

A Much Happier Little Girl

Daisie* has a big smile, but at almost two years old, she doesn't walk or talk yet. You see, Daisie was born with a form of spina bifida that is often the result of malnutrition. She has had surgery to correct the birth defect, but because of the pandemic, she hasn't been able to receive the physiotherapy she needs to gain movement in her legs.

Daisie's lack of mobility caused her to develop pressure ulcers – you might know them as bedsores. And then the medication she received from the public health centre to treat an infected ulcer caused a nasty allergic reaction. Daisie's mom knew she was suffering, but she didn't know what to do.

At just the right time, Daisie's mom heard through her son's Vida school that a doctor was offering check ups at the Impact Clinic for the families of students. She requested an appointment for Daisie, and was sent to see Dr. Rivas during his week at the clinic.

Dr. Rivas immediately treated the allergies, and also changed the antibiotics that Daisie was receiving. Thankfully, the new antibiotic didn't cause any adverse reactions, and when Dr. Rivas saw Daisie just a few days later, the allergy spots had already disappeared and the antibiotics were beginning to have a positive effect on the infection.

At the Impact Clinic, the nurses showed Daisie's mom how to keep the ulcers on Daisie's back clean while they were healing, and provided her with gauze, gloves and antibiotic cream to help with the process. They also taught her how to prevent bedsores from forming in the first place, by changing Daisie's position often and by watching for initial warning signs.

When Daisie's mom brought her for a follow-up appointment three months later, she was thrilled to show off Daisie's progress. There was only one ulcer left, and it was very clean and well on its way to healing fully. And Daisie was a much happier little girl.

Thanks to you, the Impact Medical Clinic is able to provide medical care for Vida families like this one. So much of what was provided is not complicated – basic treatment, basic medical supplies, and basic care instructions – but it's making a huge impact in the life of one little girl.

Daisie's mom is so thankful that, as part of the Vida community, she was able to access timely treatment for her daughter. She's grateful for the prayers of the Impact Clinic staff and for their attentive care that has made Daisie's life just a little bit easier. And above all, she is grateful to God, who provides for the needs of her little girl.



Dr. Rivas and nurses Erika and Otto are the Guatemalan medical professionals at the Impact Medical Clinic. They care and pray for patients like Daisie and her family.

* name changed to protect privacy

We truly enjoy spending time in the clinic with the local community. We see a fair number of primary care issues such as hypertension and diabetes, and we're fortunate to have medications we can dispense for these folks. Occasionally, we have a sick individual who needs extra thought and referral to a higher level of care. The local team's understanding of available resources is critical in these cases. Most of the patients, though, have minor ailments, and for them the process is mainly relational. They are thankful to have a diagnosis and treatment, even if it's just Tylenol or antacids. We usually have time to amuse the children, and always pray for the patient and family. I'm not much of an outright evangelist, but it seems our medical teams do strengthen Impact Ministries' efforts to reach the people of these communities for Christ. Knowing that refreshes our faith, as does being immersed with the compassionate Impact Ministries community during our trips.

*Dr. Tom & Kheri Schaar, Emergency Physician & Translator
4 Impact Medical Trips*



Impacting Body & Soul in Rural Guatemala

Medical professionals from across North America have been partnering with local staff at the Impact Medical Clinic for many years. Through Medical Missions, they provide health and dental care to our Vida students and their families, our church families, and the surrounding communities. Here's what a few of them have to say about serving in rural Guatemala:

I always wanted to do something in an area that had real need, but didn't quite know how or where to go. My dream became a reality when Dr. Chris introduced me to Impact Ministries. I work in the medical clinic doing intake, triage and labs. I would like to think that my abilities as an ER nurse have helped identify persons with illness and injury that can be successfully treated, and have served to improve their lives and health. I hope the patients feel Christ's love through interactions with me, and that this gives them hope. Highlights of my time in Guatemala have been fellowship with others, meeting new friends, and seeing what seems like miracles of faith. Mostly though, it has been the faces and love of the children, and seeing and hearing how their lives change. What has touched me most is the gratitude that overflows from the hundreds of patients I have encountered. The long hugs from so many with so little material riches, but rich with love and gratitude.

*Connie Milligan, RN, Emergency Room Nurse
5+ Impact Medical Trips*



I have the honor of translating for the nurses at the Impact Medical Clinic.

God placed Guatemala in my heart years ago while attending a church that did a lot of work with the Guatemalan population, and I got to know them on a personal level. I have been working hard on my Spanish because I have seen how fundamental it is to what we do at the clinic in Guatemala. There have been so many highlights of my time in Guatemala, including working with great people who love the Lord and love us! (And sponsoring a child and looking forward to seeing her again!)

*Patti Landovek,
Medical Translator
3 Impact Medical Trips*



Want to impact body & soul in Guatemala? Learn more about medical & dental opportunities with Impact Ministries at impactministries.ca/medicalmissions

Not a doctor? Share about these opportunities with your medical & dental friends or support the clinic by donating towards local staff and clinic supplies: impactministries.ca/medical

You have Value

"A doctor's job is to offer the best medical care possible," says Dr. Rivas, "but we also do it with our best smile, so that the patient understands that they are someone special to us." And this, Dr. Rivas says, is what makes the difference at the Impact Medical Clinic.

In rural Guatemala, many people don't seek out health services, because clinics are often far away and poorly equipped, and patients don't receive adequate attention when they get there. But at the Impact Clinic, Dr. Rivas and the medical professionals working alongside him take the time to really listen to people seeking medical attention. They provide prayers, smiles and words of hope. They provide medications from the clinic inventory for families who can't afford them. And they are able to follow up with patients as needed, through subsequent appointments, or even virtually or by phone.



In all of this, they are impacting body and soul. "The educational plan offered to the patient and their family is essential for success in the treatment, and in the prevention of complications or new diseases," says Dr. Rivas. "But apart from physical health, we also always seek to support the spiritual work that others from the Ministry are doing with the people."

Will you help us to offer the best care possible to Vida families? Will you help us show patients that they have value - that God values them? Amazingly, only \$215 can provide for a full day at the clinic - medications and supplies, two nurses and a doctor! Your donation towards local staff and clinic supplies stretches to provide quality health care in rural Guatemala.



When Dr. Rivas was a little boy in Guatemala, he was the child in the hospital with an illness his family could ill afford. Today, he is a well-respected family physician. "Becoming a doctor, my thought was always to be able to help people who do not have the resources to pay for treatments in a clinic or a hospital," says Dr. Rivas. Today he does just that. Dr. Rivas provides medical care at the Impact Clinic one week each month, maintains oversight of the clinic and is able to provide continuity of care for patients with chronic conditions. Dr. Chris, Impact's Medical Engagement Coordinator, praises Dr. Rivas' compassionate medical and spiritual care of the patients, and says, "Having him available to regularly follow up patients has brought the clinic to a level above what we could have imagined just a short time ago."

Show them they have Value!

Give Health: ☐ \$35 ☐ \$60 ☐ \$85 ☐ \$215 Other \$ _____

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impactministries.ca/medical

News and Updates

Fluoride treatments are giving Vida students healthier smiles! The Healthier Smiles initiative is also highlighting the need for more dental care for Vida students, too many of whom have abscesses or other significant dental issues. Know a dentist who could join a team to Guatemala? impactministries.ca/medicalmissions



There's something special about meeting face-to-face! The leadership team in Guatemala hosted a number of Impact Ministries Canada and Impact Ministries USA staff and board members this summer, to give everyone a chance to build in-person relationships, share dreams, and pray for each other and for Guatemala.

◀ **There's so much construction progress at Impact Ministries!** We're currently building a multi-purpose home for our older children and an office space for visiting specialists at the Vida Children's Home. As well, we're working on computer labs and classrooms at several Vida schools.



◀ **Impact Ministries has been thrilled to be able to welcome Canadians back!** Want to come to Guatemala? You can bring or join a team, explore medical missions, or even join the VIDA School of Discipleship. Learn more at impactministries.ca/teams

Join us for more updates! We're online ▶ with VidaLive events on October 17th (Vida Children's Home) and November 17th (Construction Updates). But there may also be a chance for you to join Les in-person as he travels in Canada this fall. See impactministries.ca/events for more details.



Serving in Guatemala

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"Impacting Body & Soul"

