10 SALVADORAN CHILDREN RECEIVED A SECOND CHANCE AT LIFE

The wonderfully skilled medical team from C.S. Mott Children’s Hospital, University of Michigan returned for their third training visit to Hospital Bloom and were joined by pediatric cardiac surgeon Dr. Eric Devaney from San Diego, CA as well as perfusionist Gustavo Zamarripa from Monterrey, Mexico to provide optimal treatment to 10 Salvadoran children as well as skills transfer to the entire Salvadoran pediatric cardiac medical team. A heartfelt thank you to the following organizations for making this training visit possible: Gift of Life Rotary District 7190, Rotary Clubs of Latham, Scotia, Delmar, Glens Falls, Schenectady, Rotterdam Sunrise, Club Rotario Santa Tecla, Rotary Club of Oakland, Rotary District 5170, Club Rotario San Salvador, Club Rotario San Salvador Cuscatlan, The Rotary Foundation and Gift of Life New Jersey.
Prior to the first day of surgeries, ICU Nurse Lisa Beckman and Respiratory Therapist Howard Rosenberg provided intensive training pertaining to the post operative care needed for complex surgeries such as Tetrology of Fallot (TOF), Atrioventricular Canal (A/V Canal) and Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return (TAPVR).
The final 2013 training visit to Hospital Bloom
complexity of surgeries increases

The final training visit of 2013 and the 18th training visit since the 2010 inception of the Gift of Life International global initiative ‘Our Hearts are in El Salvador’ was conducted at Hospital Bloom in San Salvador during the week of December 1st - 6th, 2013. A tremendous amount of progress has been made since the first training visit which took place at the end of 2010. The Salvadoran pediatric cardiac team has been blessed with continuous skills transfer by highly qualified medical professionals from leading pediatric cardiac institutes across the United States and Europe. This has allowed the entire team to enhance their skill level, improve team communication and be empowered to help save the lives of the children suffering from heart disease in their own country.

The December 2013 training visit saw the return of the amazing medical team from C. S. Mott Children’s Hospital/University of Michigan (rated #3 pediatric cardiac program in the United States). Joining this incredible team was pediatric cardiac surgeon, Dr. Eric Devaney from San Diego and perfusionist Gustavo Zamarripa from Monterrey, Mexico. This was the team’s third visit to Hospital Bloom. They have watched the program grow over the past 3 years and felt the Salvadoran team was more than ready for an increase in complexity of surgeries. The week was focused on operating and recovering children with complex heart defects such as Tetrology of Fallot (TOF), Atrioventricular Canal (A/V Canal) and Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return (TAPVR).

In preparation for the week, ICU Nurse Lisa Beckman and respiratory therapist, Howard Rosenberg provided a day of intensive training to all 18 Salvadoran ICU and OR nurses as well as respiratory therapists prior to the start of surgeries. This training was focused on the recovery of Tetrology of Fallot, Atrioventricular Canal and Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return patients. Additionally, each complex case was closely reviewed by cardiologist Dr. Gabe Owens and cardiac surgeon, Dr. Eric Devaney together with the Salvadoran surgical team allowing them to discuss and evaluate each case in depth prior to entering the operating theatre.

The Gift of Life International philosophies of working with like-minded organizations, maximizing the global networks of Gift of Life and Rotary, and empowering Salvadorans to care for Salvadorans has consistently moved the ‘Our Hearts are in El Salvador’ program forward over the past four years. With over 650 children treated, 18 training visits completed, over $250,000 in Rotary Grants realized to provide equipment, supplies and medications, the development of a strong in-country NGO - Latidos de Esperanza (GOLI Salvadoran affiliate), and the empowerment of the Salvadoran pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare teams, the program is well on its way to sustainability.
The visiting pediatric cardiac medical team from Michigan, San Diego and Mexico:

Cardiothoracic Surgeon: Dr. Eric Devaney (San Diego)
Cardiologist / Intensivist: Dr. Gabe Owens (Michigan)
Perfusionist: Kevin Griffith (Michigan), Gustavo Zamarripa (Mexico)
Anesthesiologist: Dr. Lori Riegger (Michigan)
Respiratory Therapist: Howard Rosenberg (Michigan)
ICU Nurses: Christina Kusiak, Whitnie McNeil, Erin Muir, Lisa Beckman (Michigan)
Mission Coordinator / Nurse Trainer: Lisa Beckman (Michigan)

The Salvadoran pediatric cardiac medical team from Hospital Bloom:

Pediatric Cardiothoracic Surgeons: Dr. Guillermo Martinez, Dr. Francisco Gamero, Dr. Daniel Garcia  Dr. Mauricio Rodriguez Luna , 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: Morena Miranda

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.
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, and Mexico.

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 the Rotary Club of Oakland, Rotary District 5170, Club Rotario San Salvador, Club Rotario San Salvador Cuscatlan and The Rotary Foundation for partnering the first Rotary Global 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. We look forward to working with you to accomplish the many other aspects of this first global grant in El Salvador.

A special thank you to Oakland Rotarians Keith Giron, Peter & Astrid Sherris, Jon Gresley and Gudrun Dybdal for traveling to El Salvador to witness children’s lives being saved, to meet your Salvadoran Rotary partners and to conduct an overview of the global grant project as it gets underway. 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 and develop sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare programs.

We wish to thank the members of Club Rotario San Salvador and Club Rotario San Salvador Cuscatlan for their assistance with translation, inventory of supplies and medications and completing socio-economic profiles of the families at the hospital during the week of the mission.

In addition, another huge Rotary thank you is extended to the Rotary Clubs of Latham, Scotia, Delmar, Glens Falls, Schenectady, Rotterdam Sunrise, Club Rotario Santa Tecla and The Rotary Foundation for partnering a Rotary 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 as well as 21 children who were operated on during the July and October 2013 training missions.

A special thank you to Rotarians Tom Burdick from the Delmar Rotary Club and Francisco Rivera from the Santa Tecla Rotary Club for coordinating the matching grant and ensuring accurate records were kept. Thank you to Francisco Rivera and the Rotarians from Club Rotario Santa Tecla for coming to Hospital Bloom during each training visit to witness lives being saved and to oversee the project.
A heartfelt thank you to Gift of Life New Jersey for their co-sponsorship of this training visit. This is the third such mission they have co-sponsored as part of the ‘Our Hearts are in El Salvador’ global initiative, positioning them as one of the leaders in the global network of Gift of Life International’s efforts in El Salvador. We are thankful to the leadership of Gift of Life New Jersey and the commitment they have shown to help move the development of a sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery and aftercare program forward, resulting in the saving of nearly 700 Salvadoran children to date.

A special thank you to Maria Olimpia Escobar of Club Rotario San Salvador Cuscatlan for volunteering her time to help with translation in the ICU and to provide comfort and love to the children operated and their parents. Your translation assistance was a huge help to the aftercare teams allowing them to communicate and provide the best possible care to the children. Your kindness and compassion towards the children and their parents touched both our hearts and theirs.

Our most sincere thanks to Digicel El Salvador for your continued support as a sustaining sponsor of the pediatric cardiac program in El Salvador. Hundreds of Salvadoran children have been given a second chance at life because of your generosity. Thank you for being a leader in turning despair to hope for Salvadoran children afflicted with congenital heart disease.

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. Our heartfelt thanks to Ivonne and Eli for always ensuring a smooth and successful training visit. Your dedication and hard work is greatly appreciated.
We wish to extend our gratitude to Lisa Beckman, Lead ICU Nurse, Nurse Trainer and mission coordinator, and Dr. Gabe Owens, Cardiologist/Intensivist and their incredible surgical and aftercare team from C. S. Mott Children’s Hospital/University of Michigan (the number three pediatric cardiac program in the United States) for assembling an excellent team who provided optimal care to the children during the mission week and shared knowledge and expertise with the Salvadoran team. A special thank you to Lisa Beckman for also providing the ICU nurses, OR nurses and respiratory therapists with one day of intensive training prior to the start of the mission to prepare them for the more complex cases scheduled for the coming week.

We wish to thank pediatric cardiac surgeon, Dr. Eric Devaney from San Diego for returning to Hospital Bloom with the Michigan team for the third time to provide continued skills transfer to the Salvadoran surgeons as the complexity of cases gradually increases.

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 December 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.

Our sincere thanks to Scientific Software Solutions for your generosity. Your informational books were very well-received and much appreciated by the Salvadoran team at Hospital Bloom. They are grateful to have a tool such as this to help them provide the best possible care to the children.

We wish to thank B-Braun for generously lending us 3 infusion pumps during the mission week to ensure easy and adequate medication administration for patients in the ICU at Hospital Bloom. Your generosity helped the aftercare teams provide the best possible care to each patient.

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.
A total of 10 children were treated during the December 2013 training visit to Hospital Bloom in San Salvador, El Salvador.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NAME</th>
<th>AGE</th>
<th>DIAGNOSIS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dennys</td>
<td>15 years</td>
<td>Atrial Septal Defect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jose</td>
<td>7 years</td>
<td>Ventricular Septal Defect</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fatima</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Tetrology of Fallot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jefferson</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Tetrology of Fallot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sofia</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Atrioventricular Canal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Alessandro</td>
<td>8 months</td>
<td>Atrioventricular Canal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leslie</td>
<td>1 year</td>
<td>Tetrology of Fallot</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lourdes</td>
<td>4 months</td>
<td>Atrioventricular Canal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Karen</td>
<td>1 month</td>
<td>Total Anomalous Pulmonary Venous Return</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andy</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>Atrial Septal Defect</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHILDREN WHO WERE OPERATED

Jose

Alessandro

Lourdes

Leslie

Fatima

Dennys

Jefferson

Sofia

Karen

Andy
CREATING A SUSTAINABLE PEDIATRIC CARDIAC CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA

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

Gift of Life International is a non-profit organization and is tax exempt according to IRS Code 501(c)3. Tax ID#56-2322626

WWW.GIFTOFLIFEINTERNATIONAL.ORG  WWW.LATIDOSDEESPERANZA.ORG.SV