THE HEALING HANDS ABROAD TEAM PARTNERS AGAIN WITH TIMMY GLOBAL TO PROVIDE SPECIALTY SURGICAL CARE TO THE INDIGENT MESTIZOS PEOPLE OF THE SMALL VILLAGES OF GUANGAJE AND OCHO DE SEPTIEMBRE, ECUADOR. (SEE PHOTOS 1 AND 2)

The town of Guangaje was established in 1861. It has historically been known for being farmland belonging to various private and government estates. The population, being 95% indigenous, used to work for such estates until they themselves became landowners. It presently has a population of 7,341, but to date, lacks basic services like potable water, sewage systems, advanced educational programs, and in some areas, electricity. It does have a Health Center and a church, St. John the Baptist. The HHA Team worked with Timmy and the Health Center, treating a variety of surgical conditions amongst the villagers. The mission of Timmy Global is to expand access to healthcare services to people in remote villages like we visited and then partner with volunteer organizations like HHA to provide specialty care. (SEE PHOTO 5 and 6)

The village of Ocho de Septiembre is about 90 minutes away from Latacunga. This primarily farming community has a population of about 600 indigenous Kichwa Indians. The village lacks basic services and has one small school. The HHA Team visited the village and set up a makeshift exam/consultation room in one of the classrooms. We were able to see and treat the villagers, many seeing a surgeon for the first time. (SEE PHOTO 4)

The Hospital Provincial General De Latacunga is the largest public healthcare facility in the city of Latacunga. Patients from surrounding towns and villages like Guangaje and Ocho de Septiembre travel there for care. The Director of Surgery, Dr. Jesus Chicaiza and his staff welcomed the HHA Team to the hospital, providing a venue for us to care for our patients. (SEE PHOTO 3)

The faces of some of the many patients the HHA Team had the privilege to meet and help during our week-long mission. (SEE PHOTO 7-12)