

Dental Program Report – Operation Walk Canada Mission
Antigua Guatemala October 24-29, 2025

2025 was indeed a watershed year for the Dental program, which included our incredible team of 14 amazing volunteers.

The clinical, OR and admin members all worked with dedication and compassion, and we were able to treat 110 patients (we saw three more unscheduled children on Thursday morning).



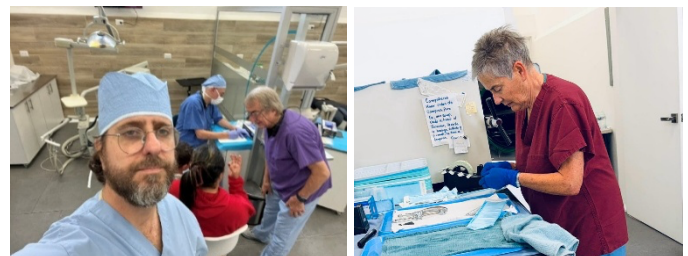
Before proceeding, we must acknowledge individuals and corporations who have made this year successful by their very generous contributions of funds and supplies.

Among the many whom we need to acknowledge are: Dr. Manisha Jindhal, Mr. Vic Jindhal, whose generous donations helped purchase a portable dental unit for the operating room, Drs. Anu Kapoor, Hassan Mostafa, for their generous cash donations, and Drs. Krista Baier, Brad Carson, Michael Carson, Sean Beattie, Gordon Payne, Hayley Faulkner, David Aiello, Keyvan Abbaszadeh, Salma Abdu, Lucia Ambrochi, Louis Anastasiadis, Patterson Dental, Clinical Research Dental, and many others who provided support in kind and with materials, including Dr. Mohammed Hussein, who donated several new dental handpieces.

This incredible generosity goes a long way to continuing the efforts of our dental program.

Some significant changes this year included a more involved pre-mission triage trip during which we identified children who would be treated in the operating room and those whom we could manage in the clinic. This reduced the logistical issues that we had faced in the previous year.

The size and composition of our team were also reconfigured. Along with our group of dentists, dental assistants, hygienists, an anesthetist and nurses (many of whom spoke Spanish). We also brought along our own staff person in charge of sterilization, as well as a special translator, who looked after many of the administrative hurdles we had to deal with in the past.



Dr. Manny Friedman, along with the children he cared for, was able to offer endodontic treatment to one of the padres of the Obras, who was in significant dental discomfort.

Dr Jaquie Lopez was also able to assist one of the Obras' brothers, who also had a dental issue.



We are very proud to report that 22 children were cared for in the OR and 88 in the clinic. Our new portable OR dental unit worked very effectively and was a vast improvement over last year's version. Our OR team treated many children with challenging issues with compassion, poise and skill.



We completed over 1100 procedures, more than in any of the previous 10 years that we have travelled to Antigua.

The support we received from the medical team, which facilitated access to the operating room in which we looked after children, who could not be safely treated in the clinic, was amazing.

Plans are in place for future missions, including changing our status to a self-sustaining dental mission.

Thank you to everyone for making 2025 a most rewarding year.



Respectfully submitted by:

Dr. Olaf Plotzke