

Surgical Volunteers

Each volunteer should be a medical practitioner in good standing with their licensing board and able to commit to the entire duration of the surgical trip (12-16 days). It is especially helpful if volunteers have access to supplies necessary for their surgical specialty. To begin your volunteer experience, Esperança will need the following documents:

- CV or resume (no greater than 3 pages)
- Current Surgical/Nursing License
- Medical/Surgical/Nursing Diploma
- Completed Volunteer Application
- Completed Liability Release
- Completed Communication Release

Donated Surgical Supplies

Esperança is in critical need of supplies to sustain the Volunteer Surgical Program in Tarija, Bolivia. Your donation of new, unopened unused items, older model equipment, or replacement products could change the lives of Bolivia's poor.



Health and Hope for the World's Poor

Esperança, Inc. is located just west of Central Phoenix. Our workforce is comprised of 4 full-time staff members and 2 part-time staff members. We are a small yet effective group, spending \$0.86 of every donated \$1.00 on programs to help the world's poor. Our staff and volunteers are dedicated to the mission of Esperança:

Improving health and providing hope for families in the poorest communities of the world through sustainable disease prevention, education and treatment.

Donated materials are not intended for use in the United States, its territories or possessions. In compliance with U.S. tax code 170(e)(3), all product donations will be used free of charge for each and every recipient and will be used in the surgical treatment of the needy, and will not be re-exported or transferred in exchange for money, other property or services. We are a 501 (c)(3) organization, I.R.S. tax ID number 23-7087997.



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Volunteer Surgical Program



**Tarija, Bolivia
South America**

"I had an outstanding experience in Bolivia. I am looking forward to going back. The Bolivia program is well organized with a very attentive and dedicated staff."

*Robert Cheng, MD
Anesthesiologist at Kaiser Sacramento*

Health and Hope for the World's Poor

About *Esperança*



Father Luke Tupper founded *Esperança* in 1970 after seeing the devastating health effects of long-term poverty in South America. After receiving his medical degree, while serving in the US Navy, Luke Tupper saw bands of people suffering from malnutrition and lack of access to medical care. He vowed to ease their pain and return with help. After finishing his military service, and being ordained a Franciscan Priest, he did just that.

His brother, Jerry Tupper, was a successful attorney in Phoenix. He contacted Jerry to help him find the funding to purchase a boat that could be transformed into a floating medical clinic. Soon enough, the “*Esperança*” set sail for the Amazon with Fr. Tupper at the wheel. The boat served as a floating hospital for several years before *Esperança*/Brazil volunteers and employees could create a free-standing hospital. This hospital is sustainable today, treating more than 100,000 patients annually.



Fr. Tupper died tragically in a motor vehicle accident in 1978, before truly seeing the far-reaching effects of his work. It was his dream to improve the health of the poor that set the foundation for our organization today. Since 1970, *Esperança* has worked in 14 countries, providing health and hope to hundreds of thousands of poor families in need. Today, we have health projects in Bolivia, Mozambique, Nicaragua, and the United States.

Bolivia

One of the most pressing health needs in Bolivia is access to surgical services. Surgery is an *indulgence* only the wealthiest can afford.

64% of Bolivians live below the poverty line

Volunteer Surgical Program

Our volunteer surgical teams bring a much-needed service into some of the most impoverished areas of Bolivia. The *Esperança* Volunteer Surgical Program is unique among traveling volunteer physician programs; our model is to work within existing medical systems, in the host country, and rely upon local counterparts to administer the volunteer experience. Our volunteer surgical program is maintained through an arduous process of gaining the respect of the local government, public and private medical personnel, and other non-profit entities providing health care in the same areas. We have been sending volunteer surgery teams to this South American country since 2001.

Currently, we send general surgeons, gynecological surgeons, plastic surgeons, ophthalmic surgeons, orthopedic surgeons and urology surgeons to Bolivia. A volunteer surgical team consists of the lead surgeon, an anesthesiologist, and an OR nurse or tech. Teams are typically scheduled three months to two years in advance, for a duration of one to two weeks, not including travel time. Each volunteer surgical team operates 5-10 days, on an average of 45 patients per trip, depending on their specialty.



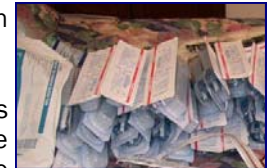
Our partnered staff in Bolivia (*Esperança*/Bolivia) as well as local physicians and nurses, who volunteer their time to the program, create a successful environment for our volunteer surgical program.

It costs \$5,000 in donor funds to send a surgical team to Bolivia—that is less than the cost of ONE surgery in the United States.

Surgical Supplies



Supplies for our surgical teams are critical, with the need ranging from gloves, drapes, masks and gowns, to suture, instruments, medication, and equipment. The Bolivian hospitals which so kindly provide operating space to our volunteer surgery teams are barely equipped and often lack proper equipment and supplies, let alone additional supplies for the indigent population we serve.



A great deal of supplies are needed for the 400+ surgeries that are performed by our volunteer surgeons each year, in addition to supply donations we make directly to the local hospitals where we operate.

Not only are supplies in great need, but devices and equipment are seriously needed as well.

Please contact our Surgical Program Coordinator for a list of equipment, supplies, and devices that are needed for the Volunteer Surgical Program in Bolivia.



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