



The University programs are the heart of Awaken

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HOW DID YOU HELP

The first medical mission trip since the pandemic

WITH ROBERT MORRIS UNIVERSITY STUDENTS

"Rewarding", "Eye-opening", "Inspiring". Those are some of the expressions used by the nursing students from RMU to describe their experience during this November's medical mission trip.

In November, we received a group of 9 students from Robert Morris University, Pittsburgh, USA. While five of them are in their final year to become certified nurses, four are currently studying to become Doctors of Nursing Practice.

We picked them up at the airport on November 10th, with their **suitcases full of donations and hearts full of dreams and hope**. After enjoying Ecuador's diversity in Quito, Mitad del Mundo and Mindo, the students got to discover the beautiful village of Canoa, right by the Pacific Ocean, where we spent the week to officially start the **medical mission at Rio Canoa's community**.

Every morning, we visited the families that had the most difficulties to reach the clinic. The goal was naturally to give them medical attention but most importantly, to share their everyday life and learn about their habits and culture. Those moments were the opportunity for **the students and the members of the community to connect and share so much love and kindness**.

We opened the clinic at the community's school every day from 1pm to 5pm. Between triage, exam rooms and pharmacy, the clinic is the **opportunity for the students to practice what they were taught in theory in school**. One of the main skill that they learn from this experience is adaptability as they need to find sustainable ways to help the patients without the means that they are used to work with.

We left Rio Canoa on Friday after giving all the donations to the families and celebrating with the members of the community around food, music, dances and games.

We thank you deeply Doctor Ross and RMU Students for being a part of our journey and for caring so much about our communities, here in Ecuador.

We cannot wait to welcome you again in **March for the medical mission in San Pedro y San Victor community in the jungle**.



"WE ARRIVE AS STRANGERS AND LEAVE AS FAMILY"

Doctor Carl Ross, Professor at RMU





Doctor Carl Ross

A LIFE DEDICATED TO HELPING OTHERS

While having dedicated more than **30 years of his life to serve and help others through health care and education** in Pittsburgh, USA, Doctor Ross started to organize medical mission trips with his students in Nicaragua in the late nineties. Since then, he has been on over a hundred international medical missions.

His goal? **Teaching his students how to become better nurses thanks to a global and international awareness** on the living conditions and poor access to healthcare in under privileged communities. Ross considers himself as a **global citizen with a duty to help his peers around the world.**



In 2018, Awaken Foundation had the opportunity to partner up with Robert Morris University, where Doctor Ross teaches, to organize such medical missions, here, in Ecuador. Since the last trip in November 2019 and the pandemic, Doctor Ross confesses that he was missing a big part of his life and its purpose.

Having him come back this year for the November trip was **such an honor for us at Awaken.** Seeing his **pure joy and willingness to help the community members** while always making sure to teach his students is a **major inspiration for all of us.**

Thank you Doctor Ross.

DID YOU KNOW?

MEDICAL MISSION IN CANOA

Edition

During our week in Canoa, we were able to **offer medical attention to 170 members of Rio Canoa's Community.**



WHAT'S COMING?

Christmas Celebrations at the communities

THANKS TO YOUR DONATIONS



Next month, we will have our **annual Christmas celebrations** in the communities of Rio Canoa at the coast and San Pedro y San Victor in the jungle. Our main goal currently is to **collect donations in order to buy children and families Christmas presents.**

If you want to **help us bring joy to the faces of the children** for this special moment of the year, [here is the link to our Christmas campaign.](#)

Get involved by joining us on our
social media



OUR WEBSITE : [HTTPS://AWAKEN.COM.EC/FOUNDATION/](https://awaken.com.ec/foundation/)