



AP medical team providing emergency care to a young girl who had given birth alone, under a palm tree. Sept. 2018

UPDATE

Summer 2019

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From the desk of Patty Webster

When you last heard from us, our medical team was preparing to fly out to remote Achuar and Kichwa native communities of the upper Pastaza River on special flights provided by the Peruvian Air Force (FAP). Our trip was very difficult yet successful, and our small team worked day and night to provide desperately needed



Dr. Vida Reklaitis, and newborn baby, Pastaza River, Sept. 2018

medical/dental care and health education to over 1236 people, with a wide variety of acute and chronic illnesses ranging from tropical and infectious diseases, to chronic and debilitating conditions. Accompanied by his mother, we were able to stabilize and transport a young child suffering from a life-threatening bone infection to the regional hospital in Iquitos for life-saving surgery and IV antibiotics. This is just one of many examples of the way in which AP is able to make a difference in these remote indigenous communities that the Ministry of Health has long recognized as extremely high-need.

The Amazon rainforest is the largest tropical rainforest in the world and provides one-fifth of Earth's oxygen. The indigenous peoples of the Amazon are the guardians of the rainforest, which means they are literally protecting the air we breathe and the water we drink. Indigenous lands in the Amazon are increasingly under threat from resource extraction, cattle ranching, soy farming, palm oil extraction, and other industries. With the deliberate burning of the rainforest and destruction of indigenous communities occurring at this very minute, there couldn't be a more critical time to be there providing aid.

In the first two photos of this newsletter, you will see our team attending to a young Achuar girl who had given birth, alone, under a palm tree. It is clear that a more concerted effort to provide care and education is urgently needed on the Upper Pastaza River! Going forward, we hope to work with both local private and

governmental entities to provide care in these communities on a more continuous basis.

We are well in to our 26th year of service to the people of the Peruvian Amazon. Looking back to when we first started, it's incredibly satisfying to see how the level of health for many of the communities of the Yarapa, lower Ucayali and Marañon Rivers has improved to the point where they no longer need such frequent visits, and we can now concentrate more on areas like the Pastaza.

To learn more about these improvements, please continue reading! Long-time volunteer and AP founder, Melonie Rockwell, ARNP, and returning volunteer Nani Cuadrado, PA-C have chronicled their experiences with unique perspective. We've been very fortunate over the years to have incredibly dedicated returning volunteers who provide the best of care, often under very difficult conditions, allowing Amazon Promise to continue reaching

those most in need. Our Soy Capaz Program (SC) for specializing in the prevention of transmittable infections and diseases has also been instrumental in helping people lead healthier more productive lives, and we thank founder and director, Elena Deem, PhD, for her infinite dedication and drive to make real change through education. The SC program has expanded so please read on!

As I write this, we have the Detroit Chapter of Engineers Without Borders out in the community of Libertad working with AP Special Projects Manager, Jose Luis Valles. Together they are performing a community assessment and testing the quality of the river water in preparation for the construction of a rainwater catchment system in 2020. Libertad will be the tenth community to benefit from installation of a clean water system! Clean water means life in the Amazon, and we are privileged to continue our collaboration with several different chapters of Engineers Without Borders to bring clean water to these communities.

As you know, Amazon Promise provides a wide range of health services: medical, dental, education, laboratory exams, family planning, and cervical cancer screening and treatment, including follow-up care. Please read below for updates on these programs.



Veterinarian, Dr. Lineth Cruzado during the Feb. 2019 AP medical outreach clinics.

Lastly, I am very pleased to announce that we have started working with a wonderful veterinarian in Iquitos, Dr. Lineth Cruzado Reyna, who accompanied us during the February 2019 medical outreach campaign to provide veterinary care that included sterilizations, vaccines, vitamins, and mange and flea treatments to dogs, cats, a rabbit and a pet monkey! This was the first time we have included a veterinarian on a medical team, and we're excited to now include care to companion animals, because their health reflects the health of the entire village.

It would be easier to just dedicate ourselves to one issue, but we feel a responsibility to address the comprehensive needs of each individual and community. As always, it is so reassuring to be backed by such a dedicated and hardworking staff in Peru, our volunteers in the US and abroad, and our generous supporters. We have been extremely fortunate to work with so many selfless and caring people, and could not do the work we do without you.

Thank you again for all your support!
Patty



Outbreaks of Leptospirosis are growing at an alarming rate in Iquitos and the surrounding areas. Since January, there have been over 720 diagnosed cases, and 6 deaths, including 2 children. The Peruvian Ministry of Health in Loreto reports that this may be a new and more virulent strain of Leptospirosis killing people within 72 hours. This is not even long enough to obtain formal test results, and so they are employing a rapid action plan to include house to house searches for people with symptoms, and treating hundreds of people prophylactically. Amazon Promise has

donated over 10,000 Amoxicillin tablets and other medicines to help in this deadly outbreak.

Thank you, Dr. Flor Aranzabal and Lab Tech. Nolberto Tangoa of the San Juan Centro de Salud, for keeping us up to date, enabling us to contribute to the care of these patients! Thank you, AP Educational Director Elena Deem, Ph.D., and AP office manager, Adriana Calizaya for delivering our donations.

Creating Ripples

Melonie K. Rockwell, ARNP

Amazon Promise Founder and Volunteer



Melonie Rockwell with Francisca and daughter in the community of Amazonas, Feb. 2019

It was early morning at Yacumama Lodge, on the first day of our clinics in the Peruvian Amazon rainforest. The howler monkeys were sounding their awakening as the kitchen staff blew a conch shell, announcing breakfast was ready for our group of volunteers.

Our group would be spending the next two weeks together, traveling by river to some of the remote villages Amazon Promise frequents, as well as others for the first time. On this morning, our commute took us along the Yarapa, Ucayali and Marañon rivers. We set out with two teams to cover the communities of Jorge Chavez and Sapuena, seeing every villager who requested medical care. It all felt so familiar, even after the 11-year lapse since my last volunteer opportunity with Amazon Promise, and everything just fell into place.

My first trip to Peru with Patty Webster was in 1995. I initially volunteered because it sounded like an adventure as well as an opportunity to serve others in need. I immediately fell in love with the Amazon and its people, especially the kids, and I would return again and again over the next 24 years.

Practicing medicine in the villages gave me the full realization that my education as a nurse practitioner and my willingness to help had the power to relieve real suffering.



In the early days of Amazon Promise, many of the children had never been treated for intestinal parasites and were severely malnourished, with their bellies swollen, their limbs thin. Skin issues caused some of the worst suffering. So many of the children had chronic infections from head lice and scabies. As I examined their scalps, puffs of gnats feeding on infected drainage would lift off, revealing weeping and crusted sores from scratching. We volunteers spent many clinic hours simply cleaning heads and other skin wounds caused by a combination of fungal and bacterial infections, allergies and parasites and educating the families about how to continue treatment.

In both kids and adults, dental hygiene was non-existent and tooth pain was another very common complaint. Eventually, Amazon Promise was able to form a dental program which is now staffed by Peruvian dentists. Initially, the dentists handled the endless requests to pull teeth for some level of relief.

In those early years, it was frustrating and heartbreaking to me that many of these chronic and acute health issues, as well as much more serious life-threatening ones, were related to a scarcity of the human basics we take for granted – clean water, sanitation, good nutrition and adequate access to pre-natal care and birth control.

How things have changed!

Since my return home this March, I have had time to reflect on the many amazing improvements I observed in the general health of the villagers in the communities of the Yarapa, lower Ucayali and Marañon Rivers, on this trip. Common ailments from the past, such as diarrhea, dehydration and pneumonia, were far less common in the villages Amazon Promise has continued to serve all these years. Incredibly, I did not see a single distended belly,

and it was rare to see a case of the previously very common skin infections caused by untreated scabies and head lice.

It is obvious to me that Amazon Promise's love for these people, shown in their commitment to provide the conditions that create human health and healing, has made the difference. My key observations:

- Clean water in many of the villages, thanks to rainwater catchment systems built by Amazon Promise and U.S.-based Engineers Without Borders.
- Basic health education for mothers and midwives.
- HIV education and support through Amazon Promise's "Soy Capaz" program.
- A long partnership with the Peruvian government's Promoters of Health.
- Dedicated laboratory support in clinics, with the ability to do many on-site tests.
- Peruvian dental teams working side by side with Amazon Promise volunteers and now providing fillings, cleanings, and fluoride treatments in addition to extractions.
- Cervical Cancer screening and treatment
- Family Planning
- Veterinary care



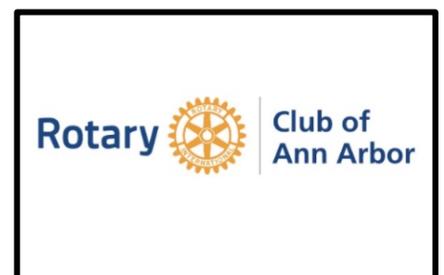
The smallest act of kindness can transform a life! Feb. 2019

When Amazon Promise began, sustainable health care was our mission, with a vision of improving quality of life by improving health. Now, it is not necessary to return to many of the original villages very often because the organization is right on target with fulfilling that original mission. Hundreds of volunteer staff have contributed to the ripples of change I had the privilege to witness.

By returning month after month, year after year, decade after decade, sustainable health is being achieved. What a blessing!



The Ann Arbor Rotary Club has continued its generous support of Amazon Promise. Previously the club has provided funds for obtaining an hand held diagnostic ultrasound and was instrumental in providing funds to jump start our women's health initiative by providing funds to purchase a cryosurgical device and money to perform over 500 screen and treat exams on our underserved female population. Ann Arbor Rotary has provided an additional \$950 to continue our vital work in providing exams and treatment to additional women in our service area.



SOY CAPAZ Prevention Education Program in 2018 and February of 2019

Elena Deem, PhD
Director of Education

Our **Soy Capaz** team of trained educators and promoters joined the Amazon Promise medical outreach expeditions to the **Yarapa, Marañon, Ucayali and Pastaza** rivers, and the **Pacaya-Samiria** reserve. We also worked at numerous clinic days in Iquitos. Our activities focused on the following:



Children in the community of Bagazan helping out and learning about HIV prevention, Feb. 2019

- HIV and other sexually transmitted disease prevention
- Zika virus prevention
- Diarrhea prevention – we instruct stakeholders on proper hand washing, latrine maintenance, and general hygiene.
- HIV patient management (we are committed to providing financial and social aid to newly detected patients from remote areas to register for the free national antiretroviral program in Iquitos).

New areas:

- Domestic Violence Intervention and Counseling
- Instruction and Counseling about Women’s Rights and Peruvian Law
- Family intervention and counseling in several cases of underage girls who showed signs of sexually transmitted diseases.

The mounting evidence of cases of abuse, domestic violence and disregard for women’s rights in the jungle villages is disconcerting. We teach women’s rights according to Peruvian law, and are starting to work with the governmental CEM (Centro Emergencia de Mujer). Actual interventions in numerous cases of domestic violence were performed by working with doctors, local authorities, families, and by helping our female clients relocate when possible.

Last October, Adelaida Shupingahua, a trained promoter from Iquitos, joined our team on the remote Pastaza expedition, and continued working with us in February 2019 on the Yarapa River.

Adelaida is a tireless and emphatic educator and counselor, who relates to the people we serve on a deeply personal level. With our **Soy Capaz** staff, she helped make a difference in the lives of the many women, children, and men that we saw in 2018 and February of 2019. We are very happy to have her on our team!



Educator, Adelaida Shupingahua, provides group talks and individual consults in clinic.

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Patient Updates

Overcoming cervical cancer, and a life-threatening bone infection

Our work does not end after our volunteer medical teams return home. Throughout the year we provide medical attention to many people who require follow-up care.

We work continuously to meet our objectives and improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable populations. The trust and confidence we receive from patients, communities, and municipal government authorities grows each year as we are a continuous, stable and constant presence, thanks to your continued support of our work. These patients mentioned here are just two of many we help each year. Please see the Amazon Promise Facebook page for the most up to date news.



AP Administrative Coordinator, Rosa Aranzabal, with Luz.

We told you about Luz, diagnosed with advanced cancer during one of our cervical cancer screening and treatment campaigns led by Dr. Andrew Goldstein, who required extensive treatment in order to save her life. Chemotherapy and Radiation therapy for cervical cancer does not exist in Iquitos, yet cervical cancer is the leading malignant neoplasm in Peruvian women. Amazon Promise, with support from Dr. Goldstein and his family, provided support to Luz in order for her to travel to Lima, where she spent over a year receiving several rounds of painful and debilitating cancer treatments. The expenses were very high for us, and the physical and emotional toll on Luz was profound.

Most women living in the outer regions, who are in need of cancer treatment, are unable to afford the costs to go to Lima, and are forced to stay at home to seek out alternative treatments. We are happy to report that Luz is now cancer free!

Jacquet Stick Mendoza, age 4, is from the Quechua indigenous community of Andoas Viejo, on the upper Pastaza River. Jacquet was born with a clubfoot, and because he had little to no feeling in his foot, a small sore ended up turning into a major life-threatening bone infection, causing necrosis.



Volunteer, Amanda Hughes, with Jacquet and his mother, Oct. 2018

In October, his mother, desperate to get help, traveled several hours in a canoe with him to reach us at a clinic we were running in another community. When we informed her of the urgent need to take Jacquet to the city to receive hospital care, you could see the fear and anguish on her face disappear immediately. Although she had never traveled as far as Iquitos, she showed no fear, knowing it was the only option for saving her son. Jacquet and his mother flew back with us to Iquitos, landing at the Peruvian Air Force (FAP) base, where an ambulance was waiting to take him to the hospital.

Since that time, Jaquet has received three surgeries, life-saving antibiotic treatments, physical therapy and casts, to heal and correct his infected deformed foot.

Amazon Promise is eternally grateful to Soy Capaz staff educator and patient advocate, Adelaida Shupingahua, who invited the family to stay at her home the entire six months Jacquet was receiving care. Providing a safe home and family-like atmosphere while going through long and painful procedures every week made all the difference. Jacquet received his first orthopedic shoe a few months ago, then flew back to the upper Pastaza River on a Frontera Energy plane. His family and the entire village were waiting for his return with a welcome back celebration!



We're elated to see Jaquet return home healthy, happy and ready to get on with his new life!



A six-month old infant with severe dehydration and vomiting, receives a difficult-to-insert, life-saving IV.



Caring for the elderly



Follow-up care and PT for Diana

July 2019. When Francisco Murayari, aged 69, from the community of Peña Negra, heard there were going to be doctors in the village of San Pedro II just outside the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, he decided to make the one-hour hike through the jungle to seek our help. His story is one of loss and suffering. His children died during a cholera outbreak many years ago, and his wife passed away some time after that. Over a year ago, he was blinded in his right eye from an accident while chopping wood. At the time of the accident he was working on his manioc farm, and was also employed as a Cocama language teacher in his community. Suffering from severe pain due to his injury, he was no longer able to work, and lost his job. He told us he is only able to work his manioc farm during the early morning hours as his eye is greatly affected by the daylight. Living alone in an isolated community, the loss of his job, with only minimal income from his manioc patch, has lead Francisco to a quick downward spiral of further sickness and depression. When he arrived at our clinic he was severely dehydrated, malnourished, and was suffering from diarrhea. He said he hadn't eaten in several days and felt he was dying.



Our first action was to get him rehydrated, and so as we spoke about his history, he drank many cups of rehydration fluid and ate small amounts of food. Little by little, as he ate, drank, and spoke about his past, we noticed his energy level improving. Francisco informed us he was not from that area of the jungle, and that his mother and siblings were living back in his hometown of Lagunas, several days away by boat. He wished to return to his family but had not been able to afford to get there.



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improving. Francisco informed us he was not from that area of the jungle, and that his mother and siblings were living back in his hometown of Lagunas, several days away by boat. He wished to return to his family but had not been able to afford to get there.

It was clear, in order for Francisco to survive, he needed to go home, and we were going to help him!



Francisco with his brother, niece and mother, Sept. 2019

We took Francisco back to our basecamp where the Amazon Promise team continued to treat him, and provide him with new clothing, rubber boots, a large bag of snack food, and other supplies for his coming journey. The next morning, he traveled to the port town of Nauta where an Amazon Promise representative took charge and made sure he got on his boat that evening. He arrived in Lagunas several days later. Today, he is living with his elderly mother and siblings, has been given a piece of land to farm, and has applied to receive his government pension. We're very happy for Francisco.



To see more photos of Amazon Promise clinics from Feb./July, 2019, click [AP2019](#)
 For photos of our Sept. 2018 remote clinics in Achuar and Quechua communities, click [Pastaza](#)

Update! Rainwater Catchment Systems

Jose Luis Valles, AP Special Projects Manager



AP Special Projects Manager, Jose Luis Valles, in the community of Castilla.

Through our partnership with Engineers Without Borders (EWB) Sonoma County (since 2011) and Central Houston (since 2015), we have been able to provide potable drinking water to nine communities located in some of the most hard to reach areas of the Amazon, improving and saving lives every day. We have seen firsthand, over and over again, how clean water can change a person's life overnight, and in the long term allow people to lead healthier, more productive lives.

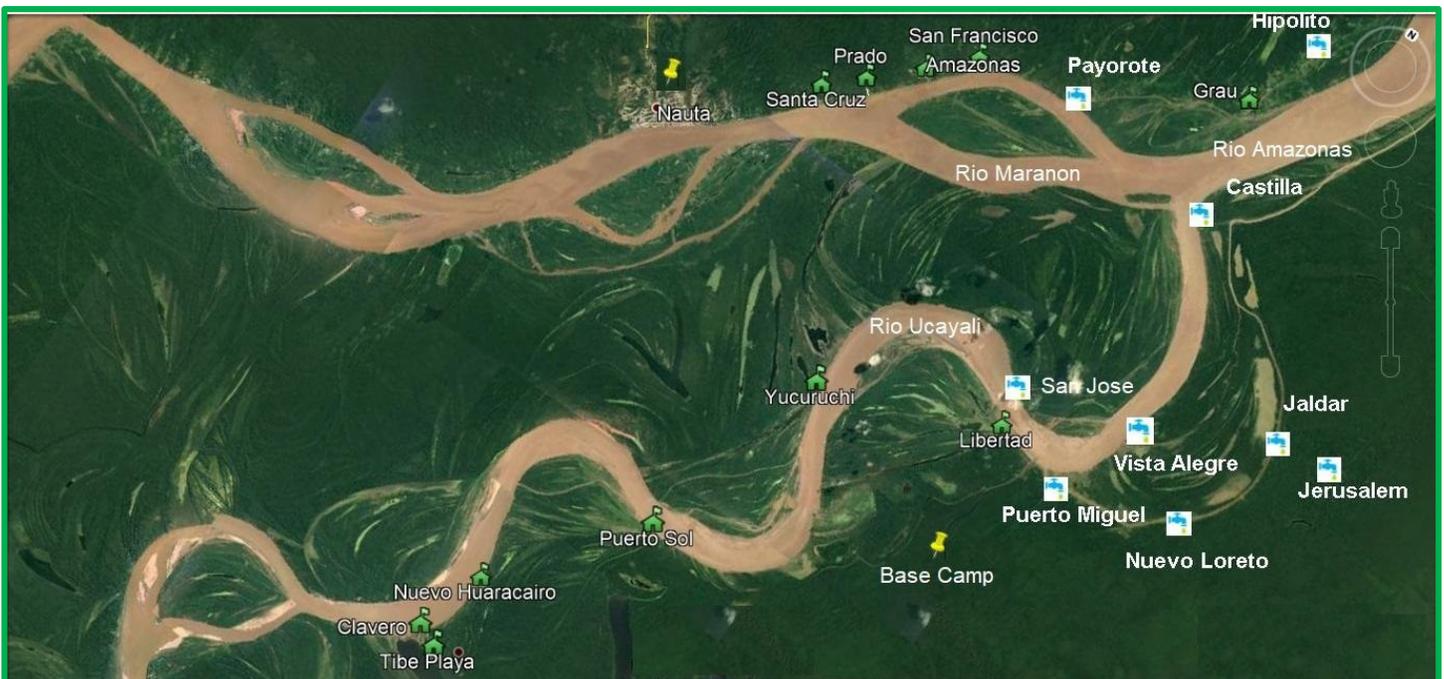
I have just returned from the community of Libertad located on the lower Ucayali River with an EWB team from Detroit, and am excited to report that we are



moving forward with plans for actual construction scheduled for later in 2020!

The two systems planned for the communities of Vista Alegre and Castilla we mentioned in our last newsletter were successfully installed at the end of 2018.

Our goal of providing clean drinking water to everyone in this area is becoming a reality, and I want to thank all of our EWB partner chapters for their vision and dedication in assisting communities to sustainably meet their basic human needs. We will also be working with an EWB chapter from San Diego, this year, in the community of Santa Cruz.



Communities (*marked with a faucet*) where Engineers Without Borders and Amazon Promise have installed rainwater catchment systems (Further systems are now being planned for Puerto Sol and Libertad)

For a first-hand look at just how important these rainwater catchment systems are for communities, click on this short video, [The Women of Payorote](#)



Formal agreements signed between EWB Detroit, Libertad and AP, May 2019



Evening meeting with community of Libertad, May 2019

Castilla and Vista Alegre Rainwater Catchment Systems, 2018







All of us at Amazon Promise are deeply grateful to our wonderful friend and Administrative Coordinator in Peru, Rosa Aranzabal, an outspoken and dedicated patient advocate and trip organizer! Rosa has decided to move to the US to be with her children and grandchildren! We were so fortunate to work with Rosa for many years, and although we are sad she has moved on, we all wish her the very best.
Thank you, Rosa!

Through the Oral Health Program of Amazon Promise, we have been able to provide quality modern dental care to thousands of people living in isolated jungle communities. In 2018, the Academy of Dentistry International Foundation [ADI](#), awarded a grant to Amazon Promise of \$1500 to help purchase dental supplies and equipment. We were also the recipient of a \$3500 contribution from the Ivoclar Vivadent Corporation, [IVC](#), to further help us continue providing care through the end of 2019. We are so thrilled and grateful to the ADIF and Ivoclar Vivadent for their generosity, and, also want to thank AP Director of Oral Health, Dr. Bob Fulton, for his ongoing dedication and drive to improve the oral health of the people of Peru.



Nani Cuadrado, PA-C

Emergency Medicine, acting director for the Lehigh Valley Health Network Street Medicine Program for the homeless, and advocate for sex trafficking victims

It was 17 years ago when I first joined Amazon Promise as a physician assistant (PA) student from DeSales University for my elective clinical rotation. At the time, I was the first PA student they had worked with -- they took a chance on me. *What a life changing experience.*

As a student, I joined them for five weeks in the streets of Belen and the jungles of the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve. My experiences ranged from providing health care from canoes to delivering a baby on my knees, in a hut on stilts. This year, I was blessed to return as an alumnus, this time bringing PA students whom I've had the pleasure of teaching as graduate students.



It felt like coming home. Not only did I join some of the same persons I'd worked with 16 years earlier (Segundo and Jose Luis) but I was also able to work with their family members who had joined the Amazon Promise team. Since my time as a student, Amazon Promise has flourished, adding lab services, portable dental units, an in-depth educational program, clean drinking water systems, cervical cancer screening and treatment, and perfecting the setting up and breaking down of the clinics.

Although I organized many meetings to prepare our students for their experience in the jungle, I was unprepared for how my heart would melt once again for the beautiful local Amazon Promise staff and indigenous people of the area we served. I fell in love with Nancy and her cooking (still craving her platanos...), Segundo's laugh, Jose Luis' calming spirit, Rosita's soft-spoken leadership, Aida's dancing, Frederick's heart to teach, and Daniel's dry sense of humor.

The memories of experiences flood my senses:

- students starting IVs for a young man suffering from malaria
- starry-skies on a night gator ride
- hut visit to check on a child who had an abscess drained earlier in clinic
- team members helping the dentist with extractions
- listening to birds, monkeys, and frogs from our tents
- hugs and hand-holding of children when we leave a village
- brave children getting teeth pulled and filled
- pink dolphins dancing in front of our boat
- educating patients about sanitation
- bathing in the Amazon after a long, hot day
- smiles from villagers of Veinte de Enero when we arrived "home" after clinic
- friendships made and tears of joy when we had to say goodbye

Dearest teammates of Amazon Promise, you have moved me beyond words. Your heart to serve your people is unforgettable and so admirable. I am looking forward to returning "home" to the rivers and jungles of the Amazon once again. *Nos vemos!*



The Amazon Promise art auction/fundraiser held December 8th, at the Live Edge Artisan gallery, in Royal Oak, Michigan was a huge success! We're incredibly grateful to Scott and Joann Myers for donating their beautiful Live Edge Artisan Gallery, sharing their expertise, and spending many days and nights working with us to make the evening a wonderful experience. Many of their incredibly talented and generous artist friends helped organize, and also donated pieces to the auction. Special thanks to Whitney Gillespie for working with us to help set up and design the space. Mary St. Onge Panetta, Jackie Panetta, Christine Voss, Marsha Bradshaw, and Susan Webster, all incredibly generous and very organized friends and family members who made sure things went smoothly from the front door on! We are also grateful to artists, Dr. John Sulesky, Dominic Nepa of Beverly Hills Woodworks, Andy Krieger, Rene Cusi, and the Culantro Peruvian Restaurant of Ferndale, Michigan. It was truly an amazing experience to work with so many outstanding and giving people who helped us raise over \$18,000!





Family Planning Update



In November, 2017, working together with a Peruvian Ministry of Health physician and Obstetra, we traveled by boat to several of the communities we serve to provide safe and effective family planning. Fifty-one women received an Implanon arm implant, which provides safe and effective birth control for three years. Since then, AP medical teams have returned to these communities annually to offer clinical follow-up to these women during our normal outreach clinics. In May of this year, we sent a medical team out to specifically provide follow-up care and assessment. Of the 51 women who received the Implanon implant in November of 2017, 22 have had it removed due to adverse reactions or personal reasons. The most common adverse reactions

were heavy bleeding or headaches. Of the 22 women who had the implant removed, 12 are now on either oral or injectable contraceptives, provided by our team. One woman chose to become pregnant, 7 rejected further contraceptive options, and two women did not return to clinic. We are thankful to Dr. Carlos Rivero, and Obstetra, Brigitte Burga of the Loreto Ministry of Health for their dedication to women's health and well-being.

A Clinic Day in Belen with Amazon Promise

Clayton Schutz , PA-Yale



Riding in a mototaxi towards the Amazon Promise clinic in Belen was an experience I will never forget. I had visited the Belen Market days before. A tourist inundated by sights, sounds, and smells. But that sensory overload didn't prepare me for what I was about to feel. As we wound down the narrow streets, the reality of life in Belen weighed heavy upon me. It was poverty that I had never seen before. Open sewers. Clouds of exhaust. Endless mounds of garbage. Ramshackle houses. To describe it in words is truly a futile effort.

A group of patients were already waiting at the Amazon Promise Belen Clinic when we arrived, and many more soon followed. Five stations of volunteers including doctors, advanced practice providers, nurses, and us students began seeing the patients, who presented individually or in large family groups. They came with a variety of ailments: upper respiratory infections, lower back pain, migraine, anemia, and parasitosis were most common. In addition to treating acute complaints, we provided education regarding hydration, nutrition, proper

antibiotic use, and dental care. We moved at a steady pace into the early afternoon when the initial flood of patients slowed to a trickle.

Towards the end of the day, we got word that another patient had arrived and triage indicated he was quite ill. I offered to meet with him to see what help we could provide. He came with a chief concern of fevers over the past year, combined with recent coughing and vomiting blood. As he sat down at our station, I was instantly concerned; he was pale, diaphoretic, and gaunt. He had a fever and elevated heart rate. On exam, he had marked abdominal pain when I pressed on his liver. I asked him about his HIV status, to which he divulged that he had tested positive nine months prior. Antiretroviral treatment is free for Peruvians but one can only be treated in their home region. Because the man was now living in a separate part of the country and had yet to notify the government, he never received treatment. My mind raced with the numerous potential opportunistic infections and other complications this man may have had. If it were up to me, I would have paid for a mototaxi and accompanied him to the hospital

immediately. However, Amazon Promise partners with an excellent HIV outreach organization called Lazos de Vida, who took over once the diagnosis was made.

I remember feeling frustrated by the patient's situation. One of my rotations in physician assistant school was at an HIV clinic. I was amazed how stable those who strictly adhered to their antiretroviral treatment were. Other than the burdens of taking daily medication and the unfortunate stigma that accompanies the virus, many patients were leading normal lives. I am happy to write that this patient is receiving his antiretroviral treatment and on the road to recovery.

As the day wrapped up, I remember standing on the balcony of the Amazon Promise clinic building. I looked across the football field at children laughing and playing. In the distance, women worked feverishly around kitchen stoves. Men were repairing homes or carrying large satchels on their backs. Despite my shock arriving hours earlier in Belen, I realized that life continues there just like any other community I had visited in my life. With the help of organizations like Amazon Promise, the people of Belen and other communities in need are able to receive medical care that will allow them to flourish a little more. I consider my brief month with Amazon Promise as a life-changing experience. Before I arrived in Peru, I saw it as a once in a lifetime opportunity but it turns out I was wrong. I'll definitely be back.



July/August 2018 AP Med Team



Patients Attended 2018

Note: These are medical and dental patient numbers combined seen in our clinics, and do not reflect those seen at our office throughout the year, nor those we provide followup and continuous care to.

Date	Pueblo/Village	River/City	Patients Seen
January			
01.02.18	20 de Enero	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	97
01.03.18	Arequipa	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	18
01.04.18	Buenos Aires	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	58
01.05.18	Bello Horizonte	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	43
01.05.18	Santo Domingo	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	34
01.06.18	San Pedro	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	160
TOTAL			410
February			
02.27.18	Nuevo Loreto/Puerto Miguel	Yarapa River	150
02.28.18	Jaldar/Jerusalen	Tahuayo River	151
03.01.18	San Jose/Libertad	Ucayali River	95
03.03.18	Grau/Hipolito	Ucayali/Amaz River	257
03.04.18	San Fran./Payorote	Marañon River	288
03.05.18	Santa Cruz/Amazonas	Marañon River	218
03.07.18	Castilla/Vista Alegre	Ucayali/Amaz River	115
TOTAL			1274
Centura Health			
04.16.18	Belen Sector 10	Itaya River/Iquitos	149
06.15.18	28 de Julio/ Punchana	Iquitos	276
July/Aug			
07.17.18	20 de Enero	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	77
07.18.18	San Jorge	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	134
07.19.18	Bagazan	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	117
07.20.18	Santo Domingo	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	51
07.22.18	San Pedro II	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	151
07.23.18	Buenos Aires	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	62
07.23.18	Arequipa	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	29
07.24.18	San Pedro I	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	163
07.26.18	Las Malvinas	Pacaya Sam. Reserve	36
07.29.18	Belen Sector 10	Itaya River/Iquitos	147
07.31.18	Sachachorro/Belen	Itaya River/Iqts	173
08.02.18	Lazos de Vida/INABIF	Iquitos City	144
TOTAL			1284
Sept./Oct.			
09.24.18	Huararai	Pastaza River	74
09.27/28.18	Huagramona	Pastaza River	300
09.30.18	Naranjal	Pastaza River	187
10.01.18	Panayacu	Pastaza River	77
10.1/2.18	Andoas Viejo	Pastaza River	256
10.04.18	Jardines	Pastaza River	342
TOTAL			1236
TOTAL 2018			4629

Make a Donation

Amazon Promise relies on private support to fund operations, expand services and provide a wide range of care to impoverished communities in Peru.

[Make a Donation](#) from our website via Paypal

Monetary Gifts

If you would like to **make a tax deductible donation**, please mail your check or money order to:

Amazon Promise
P.O. Box 1304
Newburyport, MA, 01950
USA



Dr. Betsy Doherty, Western Michigan Med., providing a newborn exam.

2020 Trip dates

Date	Destination
Feb. 22 – March 8	<p>Two Weeks (FULL)</p> <p>Two weeks in communities of the Pacaya Samiria National Reserve, lower Marañon River. Sponsored by Western Michigan Medical School, mentored by UWM faculty. Lodge based</p>
May 16 – 30	<p>Two Weeks (OPEN)</p> <p>Remote medical team travels to native Achuar, Quechua or Awajun communities. Because these areas are in more remote regions of the Amazon, teams are limited to 7 volunteers.</p> <p>All volunteers must be in good physical condition. Tent Based.</p>
July 25 - Aug. 8	<p>Two Weeks (OPEN)</p> <p>Ten days working in jungle communities of the Yarapa, lower Ucayali, and lower Marañon Rivers, with two days of clinics in the city of Iquitos.</p> <p>OPEN to all medical professionals and medical/dental/nursing/physician associate/MPH students – Lodge based</p> <p><i>(Great opportunity for students to gain global health experience working alongside our excellent preceptors - spaces fill quickly, so get your App in now!)</i></p>
Oct. 10 – 24	<p>Two Weeks – REMOTE - OPEN</p> <p>Remote medical team travels to native Achuar, Quechua or Awajun communities. Because these areas are in more remote regions of the Amazon, teams are limited to 7 volunteers.</p> <p>All volunteers must be in good physical condition. Tent Based.</p>

VOLUNTEER

Volunteers may participate in one or two weeks of any medical expedition except for the remote trips into indigenous communities of the Pastaza or Sarameriza (two week commitment). Non-medical volunteers are also welcome!

Volunteer with AP

Browse through our Facebook page for the latest AP happenings!

AP Facebook



July Medical Team, 2019, Pacaya Samiria National Reserve



September/October Remote Medical Team, 2018,
Pastaza River

February Medical Team, 2019, Yarapa River
Western Michigan University Homer Stryker M.D.
School of Medicine, and Penn State College of
Medicine.

Our dear friend and Amazon Promise team member, Cumpana ‘Ramon’ Arahuanaza, was the guiding force for our medical work in remote indigenous communities of the upper Pastaza River that began in 1997. He was the founder and chief of his village on the upper Tahuayo River, and a powerful traditional healer who traveled with us whenever he could, helping us reach some of the most remote native communities. Because of him, and since that first trip to the Pastaza, we have been able to provide ongoing life-saving care and health education to thousands of Achual, Kichwa, and Awajun people. He was a best friend, a spiritual force and the brightest of light for us! We all miss him.

Cumpana Arahuanaza July, 1936 – March, 2018



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Janet Sargent, Bookkeeper
Ronald Kohlman, Webmaster

Amazon Promise: Peruvian Team

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Adriana Calizaya Lujan, AP Office Manager
Jose Luis Valles, Special Projects Manager/Interpreter
Segundo Coloma, Logistics, Registration
Alter Coloma, Logistics, Registration, Motorman
Ricky Coloma, Logistics, Pharmacy
Nancy Bardales, Chef Extraordinaria
Dr. Flor Aranzabal, Staff Physician
Neil Chavez, Dental Director, Peru
Nolberto Tangoa, Chief Lab Technician
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Editor & Layout: Patty Webster / Kristina Server/Abigail Scherrer

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Likewise, monetary and material donations made in the U.S. are tax deductible.