



THE K.I.D.S. 2016 GUATEMALA TEAM

K.I.D.S. Catch-Up Kids International Dental Services

COMING UP

In Recent News

When a Kids International Dental Services (K.I.D.S) team arrives in a developing country to provide pro-bono dental care to impoverished children, their immediate goal is to relieve the children's pain by performing crucial extractions and restorations of decayed teeth. In the long-term, our organization is committed to stabilizing the oral health of the communities we serve by returning to the same regions around the world year after year. Children who would otherwise receive no dental care whatsoever are afforded the opportunity of an annual check-up and preventative fluoride treatment. At the same time, our volunteers connect with children, families, and community leaders to spread awareness about the importance of oral health. With this model in mind, a K.I.D.S. team has traveled to Guatemala every year since 2009, and this year was no exception!

This year our team of volunteer dentists, dental students, and non-dental volunteers spent two weeks in Guatemala. The first week was spent in Nebaj in the Mayan Highlands, a region devastated by the Guatemalan Civil War, while the team spent the second week based in Antigua and the surrounding region.

Over the course of just two weeks, our team saw a total of 2,718 patients. Of that total, all patients received preventative fluoride treatment and were provided with a dental education program. The dentists performed 1,719 extractions of painfully decayed teeth, while they saved 359 teeth the Atraumatic Restorative Technique (ART). While the number of children seen by K.I.D.S. dentists in such a short period is telling of the volume of need in the region, the numbers don't tell the complete story. (see pg. 2)

Haiti

October 26 – November 4, 2016

Cambodia

February 4 – 18, 2017

The Philippines

February 19 – 25, 2017



Above: Children line up to be seen by K.I.D.S. dentists in Xiquin Sehnaï, a rural town located an hour and a half north of Antigua.

Spotlight on Volunteers

Kids International Dental Services is lucky to attract talented and dedicated dentists to volunteer on each of our trips. Many of the dentists return to volunteer year after year. It is not unusual for our dentists to go above and beyond the call of duty to improve the quality of life for a child. Volunteer Alison shared her story of one such dentist on the Guatemala trip, “Dr. Kids Jamie.”

“During week two in Guatemala a patient approximately 14 years old was laying on the table. Dr. Jamie was at another table finishing up with her patient. The young girl laid patiently with a smile on her face, as her sister was being worked on one table over. This girl looked like any other 14 year old girl, but she wasn’t. Jamie walked over and took one look at her and said, “This girl is pregnant.” She did not look pregnant, and I have no idea how Dr. Jamie knew this. She asked the girl in Spanish and sure enough she was about 4-5 months along with barely a tummy. She had an abscess that was so infected that she had a small sore under her chin from the infection.

Immediately, Jamie arranged for this young girl to be seen by a local dentist that could give her the proper follow up with antibiotics. Jamie got the girl’s mother’s phone number, called her and then went over to the local dentist after our day to make sure she had an appointment for the following day. This is why KIDS and our team go beyond the call of duty. They truly care about the kids they see.”

Thank you for sharing this beautiful story, Alison!

Photos: K.I.D.S. dentists and volunteers hard at work in Guatemala



A Look Ahead

This fall a team of 15 Kids International Dental Services volunteers, including 10 dentists, will travel to Haiti. A small team recently travelled to Haiti to assess the region, and to pinpoint the locations where K.I.D.S. can make the biggest difference.

The team will first travel to the United Nations Tent City and Cite Soleil in Port Au Prince. Other destinations will include Les Cayes, Cherident, and Jacmel. Every child seen by K.I.D.S. will receive a check-up and preventative fluoride varnish. Children in pain will receive basic restorations or extractions of painful, decayed teeth. Additionally, volunteers will engage children in dental education activities.

The need for basic dental care in Haiti is great. We are grateful to our volunteers and donors for their commitment to helping K.I.D.S. continue to expand their services to additional impoverished communities worldwide.

Get Involved

There are many ways that you can help KIDS! Please visit our website for information about becoming a volunteer on one of our trips or making a donation.

<http://kidservices.org/how-you-can-help/>

K.I.D.S. is a full 501C3 and your donation is fully tax deductible.

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