

# La Quinta doctor helps group get supplies to Nicaragua

*Xochitl Peña  
The Desert Sun*

A La Quinta doctor has helped raise \$25,000 to help the International Medical Alliance of Rancho Mirage with its trip to Nicaragua this summer.

The group, which will set up shop in a small clinic in the town of Somoto from July 28 to Aug. 8, can now afford to ship the 3.5 tons of medical equipment needed for the trip.

"I was so relieved you don't know. I was so happy I cried," said Ines Allen, founder and president of the medical organization.

Dr. Daniel Cosgrove, founder of the WellMax Center for Preventative Medicine in La Quinta, led the e-mail campaign, said Allen.

The money will also help purchase additional medicines, IV fluids and narcotics for use during surgery, she said.

Cosgrove was out of the country and could not be reached for comment Thursday.

More than 60 doctors, dentists, surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologist, pharmacists and other support personnel will travel to Nicaragua to provide medical care for those who can't afford it.

This is the group's 10th year traveling to a Third World country on a medical mission.

Allen said she was worried about the shipping costs and didn't know if there would be enough money until Cosgrove came through with the donation.

"Now we have enough for (the medicines) and whatever additional will come up in Nicaragua," she said.

Other community members have also stepped up to help the group:

Karolee Sowle, chief executive officer of Desert Regional Medical Center, has provided the organization with "thousands of dollars" worth of surgical supplies.

Fred Saunders, executive director of Animal Samaritans, has also donated numerous boxes of surgical supplies.

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IMA is a nonprofit organization that recruits doctors from different medical disciplines to volunteer their time to help poor children and adults in the United States and overseas.

The group will travel to Somoto, Nicaragua, from July 28 to Aug. 8 to provide medical services for residents there.

For more information about the group or to volunteer for an upcoming mission, call Ines Allen, president and founder of the group, at (760) 485-8963.