

Penn Northeast Conference Ministry Team Highlights

Names of Ministry Team: Amigos de Guatemala

Purpose of Team:

The building of the multi-use facility and clinic came about after we sent a medical team to Guatemala in 2012. The people on this trip saw a great need for medical help for the people in Monte Margarita. This is a remote village about 8 miles from the closest city where the people could obtain medical assistance. This may not seem far, but because of poor road conditions it takes 40 minutes to drive; however, most people in the village have only their feet as transportation. Once the facility is complete, we will send a medical team to the area at least once a year. We will enlist other conferences of the UCC and other denominations to also send medical teams. Besides using the facility as a medical clinic, the people in Monte Margarita can use it for church meetings, small business conferences, education.

Describe how this Ministry Team aligns with the vision, mission, and goals of the Penn Northeast Conference and the United Church of Christ:

“Go into the world and preach the Gospel”. We as a team choose to do this by helping people who cannot afford to help themselves to medical care. We are by no means giving them a hand out. We are trying to give them a hand up by giving them a place to house medical teams, supplies, and a community center. They are not our mission, they are our partners in that the community of Monte Margarita have helped to build the facility, and will supply the furniture by building it out of bamboo. We have enjoyed our time with them getting to know them as fellow Christians. All of us have been amazed at their faith and actions in helping their fellow Guatemalans. As one gentleman said, “We are not poor as long as we can help others.”

Describe how people can become engaged in this work of this Ministry Team

Once the facility is complete we will send medical teams to Monte Margarita on at least an annual basis. We will be looking for doctors, nurses, people to entertain the children while parents are seen by medical staff, and translators.

If you are not able to go to Guatemala, you can support us financially. Send a check to PNEC with Amigos on the memo line, or donate online on the PNEC website. We are willing to talk with congregations about this project. Please contact Roger or Karen Heim at rksdheim@rcn.com 610.481.9704 for more information or talk with any other team member: Rev. Gilberto Garcia, Rev. Dr. James Gottwald, Brian and Carolyn Heft, Dr. Marna Greenberg, Karen Gomez, Eric Hanlein.