

FROM THE CHAIR

The true beauty of our Gift of Life Programs is their diversity. All you need to do is look at the list of countries that have programs, and you cannot help but be struck by the scope of our worldwide network. There isn't a corner of the globe that the Gift of Life hasn't touched. Just think of the children's faces as flowers in a vast garden. Gift of Life helps the flowers grow, and makes their color more vibrant.

With the global network of Rotary based Gift of Life programs in place and growing, we can now look forward to moving our organization to a higher level. Along with the community of healthcare professionals, affiliated hospitals and volunteers that has been developed, Gift of Life International can now orchestrate joint ventures among other nonprofits and local Gift of Life Programs to reach an increasing number of children. Such partnerships enhance the work of the non-profits and enhance the work of Gift of Life Programs worldwide.

An example of how this works is exemplified by a number of programs that Gift of Life International is currently working on with RD7260 (Long Island, New York, USA).

The RD7260 Gift of Life Program had provided surgery for as many as 60 children in one year at Stoney Brook University Hospital on Long Island. However, the hospital has temporarily stopped doing pediatric heart surgery. Yet, the desire to continue the lifesaving mission of Gift of Life has not gone away. So Gift of Life International went to work for RD7260.

1. We put RD7260 together with the International Children's Heart Foundation, founded by Dr. William Novick in Memphis, TN, USA. They are working together to send medical teams to Honduras to operate on up to 50 children each year. Dr. Novick plans on starting the work on his mission in May 2008.
2. We have put RD7260 and RD6800 (Memphis East, TN USA) together so they may explore a joint venture to help develop a Gift of Life program in Haiti (RD7020). This project would also involve the Friends of Montfort, a non-profit organization on Long Island that acts as the Haitian Gift of Life. They will be working in partnership to do a screening mission to diagnose children that will be operated on in the Dominican Republic (RD4060), Memphis (RD6800) and a variety of other GOL programs.
3. We put RD7260 together with the International Hospital for Children (IHC), a foundation started (and in part funded) by Rotarians of RD7600 (Richmond, VA USA). IHC does a variety of 'critical surgeries' for children in addition to pediatric heart surgery. They are working with RD7260 to joint venture on operations for children with other kinds of life saving surgical needs, with each paying one-half the cost. They are also working out details to partner with RD7260 to provide heart surgery for Honduran children through Hands Across Honduras at Unicar Hospital under the care of Dr. Aldo Castaneda and his foundation in Guatemala.

Each of the proposed programs noted above will allow for more children to be treated than ever before. We can maximize the strengths of Gift of Life Programs worldwide by looking for partnering opportunities. As you browse through this newsletter, you will see examples of how such joint efforts work, and the direct affect they have on the children they treat.

The collective story of Gift of Life is quite compelling. Even though the Gift of Life Programs may differ from one another, they are a family that shares a common motivation: To save the lives of needy children.

Warm Regards,

Robbie Donno
Chariman

Phoenix 100, Sun Lakes, Rotary Clubs Provide Annual Support of Gift of Life

From the RD5510 Newsletter, April 2008, By Gary Whiting, Centennial PDG and Gift of Life-Arizona (USA) Board Director

Over the last several years, the Phoenix 100 Rotary Club has provided their financial support of Gift of Life-Arizona at a **Gold Life Saver** level with a club donation of \$15,000. At their January 25 meeting they again became an annual Gold Life Saver Club with a donation of \$18,000.

At the meeting, with the assistance of Bob Raskin, Phoenix 100 Rotarian and GOL-AZ Board Director, GOL-AZ Board President John Abbs and GOL-AZ Administrator Gina Litvinoff, the club members had the opportunity of meeting both the young girl from Mexico whose life they helped save with heart surgery, Alicia Mastranzo, and her mother, Soledad Velazquez. Both mother and daughter expressed their deepest thanks to the Phoenix 100 club members and GOL-AZ for helping to provide her with the ability to now lead a normal and happy life.

At the February 26 Sun Lakes Rotary Club meeting they again became an Annual Club Sponsor based on their club membership size with a club donation of \$1,760 that was provided to PDG Gary Whiting, Sun Lakes Rotarian and GOL-AZ Board Director. Through their collective annual donations, they have provided enough money to help save the life of one child.

Club President Dr. Dwight Snyder, M.D., expressed the club's continued support of GOL-AZ and how proud they are to take part in this life-saving Rotary project by providing medical and surgical intervention to needy children from around the world and here in Arizona who are suffering from congenital heart defects.

What a great way to help provide world peace, understanding, friendship and goodwill through the saving of a needy child's life and giving them back the opportunity of having a normal and healthy life. Yes, the Gift of Life-Arizona Rotary project is making a difference in the world.

Many Rotary clubs of Arizona districts 5490, 5500 and 5510 are providing their annual support to the GOL-AZ based on their club membership size. You don't have to be a large club to make a donation and be recognized. As a guideline, these are the suggested financial donations based on club membership size to become an Annual Club Sponsor:

- 1 – 30 members = \$150 •
- 31 – 50 = \$400 •
- 51 – 75 = \$800 •
- 76 – 100 = \$1,000 •
- 100+ = \$1,500 •

For information about these Districts and their Clubs' activities, visit their website at www.giftoflife-az.com or email them at gift@giftoflife-az.com.



Sun Lakes Rotary Club President Dr. Dwight Snyder (left) presents check to PDG Gary Whiting.

nuBest Raises Over \$30,000 for Gift of Life International

As published 03 April 2008, Manhasset Press, Manhasset, New York USA

“nuBest salon and spa rocked Manhasset,” client Nancy Cole said, “when they put on the best charity fashion show the Gold Coast has ever seen.”

This exciting event came together to raise money and awareness for Gift of Life International. The most rewarding part of the night was seeing two children who owe their lives to the Gift of Life International organization and its chairman, Robbie Donno. Ali Khadim (12) from Iraq, and Lileth Cargua (6) from Ecuador, smiled at the crowd as nuBest salon and spa owner Michael Mazzei thanked his staff and clients for their love and support for this worthy cause.

“I’ve been in business in this community for over 35 years and I’ve always reached out to those who needed help. Gift of Life International is a very important organization and I am proud of my staff for their hard work to help children who need it the most,” said Mr Mazzei.

Over 275 people were wowed by an amazing fashion show featuring gorgeous models wearing clothes provided by Hirshleifer’s and jewelry provided by Lorelei. Hirshleifer’s and Lorelei were co-sponsors of the event. The energy generated by the fashion show remained throughout the evening as guests mingled at the silent auction and enjoyed the delicious food generously donated by Cathy Huang of Pearl East in Manhasset.

Leslie Gross, North Hempstead Town Clerk, was on hand to personally thank Mr. Mazzei and nuBest salon and spa for the contributions they have made to Manhasset for the past 35 years through various charities and fund-raising events. nuBest salon and spa looks forward to continuing its relationship with Gift of Life International (GOLI) in order to help as many children as possible.

GOLI provides cardiac surgery for needy children who would not otherwise have access to it. It is a grass roots movement of volunteerism, many Rotarians, who join forces to raise funds, act as translators, host the traveling families, and basically do whatever they can to help. Surgeons and other medical professionals donate time and skills in participating hospitals.

nuBest would like to thank the following businesses for their very generous support of goods and services: Decorum Models, Chris Macropolis, Xtreme Events, Steven Trachtman Photography, and Varietal Wines. Their hard work and contributions made this event possible.

Photo By: Steven Trachtman steve@stevetrachtman.com



nuBest owner Michael Mazzei prepares model for the runway.

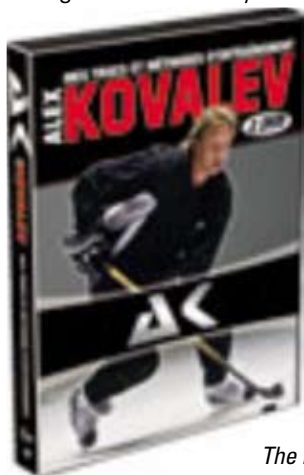
Alex Kovalev, "My Hockey Tips and Training Methods" DVD

An initiative to raise funds for the Children's Gift of Life Foundation

Dear Fans,

Thanks for buying my hockey tips and drills DVD! By doing so, you are contributing to my mission to help children with heart disease. I myself experienced heart problems as a child. That is why I've been engaged in the promotion of the Children's Gift of Life Foundation for several years now. I decided to produce this DVD to raise funds for the cause and to share my training methods and hockey skills. If you work hard, you will improve your game and become a better hockey player. I strongly believe that you can also develop other aspects of your life with the discipline, commitment and effort you put into your hockey training. I hope this DVD will have a positive impact not only on your game, but in other areas of your life as well. Hope you enjoy it!

In this DVD box set, Alex Kovalev demonstrates his on-ice hockey training methods as well as the exercise program developed for him by his personal trainer, Tommy Sheehan. This interactive DVD shows each exercise from various angles and allows you to switch back and forth between the on-ice and off-ice exercises. Shot with 24 HD cameras.



The DVD is available at www.imavision.com and at retail outlets across North America and in Europe.

Alex Kovalev, "Mes trucs et méthodes d'entraînement" DVD

Une initiative visant à collecter des fonds pour la fondation Children's Gift of Life

À tous mes admirateurs,

Je tiens à vous remercier d'avoir fait l'acquisition de ce DVD, dans lequel je vous livre les secrets de mon entraînement et des conseils sur le hockey. Par ce geste, vous contribuez à la mission que je me suis donnée : aider des enfants aux prises avec des maladies du coeur. Ayant moi-même éprouvé des problèmes cardiaques lorsque j'étais enfant, j'ai pris l'engagement, il y a plusieurs années, de faire connaître la fondation Children's Gift of Life. J'ai décidé de réaliser ce DVD non seulement pour vous faire profiter de mon expérience, mais aussi pour collecter des fonds afin de venir en aide à cet organisme. À force de travail, vous réussirez à améliorer votre jeu et à devenir un meilleur joueur de hockey. Je suis convaincu que la discipline, la constance et l'effort que vous apporterez à votre entraînement vous aideront dans d'autres aspects de votre vie. J'espère que ce DVD aura un impact positif sur votre jeu tout comme sur votre développement personnel. Profitez-en pleinement!

Dans ce coffret DVD, Alex Kovalev dévoile ses méthodes d'entraînement sur glace, ainsi que le programme de mise en forme que son entraîneur, Tommy Sheehan, a conçu spécialement pour lui. Tourné à l'aide de 24 caméras HD, ce DVD interactif permet, d'une part, de voir chaque exercice sous plusieurs angles et, d'autre part, de naviguer entre les exercices sur glace et ceux du studio d'entraînement. À vos exercices!

An Investment in Children's Lives ...

The Countess Moira Charitable Foundation



The Countess Moira Foundation has made a US\$105,000 contribution to Gift of Life International, payable in three annual installments.

Established in 2000, "The foundation's mission is to aid the well-being of youth anywhere in the World". Toward that end, the foundation makes grants to private nonprofit or public tax-exempt organizations for purposes defined under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The Chairman of the foundation is Edward Gray III. His idea was to create a charitable vehicle through which his family could share the honor and duty of giving to those less fortunate. With the assistance of the Countess Moira, Mr. Gray's personal friend and business associate, Mr. Gray developed a fund that was dedicated to those entities which focused on caring for children.

Consistent with the principles of the Countess Moira Charitable Foundation, Gift of Life International (GOLI) provides an infrastructure which supports the efforts of its member Programs throughout the world. These Gift of Life Programs exist to promote world peace by providing lifesaving open-heart surgery to children from medically under served countries regardless of race, color, creed, gender or national origin.

With the help of the Countess Moira Charitable Foundation and others like it, GOLI will now be better positioned to assist in the treatment of more children than ever before.

GOLI Chairman Robbie Donno commented, "This is a dynamic step forward for the mission of GOLI. We are very grateful to Mr. Gray and the Countess Moira Charitable Foundation for the confidence they have placed in us. The funds provided to Gift of Life International will help us to expand the global network of GOL Programs, to expand the capacity of existing programs, and to exponentially increase the number of children that will receive their Gift of Life. There are children who got lucky today because they will now get a chance at a new life."

On behalf of those children and their families, our heartfelt thanks to the Countess Moira Charitable Foundation, and to Bill Currie and the Rotary Club of New York City who helped forge this special relationship.

The Affiliate in The Spotlight



International Children's Heart Foundation

Extracted from the ICHF website: www.babyheart.org

The mission of the International Children's Heart Foundation (ICHF) is to bring the skills, technology and knowledge to cure and care for children with congenital heart disease to developing countries. ICHF does this regardless of country of origin, race, religion or gender.

Imagine the anguish of parents in underdeveloped or remote regions who have no one to work this miracle on their suffering child. Imagine having no alternative to watching your child waste away and die.

A simple procedure performed by skilled surgeons could save many children. The challenge is to get skilled doctors to the children in time to save them.



The International Children's Heart Foundation strives to correct this unfortunate situation by:

1. Providing direct care to as many children as possible in the short term,
2. Sending medications, surgical supplies and diagnostic equipment to developing country medical facilities, and
3. Training developing country surgeons and medical team staff so they ultimately can provide care for their own people.

ICHF has more than 15 years experience doing children's heart surgeries in developing countries. We have amassed a tremendous amount of learning, best practices and insights into the care of children in locations where resources are limited. We transfer this knowledge through training developing country medical professionals as well as educating academic scholars and working surgeons in the US and foreign countries through conferences and scholarly publications.

The passion for our work is demonstrated through the remarkable consistent and continuing commitment of the ICHF staff and their volunteer medical teams who execute 18-22 two to three week trips each year.

Our goal is to make the need for ICHF obsolete. We work toward this goal through our mission trips where we operate and educate local health care professionals, and provide needed equipment and medications.

For information on how you can help us achieve our goal, contact us at the above website.

The Broken Hearts of Chiapas

Excerpted from material submitted by: Lynda Hammond, President, Rotary Gift of Life Foundation, RD7980, Connecticut, USA

In September, 2007, I accepted an invitation from Rosa Ramirez, President of ADANEC*, and Dr. Humberto Rodriguez, a member of the Rotary Club of Monterey, to participate in an ADANEC/ Gift of Life mission to Comitan, Chiapas, Mexico. Established in 1995, in Monterey, Mexico, DANEC's mission is to, "Channel financial and medical support to children under 16 years of age with limited economic resources to save their integrity and life quality".

Chiapas is one of the poorest states in Mexico with a population of 3.4 million people, of which 700,000 are direct descendents of the Mayas. Many of these people live in one-room dirt floor houses constructed of wood slats and mud. Comitan is a small colonial city located high in the Sierra Madre mountain range, 7,000 feet above sea level.

The Comitan General Hospital Marla Ignacia Gandulfo was to be our host facility. Founded 214 years ago, it is a small, very busy hospital serving a half million people, mostly rural indigenous folks who travel hours by foot or bus to get even basic healthcare. The practice of herbal medicine, midwives, Shamans and ancient Mayan rituals are common, maintaining their place of importance in this society as they have for thousands of years.

As do most such missions, ours had the two-fold purpose of providing life saving cardiac care to kids who would otherwise have a dim future, or none at all, as well as affording local medical professionals exposure to the latest procedures, medications and surgical techniques so that they can, over time, become less reliant on missions.



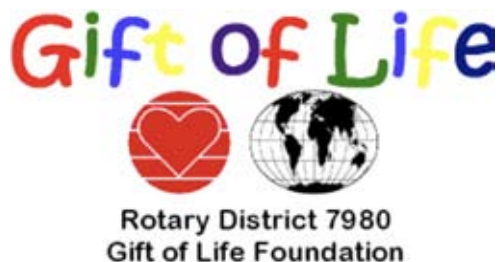
The 17-member volunteer team, led by Dr. Rodriguez, was from Monterrey, with the exception of this Gringo. The team was divided into two groups; the first group provided the support functions required before the arrival of the surgical team two days later. I was a part of the first group.

We departed from Mexico City on Monday morning September 23rd, headed to Tuxtla Gutierrez airport in the State of Chiapas. There, two drivers loaded our luggage and ten large boxes of medical supplies, medications and instruments, and we began our three-hour drive to Comitan.

Early Tuesday we were warmly welcomed at the hospital, and quickly bonded with the staff. We were provided two exam rooms supported by a two nurses, who quickly became part of the team.

For the next two days, the door of the exam room would open revealing a child and family member(s) who appeared so frightened as they entered, until they saw the welcoming smile of Dr. Yanez, the team's pediatric cardiologist, who Instantly put them at ease. He examined each child, gathering information from parents as he confirmed the diagnosis with echocardiograms.

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The Broken Hearts of Chiapas

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The surgical team arrived on Wednesday afternoon, and toured the hospital and met with the medical staff to confirm that the required equipment was in place and working properly, and to assure that the medical staff was prepared to meet the needs of the kids undergoing surgery. Then Dr. Rodriguez met with the families to explain the surgical procedure to be performed, preparing them for the events of the next 36 hours.

I know that, in the States, it is customary to administer pre-operative sedation before the child is taken to surgery. After watching the first few arriving to the operating room, it was apparent these kids had not received pre-operative sedation. Anesthesiologist Dr. Armando Guzman explained that due to the lack of available monitoring equipment it was safer not to sedate the children, and secondly the cost of the medication is very high.

This volunteer surgical team has worked together for the past eight years and their rate of complications following a surgical procedure is very low, with an infection rate of less than 1%. A major contributing factor to these impressive results is the standardization of the surgical procedures used by Dr. Rodriguez and his team; minimizing the length of time a child is under anesthesia, thereby reducing the child's recovery time.

Employing these techniques, the children recovered quickly from the effects of the anesthesia, they are awake, alert and mobile within hours of leaving the operating room, thereby minimizing surgical complications and contributing to the child's speedy recovery, as well as reducing the overall cost of providing lifesaving cardiac surgery.

In closing, I am so incredibly proud of the partnership between ADANEC and our Gift of Life Program. This medical team not only provided the optimum in total patient care, it we did so with love, compassion, and respect. We each gave a bit of ourselves to each one of our kids with a broken heart that we all helped to fix,



Dr. Rodriguez's most valued reward

One Little Heart At A Time.

To review other medical missions supported by RD7680, go to

<http://www.atlaboratories.com/images/Gift%20of%20Life%20Mission%20Log%20Updated%202007.pdf>

* ADANEC --- Asociaci'ón de Ayuda a Nifios en Estado Critico

There's A Reason ...

In the Events section of our website you will find the Epicurean Escape featured as a fundraiser arranged by Ann Torcivia, owner of Friends Travel in Long Island, New York. Ours is not the only organization that Ann helps. This is her story.

"Charity at Sea"

The Story Behind The Event

For most people, the word "cruise" is synonymous with sun and fun-filled tropical vacations. But for Ann Torcivia, the organizer of "Charity at Sea", an annual cruise that benefits many special organizations whose mission is to help others, it means so much more. For Ann it means celebrating the life and legacy of her late son – Joey Torcivia.

Eight years ago, Ann lost Joey to Aplastic Anemia. His greatest wish, however, was to go on a cruise. Thanks to The Marty Lyons Foundation, Ann's "little angel" was able to live out his dream.



Marty Lyons & Joey

Established by Marty Lyons, the former NFL (New York Jets) professional, The Marty Lyons Foundation is a non-profit organization dedicated to providing special children – those who are facing life-threatening or terminal illnesses – the courage to wish for more through the granting of special wishes.

For Joey, The Foundation arranged for a special cruise on board the Disney Magic. The cruise, which took place in 1998, was a truly magical experience for all involved. During the process, the unlikely pair of an NFL giant and the 3ft-tall bundle of energy quickly became an inseparable duo.

True to form, the ever-energetic Joey was also a regular at the "Mickey Slide." When other children asked about the feeding tube in his chest, he would tell them that he was a robot. Joey's relentless energy and enthusiasm is something Marty Lyons will never forget. "It was an honor to have known and spent time with Joey," said Marty. "Our work at The Foundation allows us to meet a unique group of children but Joey was truly special. Granting his wish was a great privilege but getting the opportunity to meet him was even more rewarding."

With Joey's passing, Ann looked for a way to keep his spirit alive, and also to give back to The Foundation. As a travel agent, she did not have to look far. She set about organizing an annual cruise that would benefit The Foundation, honor Joey's memory and give hope to other children.

The first cruise took place in 1998 on the new Disney Magic, and it was a resounding success. Since then, Ann has organized three subsequent cruises, raising more than \$6,000 for The Foundation, and generating greater awareness about its compassionate mission. As Marty Lyons notes: "With each cruise, Joey's courageous spirit lives on in the lives of other special children. He was and will always be The Foundation's little angel."

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There's A Reason...

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For 8 years now, Ann has carried on, and has shared little Joey's legacy with hundreds of fellow passengers on successive cruises. The experience has been richly rewarding. Each cruise has offered passengers a number of perks, including upgrades and gifts, and featured special events such as cocktail dinners. So far, Ann has organized cruises with Disney, Carnival Cruise Lines and Costa Cruise line, and more than 300 passengers have gone "cruisin'."

"People who have been on my cruises have felt good that they were a part of something great," says Ann. "It's a good feeling when you get a great vacation, and know that you are helping a worthy cause at the same time. People leave my cruise with a smile in their hearts."

"We're thrilled to be helping Ann meet her fundraising goals for Charity at Sea," said Phyllis Fragiorgi, the sales development manager at Costa Cruise. "It's really a win-win situation. Her clients get to experience the fun and ambiance of cruising 'Italian Style' on board Costa Cruise Lines, and The Foundations benefit with each passenger that sails. It's a wonderful concept."

Indeed, for those who take part, there is a special feeling about the cruise. It is, after all, a journey that inspires hope in those that need it most. Perhaps Ann best sums it up when she says of Joey, "He was so full of life and always had a smile on his face. He touched everyone he came in contact with. Joey was and still is an angel."

And true to character, the little angel known as Joey Torcivia is giving his mom the energy to help many other organizations now. Ann is eagerly spreading the word and encouraging others to join her on the next cruise.

If you would like to be part of "Charity at Sea", whether by "cruisin'" or by participating in the Epicurean Escape, or in any other way, please contact Ann directly:

Phone: (516) 822-5966 E-mail: friendstravel@optonline.net.



Joey 'Batman' Torcivia





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Our staff would be pleased to receive your comments, questions and suggestions about our newsletter and our website. Tell us what would be relevant to your District and to your part of the world. Send your email to:

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To contribute material for publication in a future issue of Communiqué, email it to

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Gift of Life International, Inc. and its global network of Gift of Life Programs are managed by the participating Districts, Clubs and Members of Rotary International, Inc., and depend heavily on the network of Rotarians throughout the world who help to identify, transport, house and lovingly care for all our critically ill children.

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