

**Rotary Club of San Marino Press Release**

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**SAN MARINO ROTARIANS TEAM UP WITH FLYING DOCTORS OF MERCY  
\$16,000 Raised for Laparoscopic Equipment for La Fuerte, Mexico's Yaqui  
Farmers**

**San Marino, CA** - - July 22, 2010 - - Leading a consortium of three San Gabriel Valley Rotary clubs, the Rotary Club of San Marino has garnered \$16,000 in total donations to purchase three refurbished laparoscopic surgical machines to be flown to La Fuerte, Mexico, this fall by the Liga International Flying Doctors of Mercy. San Marino's 110-member Rotary Club, together with the Ciudad Obregon Rotary Club of Mexico, led the matching grant fundraising. San Marino Rotary raised \$7,166, Pasadena Rotary \$6,734, and Arcadia Rotary \$2,000. The small, rural Ciudad Obregon Rotary Club in La Fuerte provided \$100 in seed funds in order to qualify for Rotary's matching grant. The equipment will assist the Yaqui farmers of Sierra Madre Occidental mountain range by providing less invasive surgeries and a safer, quicker patient recovery for a people who depend on their health to be able to till their land.

Former San Marino firefighter and paramedic Tim Murphy, a pilot who volunteers for the charitable entity Flying Doctors of Mercy, brought the project to the San Marino Rotary Club's attention. Using private aircraft such as Tim Murphy's plane since Liga's founding in 1934, The Flying Doctors of Mercy provide monthly free clinics run by volunteer medical personnel who normally pay their own way to perform surgeries, examinations, administer medication, and dispense medical

advice to what Murphy calls “wonderful people who simply have less than ourselves.” Many of the doctors who volunteer are from the San Gabriel Valley, practicing at Huntington Memorial and Arcadia Methodist.

The three clinics that will be receiving Rotary’s donated laparoscopic surgical machines are manned by volunteer doctors, dentists, audiologists, and optometrists who provide much needed medical services on weekends near El Fuerte, Mexico, a town of approximately 30,000 population, much of which is rural.

“With limited availability of follow-up patient care, the laparoscopic equipment and surgeries provide for a much more comfortable and positive patient outcome,” explained San Marino Rotary president Robert W. Nafie. “We salute the medical personnel who fly to the state of Sinaloa, Mexico, on a monthly basis for the privilege of helping men, women, and children, young and old, many of whom walk for many miles and patiently stand in line for the opportunity to see the doctors and nurses. The Flying Doctors of Mercy have literally impacted the lives of thousands of people in this area of Mexico, and also all of the people both American and Mexican, who have provided these services.”

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*Flying Doctors*

**LIGA**



*of Mercy*