

# **IU Pharmacy Students Participate in Humanitarian Trip**

University of Iowa (UI) pharmacy students, professors, local Rotarians and Iowa City high school students traveled to Xicotepec, Mexico, as part of a Rotary trip. *International Perspectives: Xicotepec* is a service-learning course offered at UI and is designed to introduce multidisciplinary students to provision of service to a community in a less developed country. In collaboration with an international service provider, students developed discipline specific projects aimed at improving community life in Xicotepec. This unique class prepares students culturally and professionally for team work in an international environment.

The group, which also included students in engineering, journalism, and other fields, devoted its spring break to work alongside residents of the Mexican town. Each discipline, partnering with the local Xicotepec Rotary, had its own project plan to carry out. The project, initiated by the local National System for the Comprehensive Development of the Family (DIF), was to administer parasitic disease control medication to school age children. The teams installed innovative water treatment equipment, provided fluoride and deworming treatments to hundreds of school children, prepared informational brochures and posters about women's health, and wrote project proposals. Upon their return, the UI students presented a summary of the service partnerships they and the Rotarians developed with the people of the poor, rural community.

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