



Purses for Nurses

May 27, 2020

To our loyal friends, supporters, and partners,

After more than 6 years of working hard to make a lasting improvement on global healthcare by sending nurses to the places they are needed most, we have come to the tough decision to pause operations at Purses for Nurses. We did not make this choice lightly. For the past 12 months, we have evaluated ways in which we might be able to further the organization in order to make the extraordinary global change we have dreamt of. Unfortunately, it currently does not seem feasible for us to grow sustainably and achieve the goals of the organization.

Nevertheless, we are proud to acknowledge that Purses for Nurses has been incredibly fruitful since its humble beginnings in 2014! We have had six incredible years of building relationships, growing skill sets, team building with interns, developing partnerships, and of course, collecting purses!

Since then, we have:

- Received nearly 2,000 handbag donations, keeping them out of landfills and putting them in the hands of those who could readily use them.
- Raised over \$12,000 through resale of donated purses and events to fund the work of 3 volunteer nurses in Iquitos, Peru, serving over 1200 people
- Raised over \$11,000 in cash donations
- Led two successful medical trips with our international partner People of Peru Project and funded two volunteer nurses, who served approximately 1,200 patients in Iquitos, Peru
- Supported over 1500 volunteer hours from more than 25 interns
- Hosted 15 live educational events and multiple online fundraisers hosted by our supporters

Given recent events and our inability to receive purse donations, we are aware that our current funds will only take us so far. We feel that this is an opportune time to donate money raised towards other causes that align with our mission and values. Therefore, we have decided to donate our remaining funds to the [People of Peru Project](#), which was established in the early 2000s by its founder, Paul Opp. For over 15 years, he has created a second home in Iquitos, Peru and built a crisis center for abused/neglected girls, a volunteer home which provides safe housing for volunteers as well as many jobs for locals, and intensive mobile medical clinics to local rural areas. We believe our financial assets could contribute to supporting the non-profit's infrastructure and meeting the specific healthcare needs of the surrounding communities.

We still believe that healthcare is a universal right. This is not a goodbye, it's a "see you later!"

Sincerely,
Purses for Nurses

P.S. Personal Message from Melissa, Founder:

I can say from my heart that Purses for Nurses has taught me more than I ever imagined possible. It taught me how to lead, with the interests of those we serve at the forefront. It taught me that relationships are more important than money, and that change, especially large scale change, is incredibly complex. I founded this organization with big dreams of shifting global healthcare and a seemingly impossible vision of creating equality where there was none. I believe that in many ways, we succeeded. Despite some rather large obstacles, we persevered as a team to get volunteer nurses where they are needed most. I view all of our accomplishments as an incredible success and it makes me proud to know that every donation we received over the years has made a difference.

Thank you all for your donations, kind words, and support along our journey.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Melissa Zick". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".