

IMAHelps

VOLUNTEERS BRING HEALTHCARE, HOPE AND LIFE-CHANGING SURGERIES TO THE POOR

The Rancho Mirage-based non-profit organizes annual medical missions to some of the poorest regions of Central and South America and Asia.

When Dr. Nina Maw Maw met IMAHelps founder Ines Allen at a high school football game, little did she know that brief encounter would change her life.

"I was cheering for my son and Ines was cheering for her son. She later asked me who I was and what I did. Then she told me about IMAHelps and how she organizes medical missions. I told her I would like to do that one day. She said, 'Why one day? Why not now?'"

Ines had a point.

Why not now?

What is stopping you from volunteering to make a positive difference in someone's life? Or from making a donation to support IMAHelps missions?

IMAHelps has a higher ROI than most charities. The Rancho Mirage-based non profit typically provides \$30 to more than \$100 in medical, dental and surgical care for every dollar it receives in donations.

Why is it's ROI so high?

Because IMAHelps has no paid staff. All of its donations are used to purchase and ship medicines and supplies. Volunteers pay for their own food and travel expenses.

During its summer 2017 mission to Itaguá, Paraguay, IMAHelps provided more than \$7 million worth of medical, dental and surgical care to more than 5,700 patients.

IMAHelps also changes the lives of its volunteers, many of whom reside in the Coachella Valley.

"I was very nervous to take that first step,"

Dr. Maw Maw said.

But Dr. Maw Maw's first mission — to Jinotega, Nicaragua in 2012 — turned out to be a life-changing experience for both her and her son, who became inspired to pursue a career as a doctor.

Dr. Doriana Cosgrove, an Indian Wells-based anesthesiologist who is originally from Romania, has volunteered on every IMAHelps mission since 2008. She provides anesthesia for patients who are having cleft lip surgeries and other life changing procedures.

"I have been blessed to come to this wonderful country, pass my medical boards and practice here as a doctor," she said. "Going on these mission trips now is my way of giving back."

Father Howard Lincoln of Sacred Heart Church in Palm Desert often joins IMAHelps on its medical missions, too.

"We are called as people of God to especially reach out to the poor and disenfranchised," he said. "IMA has done a glorious job of connecting with the poor and meeting their medical needs. May all of us continue this work for the good of all." ❧

PLEASE HELP US CHANGE LIVES



The next **IMAHelps** mission will be July 25 - August 5, 2018 in Itaguá, Paraguay.

We need \$120,000 to cover the purchase and shipping of medicines and supplies.

Tax deductible donations can be made through www.imahelps.org.



Right: Doriana Cosgrove begins giving anesthesia. Below Right: Dr. Nina gives bug to little girl. Below: Dr. Nina Maw Maw examines patient in Huacho, Peru

