Dr. Giancarlo Crupi, Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon from Bergamo, Italy joined the Hearts with Hope Foundation medical team to provide 10 Salvadoran children with a second chance at life while working side by side with the Salvadoran medical team to provide continued skills transfer as the complexity of surgeries are gradually increased at Hospital Bloom in San Salvador. A heartfelt thank you to the following organizations for making this training visit possible: Gift of Life Inc., Gift of Life Italy of New York, Gift of Life Rotary District 7190, Club Rotario Santa Tecla and The Rotary Foundation.
Dr. Daniel Garcia is the youngest member of the Salvadoran Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgical Team and has consistently shown his dedication to the children of El Salvador. Dr. Garcia is always ready and eager to perform the next cardiac surgery at Hospital Bloom. He is highly respected by his surgical teammates and appreciates any opportunity to enhance his skills as a pediatric cardiothoracic surgeon.

Such an opportunity was presented to Dr. Daniel Garcia in the Fall of 2012 when Gift of Life International, Frank DiMarco (Founder, Gift of Life Italy of New York) and Dr. Giancarlo Crupi, pediatric cardiac surgeon at Ospedale de Riuniti Hospital, arranged for one year of intensive surgical training in Bergamo, Italy. Dr. Garcia has been in Italy for the past ten months and is working diligently to enhance his surgical skills and increase the complexity of surgeries that he is able to successfully perform.

Dr. Garcia was given another special opportunity when Gift of Life Italy of New York and Dr. Crupi arranged for him to return to El Salvador in July 2013 to join the mission team at Hospital Bloom for one week. This was greatly appreciated and a truly special experience which allowed Dr. Garcia to return home to help save the lives of Salvadoran children and to practice his newly learned skills with Dr. Crupi at his side as well as his Salvadoran surgical teammates.

A heartfelt thank you to Dr. Giancarlo Crupi and Frank DiMarco (Founder, Gift of Life Italy of New York) as well as Digicel El Salvador and the Salvadoran Ministry of Health for providing Dr. Daniel Garcia with the remarkable opportunity to receive a full year of training abroad, empowering him to return to El Salvador later this year to rejoin the Salvadoran surgical team as their program moves closer to sustainability and treating more and more Salvadoran children each year. This is an invaluable gift which will not only make Dr. Garcia a leader in his field but allow him to continue to turn despair to hope for thousands of Salvadoran children in years to come.
The ‘Our Hearts are in El Salvador’ Gift of Life International global initiative is now in its fourth year. Since its inception in 2010, more than 600 Salvadoran children have been treated and a total of 16 medical training visits have been conducted enhancing the skills and communication of the entire Salvadoran pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare teams. With tremendous progress made over the past four years, it is time to take a step forward and increase the complexity of surgeries being performed by the Salvadoran team so that they may treat more children independently on a reliable and sustainable basis.

During the July 2013 training visit to Hospital Bloom, Dr. Giancarlo Crupi, pediatric cardiac surgeon from Bergamo, Italy joined the Hearts with Hope Foundation visiting team in an effort to move the Salvadoran pediatric cardiac program forward in terms of treating children with more complex heart ailments. Dr. Crupi is a world-renowned surgeon who specializes in the correction of Tetrology of Fallot heart defects. Exactly half of the surgical patients treated during this training visit were diagnosed with this specific heart defect. Until now, many of these patients would have remained on the waiting list due to the complexity of their condition.

Over the past four years, much progress has been made in El Salvador and the time has come to provide hope to children with more complex heart ailments. With the mentoring of world-class training teams, the acquisition of more than $500,000 worth of essential equipment and supplies, specialized targeted training and a more cohesive and empowered Salvadoran medical team, the treatment of children with complex congenital heart disease is something that can now be done successfully in El Salvador and will, in fact, move the program to the next level.

While this step forward may be challenging, it is also exciting as we move closer to a sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare program in El Salvador where Salvadoran children will have hope and a second chance at life because they can be treated in their own country by their own doctors and nurses.
HEART FELT THANKS

This life-saving surgical mission would not have been possible without the kindness, generosity and dedication of many individuals and organizations from El Salvador, the United States, Italy and Mexico.

Thank you to Gift of Life, Inc. and Gift of Life Italy of New York for the funding of travel expenses, shipping costs, meals, as well as additional supplies and medications needed. A special thank you to Frank Di Marco, President of Gift of Life Italy of New York for traveling to El Salvador to witness first-hand the lives being saved. Thank you Gift of Life, Inc. Director, Angela Losritto for joining the team in El Salvador and for providing some of the funds necessary to provide interventional catheterization procedures to Jefferson and Darlin.

A special thank you to Dr. Giancarlo Crupi, pediatric cardiac surgeon, who traveled all the way from Bergamo, Italy to ensure the continued progress of the pediatric cardiac surgery program in El Salvador. We are grateful for your dedication to the ‘Our Hearts are in El Salvador’ program. You have helped save the lives of many Salvadoran children over the years, both in El Salvador and in Italy. We appreciate the time you have devoted to sharing your knowledge with the Salvadoran team through seminars as well as practical training in the operating theatre. Your commitment to the Salvadoran children, the Salvadoran medical team and the development of a sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare program are invaluable.

We extend another big thank you to the Hearts with Hope Foundation visiting medical team who returned for their third training visit to Hospital Bloom. We greatly appreciate your commitment to the success of the Salvadoran pediatric cardiac program over the past three years. A special thank you to Dr. Juan Carlos Alejos and Andrea Boddicker (Mission Coordinator) for coordinating the logistics for your team as well as the donation of supplies and medications.

Gift of Life International and Latidos de Esperanza wish to extend a heartfelt thanks to Gustavo Zamarripa, perfusionist from Monterey, Mexico who also joined the July 2013 training visit. Gustavo has made several visits to Hospital Bloom and is always ready and willing to make the trip to El Salvador whenever asked. Thank you for sharing your knowledge and helping to enhance the skills of the Salvadoran perfusionists so that they too can help save the lives of children with complex heart ailments.
Rotary Foundation Grants have been a large part of the success of the ‘Our Hearts are in El Salvador’ program. A big Rotary thank you is extended to **Gift of Life Rotary District 7190, the Rotary Club of Delmar, the Rotary Club of Latham, the Rotary Club of Scotia, the Rotary Club of Schenectady, the Rotary Club of Rotterdam Sunrise, the Rotary Club of Glens Falls, Club Rotario Santa Tecla and The Rotary Foundation** for partnering a Matching Grant to help fund the supplies and medications needed to treat the 10 children who were provided a second chance at life during this training visit. A special thank you to Rotarians **Thomas Burdick** and **Francisco Rivera** for their exemplary efforts in the coordination of the grant and the management of its funds. This is a true example of the impact that is being made around the world as the global networks of Rotary and Gift of Life work together to save children’s lives.

In-country transportation for our visiting team was provided by the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs**. Gift of Life International and Latidos de Esperanza wish to thank you for ensuring that our visiting team is always safe and on time. Thank you for your flexibility and reliability each and every day.

During the July 2013 training visit, meals for the medical teams were provided by **Tony Roma’s** and also **Ristorante Pascuale**. We thank you for your partnership and for providing delicious and nutritious meals for the medical teams as they work to save the children’s lives.

A heartfelt thank you to **Mrs. Jane Cooper** who made her second trip to El Salvador during the July 2013 training visit to assist with translation between the visiting team and the local Salvadoran team. Your gift of translation is invaluable to proper communication and treatment of the children and is greatly appreciated. Thank you for the love and care you show for the children of El Salvador.

There is something very special about those who give back as their way of saying thank you. **Rebeca Cruz and Sandra Hidalgo** are mothers of children who were given a second chance at life during the previous years of the ‘Our Hearts are in El Salvador’ program. Now they touch our hearts and the hearts of the parents of the children being operated during each training visit as they provide support, love and prayers to these parents and children. Gift of Life International and Latidos de Esperanza wish to thank you for being the very special people that you are. We also wish to thank volunteer **Lucia Bolanos** for giving of her time to help others.

Latidos de Esperanza’s Executive Director, **Ivonne Lopez** and assistant **Elizabeth Ramos** coordinated all aspects of the mission. **Latidos de Esperanza** is based in El Salvador and is one of the 71 worldwide affiliates of Gift of Life International.
FUNDAMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS

- DIGICEL EL SALVADOR
- GIFT OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL
- LATIDOS DE ESPERANZA
- GIFT OF LIFE ITALY OF NEW YORK
- GIFT OF LIFE, INC.
- HEARTS WITH HOPE FOUNDATION
- BENJAMIN BLOOM NATIONAL HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN
- MINISTRY OF HEALTH
- MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

- ROTARY CLUB OF DELMAR
- ROTARY CLUB OF LATHAM
- ROTARY CLUB OF SCHENECTADY
- ROTARY CLUB OF ROTTERDAM SUNRISE
- ROTARY CLUB OF GLENS FALLS
- CLUB ROTARIO SANTA TECLA
- ROTARY DISTRICT 7190
- THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

THE PARTICIPATING MEDICAL TEAMS

The visiting pediatric cardiac medical team from the U.S., Italy and Mexico:

Cardiothoracic Surgeon: Dr. Giancarlo Crupi
Pediatric Cardiologist: Dr. Juan Carlos Alejos
Intensivist: Dr. Robert Kelly
Perfusionist: Brad Saunders, Gustavo Zamarripa
Anesthesiologist: Nelson Varas
ICU Nurses: Melissa DeJesus, Gladys Casillas, Heather Henry
Mission Coordinator: Andrea Boddicker

The Salvadoran pediatric cardiac medical team from Hospital Bloom:

Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeons: Dr. Guillermo Martinez, Dr. Francisco Gamero, Dr. Daniel Garcia, Dr. Guillermo Rodriguez Funes
Pediatric Cardiologists: Dr. Mauricio Velado, Dr. Alfonso Escobar, Dr. Patricio Rodriguez
Intensivists: Dr. Luis Guzman, Dr. Roxana Moreno
Anesthesiologists: Dr. Roberto Gamero, Dr. Luis Martinez
Perfusionists: Dr. Sandra Pena, Yesenia Figueroa
Arsenal Technicians: Isabel Arias, Cecelia Amaya, Emerita Caceres, Maria Adela Ramirez
Anesthetic Technicians: Ana Mercedes Rodriguez, Sara Ventura, Rosa Melida Ortiz, Carmen Maria de Rosa
OR Nurses: Mirna Martinez, Mirna de Henriquez, Roxana de Salas, Wendy Martinez, Luisa Rivas
ICU Nurses: Marta Luz Martinez, Sandra Menjivar, Josefina Juarez, Adina Elias, Virna Cardoza, Hilda Martinez, Carmen Elena Dominguez, Gloria Recinos, Elba Luz Baiza, Mirna Vasquez, Alba Ayala, Delmy Yolanda Lainez, Lidia Susana Menjivar, Sara Rosibel Aguilar, Claudia Jeannette Guzman
Social Worker: Concepcion de Garay
EKG Technician: Deysi Sandoval
Administrative Assistant: Reina de Galeano

Gift of Life International would like to give thanks to the entire nursing staff, residents, social workers, technical staff and everyone at Hospital Bloom for their assistance in making this mission a success.
WORKING TOGETHER TO SAVE LIVES
A total of 10 children were treated during the July 2013 training visit. Eight children received open-heart surgery while two children received interventional catheterization procedures.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>AGE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jose Alejandro</td>
<td>12 years</td>
<td>Tetrology of Fallot</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jonathan</td>
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<td>Nicholas</td>
<td>1 1/2 years</td>
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<td>Jose Emmanuel</td>
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<td>Sub Aortic Stenosis</td>
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<td>Cristian</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>2 months</td>
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<tr>
<td>Darlin</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>PDA</td>
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</table>
CHILDREN TREATED

Nicholas

Jose Alejandro Eduardo

Jose Emmanuel

Jose Alberto

Jefferson

Jose Emmanuel

Darlin

Cristian

Jonathan

Juan Manuel

Crisitan

Jose Alberto
2011 & 2012 CHILDREN OPERATED

RETURN TO SAY THANK YOU!
TURNING DESPAIR TO HOPE
CREATING A SUSTAINABLE PEDIATRIC CARDIAC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

Gift of Life is a project of founding Rotary District 7250 and participating Rotary Clubs and Districts worldwide.

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