



**Himalayan  
Dental  
Relief  
Project**

## **NEWS**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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Duane Erickson, DDS

# **Local Dentist Participates in Humanitarian Project in Guatemala**

## *Duane Erickson, DDS, Provides Dental Care for Children*

(Silver Spring, MD, February 2, 2007) – Silver Spring orthodontist Duane Erickson recently participated in a humanitarian dental clinic held in the village of San Martin Jilotepeque, located in the Mayan highlands of Guatemala. The clinic was organized by the Himalayan Dental Relief Project in conjunction with its local partner, the Behrhorst Partners for Development, a private, nonprofit organization founded in 1967 to support the efforts initiated by Dr. Carroll Behrhorst. Over the course of 5 days, the clinic served 350 children, many of whom had never before received dental care.

Dr. Erickson was among a group of 12 volunteers that included three dentists, one hygienist and eight lay volunteers. The clinic was held in a local school that was converted for the week into a two-room, four-chair dental office. Assisted by a lay volunteer who received on-site training in basic skills, Dr. Erickson personally treated approximately 100 children. “The children are fantastic – and it takes so little for us to make a difference in their lives,” says Dr. Erickson. While this is not the first time he has donated his services to people in developing countries, it was his first trip to Guatemala and the first time he served only children. “This was an incredibly moving and rewarding experience. The faces of those children will stay with me for a long time. I’m already looking forward to going back.”

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### **About Duane Erickson, DDS**

Dr. Duane Erickson, a native of the Washington area, has a two-office orthodontic practice. He received his Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Maryland, College Park and his D.D.S. from the University of Maryland Dental School. He served in the Navy for three years and spent one year volunteering at the United Nations Refugee Processing Center in the Philippines. He and his wife traveled extensively throughout Southeast Asia.

Dr. Erickson practiced general dentistry for 7 years before returning to school at Fairleigh Dickinson University for his specialty training in orthodontics, which he completed in 1988. He has found his experience in general dentistry to be extremely valuable in diagnosing and treating his orthodontic patients with a concern for their overall dental health.

Dr. Erickson is a member of the American Association of Orthodontists and a leader in the orthodontic community, having served as president of the Maryland State Society of Orthodontics. He has been repeatedly recognized by **Washingtonian Magazine** as one of the leading orthodontists in the metropolitan area. For more information, contact Dr. Erickson at (301) 236-0600 or [derickson@comcast.net](mailto:derickson@comcast.net)

### **About Himalayan Dental Relief Project**

The Himalayan Dental Relief Project (HDRP) is a 501(c)3 charitable organization established in 2000 to provide free dental care and oral health education to impoverished children and families of Nepal, northern India and selected locations in Vietnam and Guatemala. HDRP's commitment is to return to these same children every two years to provide continuous care.

Treatment and preventative care is provided by volunteer health professionals who donate their time to treat children during intensive seven-day dental camps. Camps generally include up to five dentists, five hygienists and five to ten non-medical volunteers. Each camp treats 300 – 700 children. Since 2001, HDRP has hosted more than 170 volunteers and treated 14,187 children.

For more information about the Himalayan Dental Relief Project, visit [www.himalayandental.com](http://www.himalayandental.com).