

# Jetrader®

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## ISTAT EUROPE: A HIGH-FLYING SUCCESS

ATTENDANCE SOARS AS VETERANS AND  
FIRST-TIMERS CONVERGE IN PRAGUE

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ISTAT



# 2015 ISTAT Foundation Humanitarian Program



By Julian Balaam,  
ISTAT Foundation Humanitarian Chair

The remote Región Autónoma del Atlántico Norte (RAAN) region of Nicaragua is home to around a quarter of a million indigenous tribal people. The people here have minimal access to either the routine or emergency medical and dental care that most of us take for granted.

In early 2015, the ISTAT Foundation awarded a humanitarian grant to the U.S.-based charity Wings of Hope to provide essential funding for its vital work: using a Cessna 172 aircraft to bring medical specialists to and evacuate the seriously ill from the villages of this impoverished region.



In one of his recent field reports, Wings of Hope pilot and field director for Nicaragua T.J. Stewart sums up the impact that this work, funded by an ISTAT Foundation grant for a six-month period from March to September 2015, has on the lives of those needing assistance.

***"I'm really afraid — and it really hurts."***

*Immediately, my heart goes out to this brave young girl, who is making her first trip to the dentist alone. I try to reassure her by telling her the story of when I had to go to the dentist because I knocked a tooth out playing football. She laughs when I tell her it was because I ran into the field goal post ... While the extraction is taking place, I hold her hand and try to distract her by pointing out things that are in her gaze. The tooth comes out fairly easily, and she*



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In 2015, in addition to Wings of Hope, the ISTAT Foundation has provided humanitarian grants to seven other deserving charities:



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gladly puts it in her pocket for a keepsake. As our numb but happy patient leaves for home, it dawns on me that we just experienced a great snapshot of humanitarian work.

That snapshot is of a small dental clinic in a secluded village in one of the poorest countries in Latin America. Zoom in and you will see that

the dentist is a Spanish girl who lives on the opposite coast of Nicaragua. She volunteered her time to help her fellow citizens. Zoom way, way out, and you will discover that her plane ticket to the Atlantic Coast was purchased by a man from Louisiana, and some of the instruments she used were donated by an American

man doing water projects around the region. At the edge of the frame and a little blurry, I see myself. And I realize that I would not be in this picture at all if not for the hundreds of Wings of Hope volunteers who sacrifice their time and money to make possible something so simple, yet so monumental, as pulling out a little girl's tooth ...

Most of the people we help are just like that little girl. They are suffering, and they are afraid. They probably will never understand all the work and coordination it took to bring them relieving care. But, in reality, pulling out one little girl's tooth takes hundreds of people around the world — most of whom will never cross paths with me or the dentist or the little girl — working together toward a common goal: to relieve the suffering of those born into extremely poor and difficult situations.

In his final paragraph, T.J. Stewart might easily have been summarizing the activities of the ISTAT Foundation's humanitarian program, which supports humanitarian causes across the globe and, in particular, provides grants for organizations that utilize the immense power of aviation to save lives, alleviate suffering and promote human welfare.

In 2015, in addition to Wings of Hope, the ISTAT Foundation has provided humanitarian grants to seven other deserving charities (see box above) and will continue to support these and other such organizations in 2016 and beyond.

I am always glad to have the opportunity to invite ideas and suggestions from the ISTAT membership as to where our funds might most effectively be allocated. Should you have any organizations that you would like the committee to consider for a humanitarian grant, please contact me by emailing [ISTATgrants@istat.org](mailto:ISTATgrants@istat.org).

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Humanitarian Committee members — Mary Ellen Jones, Rod Sheridan, Sigthor Einarsson, Wouter du Preez, Sonny Stern and Paul Oeschli — for their support this year and also to encourage anyone interested in volunteering for these highly rewarding activities to contact me or any member of the ISTAT staff.



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