, including fundraising and PR/marketing.

If you would like to be a part of this international effort, please contact Pamela Kerr at [gov.pam@rotary6440.org](mailto:gov.pam@rotary6440.org) or Carlos Früm at [gov.carlos@rotary6440.org](mailto:gov.carlos@rotary6440.org).

### Fundraising News

#### Rotary districts: An essential component of our success

Financial support from Rotary districts is integral to the future success of HealthRays. The districts providing funding support currently include:

- \* Districts 3470, 3780, 3490, 3500, 3510, and 3520: Taiwan
- \* District 4250: Central America
- \* District 4370: Aruba, Bonaire, Curaçao, Venezuela
- \* District 5420: Utah, USA
- \* District 5950: Minnesota, USA
- \* District 6440: Northern Illinois
- \* District 6600: Northern Ohio, USA
- \* District 7150: Central New York, USA
- \* District 7360: Maryland, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, USA
- \* District 7610: Northern Virginia, USA

Thank you to all!

#### HealthRays In Brief

As many as four billion people around the globe - basically two-thirds of the entire population – have little or no access to simple x-ray technology, which is taken for granted as a basic health tool in most industrialized nations.

Rotarians in [Rotary International District 6440](#) - near Chicago, Illinois – have launched an effort to address this problem, with a new cross-sector model for action that we have introduced in Guatemala and hope to replicate eventually in countries around the world. Working with the Guatemalan government and the PAHO, our primary goal is to install 29 digital x-ray units in underserved areas throughout Guatemala.

Eventually, our project will impact more than one and a half million people in that country, where health care outcomes are among the worst in Central America.

#### About Rotary

Rotary International is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations and help build goodwill and peace in the world. In more than 200 countries worldwide, approximately 1.2 million Rotarians belong to more than 34,000 Rotary clubs. To learn more, please visit [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

CONTACT US!

**For more information about becoming a partner:**

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