November 12th - 16th, 2012

Ten children were operated while the visiting team from Boston, Los Angeles, Norway and Mexico worked along side the Salvadoran pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare team to empower, train and enhance their skills.

Sponsored by:
Ivonne Lopez began her position as Executive Director of the Gift of Life International (GOLI) Salvadoran Affiliate, Latidos de Esperanza in January 2011. GOLI believes an essential component of developing a sustainable pediatric cardiac program in a developing country is a strong NGO in country to oversee day to day affairs and work towards building the program. From day one, Ivonne has exhibited strong leadership skills with a strategic yet passionate approach to helping the children of El Salvador.

Over the past two years, Ivonne has established, branded and gained tremendous awareness for Latidos de Esperanza. She has worked closely with and is highly respected by government officials, hospital administrations, media, corporations, Rotarians, and other NGO’s with the goal of developing a sustainable pediatric cardiac program and ultimately a National Cardiac Center in El Salvador. Ivonne also works in concert with the entire pediatric cardiac medical team at Hospital Bloom to ensure their needs are met allowing them to operate on a reliable basis. Additionally, Ivonne has coordinated all in-country logistics for 10 training visits since the beginning of 2011.

When working directly with the Salvadoran children and their families, Ivonne’s compassion, dedication and love for them is always evident. She works tirelessly to ensure each child is given the best possible chance for a healthy future.

It is a pleasure and a true honor to have such an amazing individual as the Salvadoran leader of the ‘Our Hearts are in El Salvador’ program.

In addition to her other responsibilities, Ivonne has analyzed and implemented new ideas taking the nutritional assistance program to a new level. She has worked closely with Salvadoran Rotarians to gain support for this program which not only ensures a healthy future for the children who have been operated, but empowers Salvadoran families to improve their level of nutrition and living conditions. Through Ivonne’s efforts, vocational training programs are now in place to enhance this program and help turn despair to hope.
Turning Despair to Hope as 2012 Comes to a Close

There are many smiles on the faces of grateful parents and children in El Salvador as 2012 winds down with the fourth and final training visit for the year to Hospital Bloom in San Salvador. Each training visit focused on the transfer of skills from the visiting team to the Salvadoran team with emphasis on empowering Salvadorans to care for Salvadorans, improving communication skills within the Salvadoran cardiac team, working to gain proficiency in operating and recovering ASD and VSD patients allowing this type of surgery to be performed on a reliable basis between training visits, and striving to gradually take the entire Salvadoran team to the next level of proficiency for slightly more complex cases like TOF and TAPVR.

Our visiting team for the November 2012 training visit was very diverse and selected from leading pediatric cardiac institutions around the world. Our ICU nursing team was lead by Jason Thornton of Children’s Hospital Boston, rated #1 in the U.S. This exceptional aftercare team was joined by intensivists from Children’s Hospital Los Angeles, an anesthesiologist from Mexico, a perfusionist from Boston and a highly regarded surgeon, Dr. Egil Seem from Oslo University Hospital in Norway. Dr. Seem has written many publications on congenital heart disease with his most recent focusing on the surgical management of Tetrology of Fallot.

During the November training visit, 10 children were operated, marking the 148th Salvadoran child to receive a second chance at life this year. With more than a month remaining before year’s end, the Salvadoran team is sure to exceed their goal of operating 150 children in their own country in 2012.

Tremendous progress has been made since the implementation of the ‘Our Hearts are in El Salvador’ program in 2010. Over 460 Salvadoran children have been given hope for a healthy future, ten training visits have been conducted, over $200,000 of essential equipment, supplies and medication have been acquired, a nurse training program was completed by 18 critical care nurses and a new perfusionist and our youngest surgeon have traveled outside El Salvador to receive intensive training.

Gift of Life International will continue to support the efforts of the Salvadoran team as we move closer to a sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare program and continue to turn despair to hope.
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 and the United States.

A special thank you to the Children’s Hospital Boston Nursing Team and Perfusionist, Dr. Egil Seem from Norway, Dr. Rambod Amirnovin and Dr. Alan Gatward from Los Angeles and Joab Ibarra from Mexico for providing training to the Salvadoran team, and for donating supplies. We thank you for sharing your knowledge and for helping to enhance the skills of the Salvadoran team. A heartfelt thanks to team leader, Jason Thornton for all your efforts in coordinating logistics for your team and helping to make this training visit a huge success.

We extend another big thank you to Gift of Life Florida and Gift of Life New Jersey (District 7470) for sponsoring this medical training visit. Your commitment to the development of a sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare program in El Salvador is greatly appreciated and is a wonderful example of how the global network of Gift of Life and Rotary work together to save children’s lives and empower healthcare professionals around the world to care for their own children. A very special thank you to Lou Auricchio, Vice President GOLI, Chairman GOL Florida and Founder GOL El Salvador for taking the time to travel to El Salvador for this training visit to witness first hand the need, the lives being saved and the progress being made towards a sustainable pediatric cardiac program. Your dedication to El Salvador, your love for the Salvadoran people and your support of the ‘Our Hearts are in El Salvador’ program have helped save the lives of over 750 Salvadoran children since 1988. We applaud and appreciate your exemplary efforts.

Gift of Life International wishes to extend our heart felt thanks to Rotary International for their assistance with airfares for all four of the visiting nurses. Your donation of roundtrip flights through the partnership with the United Airlines Miles for Charity Program is just another example of Rotary’s great work and commitment to supporting International projects and organizations such as Gift of Life.

Gift of Life International wishes to thank the medical students of Evangelica University for providing help with translation each day of the training
visit. The training, transfer of knowledge and exchange of ideas was made possible by your daily assistance which was incredibly helpful and appreciated by all.

DIGICEL EL SALVADOR is a Gift of Life International Sustainable Partner and is truly in the business of caring. We thank you for your partnership and dedication to saving the lives of Salvadoran children.

TERUMO continues to be a very important partner in the area of perfusion supplies. We genuinely appreciate your generosity and quick response time to our perfusion needs allowing surgeries to continue while turning despair to hope for the children of El Salvador.

Gift of Life International greatly appreciates the partnership with UPS Supply Chain. Your quick response time, excellent service and generosity allow us to transport necessary supplies in a timely and cost effective manner, which in turn allows us to save the lives of more children.

A big thank you to Abbott Point of Care for their contribution of critical medical supplies to help save these precious lives.

GIFT OF LIFE INTERNATIONAL also contributed to the funding, logistics and organization of the mission.

Latidos de Esperanza’s Executive Director, Ivonne Lopez, coordinated all aspects of the mission with the assistance of Elizabeth Ramos. LATIDOS DE ESPERANZA is based in El Salvador and is one of the 71 worldwide affiliates of Gift of Life International.

A special thanks to Sandra Hidalgo and Rebeca Cruz, mothers of children who received their gift of life in 2010, for providing support and prayers each day to the parents of the children who were intervened during this mission. Thank you to Andres and Claudia Herrera for the delicious sandwiches and baked goods and especially for your kindness.

Transportation for our visiting team is 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.

Our hearts were indeed touched by the generous donations from IGLESIA DE CRISTO MARANATHA of food and clothing for the families of the children who were operated. A heartfelt thanks to Pastor Jorge Juarez as well as Romi de Juarez and Rebeca Cruz for collecting and coordinating the donation. Each family was very appreciative to receive a wonderful package of food and clothing when they left the hospital.
THANK YOU TO OUR PARTNERS
Fundamental Organizations

- Gift of Life Florida
- Gift of Life New Jersey (District 7470)
- Digicel El Salvador
- Rotary International
- Children’s Hospital Boston
- Benjamin Bloom National Hospital for Children
- Minister of Health and Social Assistance
- Minister of Foreign Affairs
- Gift of Life International
- Latidos de Esperanza

The Participating Medical Teams

The visiting team based in Boston, MA, Los Angeles, CA, Monterrey, Mexico, and Oslo, Norway:

- Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeon: Dr. Egil Seem
- Perfusionist: Joseph Wagner
- Anesthesiologist: Joab Ibarra
- Intensivists: Dr. Rambod Amirnovin, Dr. Alan Gatward
- ICU Nurses: Jason Thornton, Kristen Rauschnot, Elizabeth Centofanti, Sara Kalbko

The Salvadoran pediatric cardiac medical team from Hospital Bloom:

- Pediatric Cardiologists: Dr. Mauricio Velado, Dr. Alfonso Escobar, Dr. Patricio Rodriguez
- Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeons: Dr. Francisco Gamero, Dr. Daniel Garcia, Dr. Guillermo Rodriguez Funes, Dr. Guillermo Martinez
- Intensivists: Dr. Luis Guzman, Dr. Roxana Moreno
- Anesthesiologists: Dr. Luis Martinez, Dr. Robert Gamero
- Perfusionists: Sandra Pena, Yesenia Figueroa
- Arsenal Technicians: Isabel Arias, Cecilia Amaya, Emerita Caceres, Maria Adela Ramirez
- Anesthetic Technicians: Ana Mercedes Rodriguez, Sara Ventura, Rosa Melida Ortiz, Carmen Maria de Rosa
- Social Worker: Concepcion de Garay
- Administrative Assistant: Reina de Galeano
- EKG Technician: Deysi Sandoval

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.
The Salvadoran Team
The Visiting Team

Boston
Los Angeles

Oslo
Monterrey
Working Together to Save Lives
Children Operated November 2011
Return to say THANK-YOU!
The Children

The screening of the patients was conducted in advance by the Salvadoran team with the final selections made in a collaborative effort by the Salvadoran team and the visiting medical team. The final selection of 10 children to operate was made on Sunday, prior to the first day of surgery with necessary changes made during the course of the mission.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Patient Name</th>
<th>Age</th>
<th>Diagnosis</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Wilber</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Large Atrial Septal Defect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Cesar</td>
<td>5 months</td>
<td>Pink Tetrology of Fallot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Evolet</td>
<td>8 months</td>
<td>Moderate Ventricular Septal Defect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Lazaro</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Tetrology of Fallot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Cristobal</td>
<td>8 years</td>
<td>Tetrology of Fallot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Emely</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Aortopulmonary Window</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Mayra</td>
<td>9 years</td>
<td>Tetrology of Fallot with Small Pulmonary Arteries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Reynaldo</td>
<td>11 months</td>
<td>Atrial Septal Defect, Ventricular Septal Defect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Zaira</td>
<td>8 months</td>
<td>Atrial Septal Defect, Large Double Ventricular Septal Defect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Steven</td>
<td>8 months</td>
<td>Large Ventricular Septal Defect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Wilber lives with his parents, sister and brother in a one room house which is made of wood. They built their home on the property where Wilber's grandmother lives so that they did not have to pay for the land. They cook over an open fire and sleep on hammocks. They share electricity with the grandmother. They must walk to a well where they must purchase clean water. Wilber's father rents a small piece of land where he grows corn and beans for their own consumption. He works on a farm to earn a small wage to try to support his family.
CESAR

Birth Date: March 4, 2012
Household Income: $10 per day
Number of family members: 6
Resides in: Ilopango, El Salvador

Age: 6 months old
Hospital Bloom/Boston Mission
Surgery Date: November 2012
Sponsor: Not Needed

Cesar is an only child and was diagnosed with a heart defect when he was just 4 days old. He lives in a borrowed home with his mother, grandparents, aunt and uncle. Cesar’s mother used to work at a company that sells furniture but was fired when she became pregnant. She has graduated high school and would like to go to college when Cesar is healthy and a little older. Cesar’s grandfather is a brick layer and is the sole provider of the family.
EVOLETH

Birth Date: March 24, 2012
Household Income: $42 per day
Number of family members: 4
Resides in: Ahuachapan, El Salvador

Age: 8 months old
Hospital Bloom/Boston Mission
Surgery Date: November 2012
Sponsor: Not Needed

Evoleth is an only child and is very fortunate that both her parents have good jobs. Her mother is a nurse and her father is a psychologist. They live in a concrete home that is borrowed from a relative. Evoleth was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect just hours after she was born. She was hospitalized for pneumonia as a newborn. Evoleth was operated successfully and will now have a long and healthy life.
LAZARO

Birth Date: September 28, 2010
Household Income: $3 per day
Number of family members: 5
Resides in: La Union, El Salvador

Age: 2 years old
Hospital Bloom/Boston Mission
Surgery Date: November 2012
Sponsor: Needed

Lazaro lives with his parents and two sisters in a small one room home near the border of El Salvador and Honduras. Their home is constructed of various materials and is borrowed giving them no stability of being able to stay for an extended period of time. Lazaro’s father lost his job 4 months ago when he asked for permission to have time off because his wife was having complications with her pregnancy. When the baby was born, it too had a heart defect and sadly did not survive. You can only imagine how grateful these parents are that Lazaro’s surgery was successful and that he is on his way to a healthy life.
CRISTOBAL

Birth Date: March 23, 2004
Household Income: $3.50 per day
Number of family members: 5
Resides in: Usulutan, El Salvador

Age: 8 years old
Hospital Bloom/Boston Mission
Surgery Date: November 2012
Sponsor: Needed

Cristobal lives in a very remote area of El Salvador with his grandparents in a one room bahareque home. This type of home is made of mud and bamboo. They cook over an open fire. They do not have access to clean water nor electricity. Cristobal has not attended school yet due to his heart condition. Cristobal’s mother has two other children from another marriage. Cristobal does not get along with the other children and therefore has chosen to live with his grandparents. Cristobal’s grandfather works as a laborer and struggles to support them since his work is not steady.
Emely lives with her family in Honduras near the border of El Salvador. She was diagnosed with a heart defect when she was just 2 months old. Her parents took her to several hospitals in Honduras to find help. Each time they were told her condition was not treatable so they decided to come to El Salvador to see if they could find help for their daughter. They have traveled to Hospital Bloom three times, hoping that Emely would be selected for her life-saving surgery. Now that she has been given a second chance at life, her parents are both extremely grateful and relieved.
Mayra lives with her mother and aunt in a one room adobe home with a dirt floor. They cook over an open fire. They do have access to both clean water and electricity. Mayra’s mother cleans homes to support them. They also receive some income from Mayra’s father who now lives in the U.S. and sends about $100 monthly to help them. Mayra is in first grade. She has not been able to attend school regularly due to her heart condition. She is looking forward to attending on a regular basis now that she has been given a second chance at life. Mayra has been waiting for her life-saving surgery since she was 3 years old.
ZAIRA

Birth Date: March 25, 2012
Household Income: $8 per day
Number of family members: 5
Resides in: Usulutan, El Salvador

Age: 8 months old
Hospital Bloom/Boston Mission
Surgery Date: November 2012
Sponsor: Needed

Zaira’s family lives in a very remote area of El Salvador. They must travel many hours by bus to get to San Salvador where Hospital Bloom is located. Their home is made from a mixture of cinder blocks, sheet metal and other materials they found to piece their home together. They sleep on beds made of rope tied across a wood frame. There are no mattresses. Zaira’s father earns money to support the family by cleaning buses. This family survives primarily on rice, beans and eggs. They also eat fruit and vegetables that they find growing in the area where they live.
STEVEN

Birth Date: March 4, 2012
Household Income: $10 per day
Number of family members: 6
Resides in: San Vicente, El Salvador

Age: 8 months old
Hospital Bloom/Boston Mission
Surgery Date: November 2012
Sponsor: Not Needed

Steven was diagnosed with a congenital heart defect shortly after birth. He was hospitalized for an extended period of time before receiving his life-saving heart surgery. Steven’s father is a farmer. He harvests corn for the family’s consumption and sells the excess to help support the family. Steven’s grandmother owns a restaurant nearby and helps cover the cost of household expenses. This family owns the concrete home they live in and have access to both water and electricity.
Reynaldo

Dec. 17, 2011 - Nov. 16, 2012

In Loving Memory

He was so very, very special
And was so from the start
You held him in your arms
But mainly in your heart
And like a single drop of rain
That on still waters fall,
His life did ripples make
And touched the lives of all.
He’s gone to play with angels
In heaven up above
So keep your special memories
And treasure them with love.

We are deeply saddened by the loss of precious Reynaldo. He will be missed by the entire team of Gift of Life International, Latidos de Esperanza, The Visiting Team, and Hospital Bloom who worked tirelessly to try to save his life.

We extend our deepest condolences to Reynaldo’s family who will miss their precious son until someday, they are reunited with their beautiful angel.
On behalf of the children of El Salvador, we thank Lou Auricchio, Vice President, Gift of Life International; Chairman, Gift of Life Florida; and Founder, Gift of Life El Salvador for bringing hope to these beautiful children since 1988.
EMPOWERING SALVADORANS TO CARE FOR SALVADORANS

DEVELOPMENT OF A SUSTAINABLE PEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGERY PROGRAM

BUILDING A HEALTHY FUTURE FOR THE CHILDREN OF EL SALVADOR

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