

Ruth Paz Foundation

*Saving Children's Lives...
One Child at a Time.*



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Mission: We are a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the quality of life for underprivileged children through comprehensive healthcare services and to give them the opportunity to become productive members of society.

Project summary:

Honduras lacks specialized burn-care management services for pediatric patients. There is no psychological treatment for the patient; care is focused primarily on restoring physical health. The Mario Catarino Rivas Hospital in San Pedro Sula delays more than 400 pediatric surgeries each year, resulting in a 15-month waiting period for operations. Our purpose is to offer a complete program to treat, in a timely manner, both physical and psychological needs of individual patients.

To meet the demand, the Ruth Paz Foundation established a referral system for patients with second- and third-degree burns to the Shriners Hospitals for Children in the United States. To meet the demand for specialized burn care management and pediatric surgeries in the northwestern region of Honduras, the foundation

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built the Ruth Paz Hospital for Burn Children and Pediatric Surgery. The pediatric surgery unit expects to discharge 600 patients yearly, with an average stay of about three days. The burn unit expects to discharge about 155 patients annually. The hospital will be the first of its kind in Honduras providing holistic care to restore physical and emotional health to burn patients.

Healthcare services:

1. Evaluate patient needs, provide emergency care and surgery/treatment plans.
2. Teach both patients and parents how to do physical therapy exercises; monitor gains in physical functions after therapy, and provide follow up plastic reconstructive surgery, if needed.
3. Monitor number of counseling sessions after initial psychological examinations.
4. Receive prompt outpatient surgeries to eliminate lengthy wait.

Goal:

To reduce national pediatric burn morbidity and surgical mortality rates.

Target population:

According to the most recent World Bank statistics, 53 percent of the Honduran population lives in poverty (World Bank, 2006). Of that number, more than 628,000 are children. In terms of daily income, the majority of services delivered by the foundation is children from underprivileged families with incomes of less than five US dollars per day. Children presently sent by the foundation to the United States for specialized burn management and congenital birth defects will be treated at the new facility.

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Funding:

The opening of the hospital is contingent upon securing government support to help fund the annual operating budget. The remainder will be funded through private donations. The hospital expects to begin pediatric surgeries in October. The total operating budget for the first year is \$ 2,528,340.37, including an initial capital investment of \$578,113.67. Thus far, building expenditures total \$873,135.68

Hospital layout:

The first-floor Burn Unit includes an Emergency Room, two Operating Rooms, a Recovery Room, 10 patient rooms, two Intensive Care Units, nurse station, laboratory, physical therapy room, laundry and equipment rooms, a chapel, reception area and waiting room. The second-floor Surgical Unit has two Operating Rooms, a Recovery Room, a nurse station, a pharmacy, two consultation rooms, a waiting room, administrative offices, conference room, and storage for equipment and supplies.

Conclusions:

The Ruth Paz Foundation is in the last stage of building and equipping the hospital, which will open in October, 2010. The hospital will deliver healthcare services to patients regardless of ability to pay.

Description of the Ruth Paz Foundation: Since the 1970's, the Ruth Paz Foundation has provided Honduran children with specialized burn management and congenital birth defect treatments in the United States. These children would have gone

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without medical care because of financial constraints or lack of adequate medical equipment and personnel. Over the last four decades, the foundation partnered with many children's hospitals to deliver specialized cardiac, burn and orthopedic care. The Ruth Paz Foundation also provides healthcare services through the Ruth Paz Outpatient Clinic. The clinic treats approximately 70 patients daily within the areas of family medicine, odontology, and orthodontics. The foundation also coordinates the referrals and scheduling of patients for surgeries delivered by U.S. medical teams.

Total number of direct beneficiaries by service category

Services	2006	2007	2008	2009***
Dentistry	2,200	2,540	2,812	2,538
Family medicine	6,340	6,420	7,901	6,247
Orthodontics	325	330	350	375
U.S. medical teams	460	269	344	242
Patients sent to the U.S.	46	45	48	29
Total patients per year	9,371	9,604	11,455	9.431

*** The 2009 political crisis in Honduras affected funding and decreased the number of patients served.

The Ruth Paz Foundation is financed through private and government funds. Donations are used to finance the Ruth Paz Clinic, where patients are charged two US dollars for consultations, and pharmaceutical drugs are provided free of charge. Services such as the transfer of patients to the United States for specialized care are also provided free.