



## Update on ASSADE in Guatemala August 2019

The hardworking, highly passionate ASSADE team has achieved so much in providing critical health care services to the rural indigenous communities in their area...this due, in large part, to your amazing support!

One of ASSADE's most impressive accomplishments has been to achieve an ambitious and important goal they set for themselves: to make their Dental Clinic completely self-reliant and financially sustainable! In just three years' time, they attained this goal through real dedication and careful and innovative planning. First, they implemented a sliding fee scale at the Clinic, charging those who could afford it minimal fees for services. Second, with GoPhil support, they expanded their Communitarian's Oral Health Project, and through the Communitarian's rural outreach, brought in many more clients to the clinic for services. Not only did these changes and efforts achieve self-sustainability for the Dental Clinic, they also fully funded their Director of Prevention Projects, Community Education & Development's salary - a key position which was previously supported by our GoPhil community. We are so proud of the ASSADE team for following through on this important goal, ensuring their ability to serve the community in San Andres Itzapa for years to come!



ASSADE achieved another exciting milestone this past year when they purchased life-saving equipment such as a cryotherapy machine and a state-of-the-art ultrasound machine. Because of these additional services, their Women's Health Reproductive Program is preventing, diagnosing and treating common, local health problems, like cervical cancer, and saving more lives than ever before. In Guatemala, cervical cancer is the first cause of cancer deaths in women and ASSADE has found that the prevalence of cancer cells in their female patients directly correlates to the high rates of HPV (the highest in Central America). ASSADE's program benefits nearly 700 women each year, including early detection of HPV, and almost 200 adolescents each year, delivering public health education around STD and teen pregnancy prevention.



Now that ASSADE has this equipment up and running, they are developing a new initiative focused on prevention through reproductive health education. They have identified a major need for this type of service in the more rural, indigenous communities surrounding San Andres, where many young girls lack understanding of basic reproductive health - many don't even know how pregnancy occurs. The goal is to get more girls and women into the clinic to take advantage of the new equipment, while reducing or eliminating early and childhood pregnancies in the targeted communities. GoPhil is working to fund this preventative education program, which has a gap of just \$2,500 to get off the ground. If you wish to help make a difference in the lives of these underserved women by supporting this program, you can [donate here](#).



Thank you again for your generous support of ASSADE. These impressive achievements would not be possible without your trust, investment and partnership!