

Nicaragua Update - Sept 29

Our last day of clinics! Team was up and at it early and we loaded onto the bus. The support from Mark and Brenda and their group has been fantastic. We had two dentists today- who were great- they were young and willing to do anything- and ended up pulling 35 teeth.

The line was long already- and we got started early as we were all set up.

We had some interesting clients. One was a 20 year old with a 20 day old baby- and she had an infected C section. She was very sick and delirious earlier. The baby also had a chest infection. She had been to a medical clinic - they told her she got the infection because she looked at a dead person (at a funeral) - it is a common belief here that you will get an infection in a cut or any wound if you look at a dead person. She said they gave her a "gavage" which we believe meant they irrigated the wound. We started an IV, gave her IV antibiotics and sent her to the hospital with other antibiotics,

We also had a young girl with cerebral palsy who was using an old walker that had wheels falling off. We gave her a new one and she just beamed as it had a basket which allowed her to put her school books in.

We have another palliative client requiring so much. Karen and Kim went with Dr. Bruce and took supplies and meds.

The reading glasses were a huge hit and Mike did a great job.

At the end of the day we had a new record of 350 clients. We had so many we ran out of chart forms and had to use the back of the optometrist's records. Because it was our last day of clinics we had to repack everything and decide what we could leave with Brenda and Mark, and what we would send back to the hospital in Somoto.

Mark and Brenda had a wonderful surprise for us. We loaded into the bus and headed to their home right on Laguna de Apoyo - which is a volcanic crater. We swam, had pineapple tea and Brenda and some local women made us a wonderful meal with steak, stuffed backed potatoes, yucca, vegetables, salad and Brenda's homemade pies! It was such a treat to have a home cooked meal- reminded us of home.

We made it back to the hotel by 8 and everyone fell into bed- a great day.