

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**"Humanitarian Excursion Planned by Fort Collins Physician"**

March 23, 2009 – A desire to bring medical care to people who would otherwise seldom even see a doctor is motivating Dr. Steven Peck of Fort Collins to join a team of medical care professionals on a humanitarian trip to Ecuador this summer. Dr. Peck is a Fort Collins physician with the Vein and Laser Center of Northern Colorado and he is looking forward to helping patients in the rural area to recover from skin damaging and debilitating varicose veins. The medical treatments will be done in Riobamba, a smaller city south of Quito, the capital of Ecuador.

The trip is being coordinated by "Amigos de Salud," a non-profit organization founded by fellow vein specialist Dr. Nick Morrison of Phoenix, Arizona. "Amigos de Salud" translates to Friends of Health. The trip is an annual one that gathers volunteer professionals across a variety of disciplines for an intense one-week session of care for a broad range of health issues. Surgeons, physician specialists, nurses, technicians, and audiologists are some of the team members that meet the needs of patients in the South American country during the stay. The volunteers not only commit their time and skills, but pay their own airfare, travel expenses, and other supplies. Dr. Peck learned of the organization and its mission through a medical journal and became determined to be involved. "It is going to be a very rigorous schedule, but one I know will be extremely rewarding," stated Dr. Peck.

Naturally, as a partner with The Vein and Laser Center of Northern Colorado, Dr. Peck will focus on patients who require help with varicose veins. He and others will be seeing upwards of 100 patients per day and will provide diagnosis and treatments, including laser procedures, to alleviate and in some cases eliminate conditions which otherwise

could severely compromise patients' health and well being. He further explains, "Access to the state-of-the-art treatments we offer here in our clinic in Fort Collins is almost non-existent in these areas and the need is great. To be able to meet those needs in this unique way really underscores the reason why we all entered the health care profession."

Each trip that "Amigos de Salud" sponsors is coordinated in advance to arrange a hospital or clinic location that can accommodate the broad range of services that will be offered. Medical supplies and equipment are shipped in advance to ensure that the volunteers are able to treat all types of conditions adequately, including surgery when necessary. Additionally, the local and national governments are involved in the arrangements and they help to spread the word about the upcoming clinics. Corporate sponsors often donate medications, supplies and even equipment, which is usually left for the use of other medical facilities in the area.

Dr. Peck will be leaving in late July for this summer's "Amigos de Salud" trip and will spend over a week in Ecuador. His Fort Collins clinic, The Vein and Laser Center of Northern Colorado, is very supportive of his humanitarian effort. Dr. Peck is a long time resident of Fort Collins and a partner in The Vein and Laser Center. He specializes in interventional Radiology and minimally invasive venous treatments, and is certified by the American Board of Radiology, CAQ Interventional Radiology.

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