



SOLIDARITY BRIDGE
Healing & Empowering the Poor

HEART PROGRAM

**Open Heart Surgery Mission
 Cochabamba and Santa Cruz, Bolivia
 April 25th to May 3rd, 2009**

On this our 42nd mission trip (and second open heart mission trip) we:

- Performed 6 surgeries.
- Provided 76 echocardiograms and patient consultations.
- Delivered boxes of medications, surgical supplies and equipment valued at \$384,771.



From left to right, Liz O'Malley (perfusionist student), Kathleen Curran (interpreter), Dr. Arun Mittal (U.S. surgeon) and Dr. Arturo Barrientos (Bolivian surgeon)



Mike Renfrow (perfusionist) and Liz O'Malley (perfusionist student) next to the heart lung machine

U.S. TEAM MEMBERS

Kathleen Curran	Translator
Juan Lorenzo Hinojosa	Trip Coordinator
Arun Mittal	Cardiac Surgeon
Nancy Streitmatter	Cardiologist
Mike Renfrow	Perfusionist
Liz O'Malley	Perfusionist in training



Jenny, our Bolivian surgical nurse, with Dr. Arun Mital and Liz O'Malley

Donated Materials: We provided a total of 6 donated heart valves (with a minimal value of \$9,000) and 2 Goretex patches (with minimal value of \$1,000), in addition to 10 oxygenators (with minimal value of \$10,000). In addition, we used a substantial quantity of donated suture and other surgical materials and what was left was given to partially compensate the Hospital Viedma and Clinica Incor where the surgeries were performed. We also took the opportunity to bring 39 pacemakers and leads for our Pacemaker Surgery Program for a value of \$215,150. The total cardiac surgery donations are valued in excess of **\$384,771**.



*Dr. Barrientos with his patient,
Severo Figueroa.*

Patient Profile: Severo Figueroa is a 34 year old man who lives in the rural areas of the western part of Bolivia. Because his health has been compromised since childhood, he only completed the 3rd grade. He has a hole between his ventricles that has compromised his aortic valve. Because of his condition, he has been unable to do any physical labor or exertion. The operation by Dr. Barrientos and Dr. Mittal closed the hole and replaced his valve with a mechanical one.

His sister told us: “I know my brother has always had heart problems and was delicate. He was operated a year ago for an umbilical hernia and he almost died because of his heart condition. I am very afraid that he will die. If he even gets a cold, he cannot breathe.”