DEVELOPING A SUSTAINABLE PEDIATRIC CARDIAC SURGERY AND AFTERCARE PROGRAM IN EL SALVADOR

LATIDOS DE ESPERANZA
Filial de Gift of Life International

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To our readers...

We are already at the halfway point of 2013, and our efforts to bring hope to children who require open heart surgery or catheterization procedures are ongoing. Through our efforts, we have been able to provide peace to many families and the gift of life to their children.

During the last three months we have put all our strength and energy into creating friendships with various companies and institutions that support us in each of our programs.

In addition, we have held multiple meetings with the Minister of Health, Dr. Maria Isabel Rodriguez, members of the Ministry of Health, Cardiac Association and other related institutions in order to strengthen the national program for cardiology and cardiovascular surgery to provide quality care to patients.

Our goal is to be an institution of reference for all those families who are struggling to improve the quality of life of a family member suffering from congenital heart disease. We will provide support, information and above all hope.

That is why we are working with altruistic institutions, companies, organizations and individuals to bring health, hope and care to all children and especially to increase social awareness about the despair that affects the Salvadoran population.

Sincerely,

Ivonne López
Executive Director
Latidos de Esperanza

April-June 2013
RESULTS OF DONATION BOXES IN ATENZA AND DIGICEL STORES

- Through the donation boxes placed in Attenza Duty Free Stores, sufficient funds were collected to provide Daysi with a catheterization procedure.

- Donations collected in the donation boxes placed in Digicel stores helped us provide Joseph with one year of nutritional assistance.

This would not have been possible without the constant support of the store employees and customers of Digicel and Attenza.

PLEASE CONTINUE TO DONATE!

TRAINING IN THE USE OF TRANSSESOPHAGEAL ECHOCARDIOGRAPHY

With the goal of increasing the skills of Salvadoran cardiologists and anesthesiologists and to provide them with new technology tools which will enable them to provide quality care to patients undergoing a heart procedure, practical and theoretical training on the use of transsesophageal echocardiography was given at Benjamin Bloom Hospital.

This workshop was provided by Dr. Pierre Wong, pediatric cardiologist specializing in echocardiography.

What is a TEE? Transsesophageal echocardiography (TEE as it is called) is a diagnostic procedure that uses echocardiography to assess heart function more clearly. It is performed by inserting a probe into the esophagus. The TEE can be used during surgery to assess the cardiac status of patients who undergo non-cardiac procedures, and during heart surgery to evaluate the effects of surgery on the heart.
Latidos de Esperanza is working to develop a program that not only contributes to the child’s physical recovery but also to their emotional recovery. To further the program’s development, Fredlee Kaplan, licensed marriage and family therapist gave a 2-day seminar in May entitled Humanized Patient Care aimed at social workers, play therapists, medical residents and staff.

The seminar is designed with the aim of training the staff to help families and children emotionally and psychologically cope with the stress of surgery and any medical intervention so families feel supported during the recovery of their children.

The topics addressed were:

• Sensory intervention with children
• Cognitive intervention with children
• Behavioral intervention
• Intervention for families
NUTRITIONAL ASSISTANCE AND VOCATIONAL SUPPORT

- During the second quarter, we have added three children and their families to the nutritional assistance program to ensure full recovery following their heart procedure. They are given a monthly package of food, vitamins and personal care products for a period of up to one year.

- Nutritionist Monica Lamb, Chaparrastique Rotary Club member has joined the family of Latidos de Esperanza, and will be responsible for quarterly evaluations of the children who receive their care package in San Miguel to verify the nutritional status of each one.

- Also, one of our families who benefited through the nutritional/vocational program showed interest in starting their own business selling clothes. For a 3 month period, the mother was supported through our program to help her start her own business. To date the business has been a success and has allowed her to provide a better life for her family.

CATHETERIZATIONS

Continuing with our catheterization program, over the last three months we have completed 12 procedures. 12 families have had tranquility and peace restored, families who had been waiting for years for their children to have a second chance at life. Today we can say mission accomplished.
CARNIVAL OF HOPE

A night where dreams came true; it was at the Carnival of Hope, San Salvador Rotary Club event organized to benefit humanitarian projects and specifically for the programs of the Latidos de Esperanza Foundation.

Over 500 people joined together at the event to bring hope to many children who remain on the waiting list and do not have the ability to access a procedure that will save their life.

The Rotary family once again continues to support the initiatives of Latidos de Esperanza. Thanks to this event, we will continue to ensure a healthy future for the children of El Salvador.

NUTRITIONAL PARTY

This past May our friends at PRADO joined to celebrate with Latidos de Esperanza children during their monthly nutritional distribution.

The party included face painting, games, gifts, and snacks. Both young and old enjoyed a party full of surprises and joy.
We have created a new project called Make It Feel Like Home. It is a project that aims to: **contribute to the physical and emotional recovery of children who have undergone heart surgery at Hospital Nacional de Niños Benjamín Bloom.**

Children admitted to the hospital remain away from their loved ones and their usual environment. The physical and emotional suffering may delay the recovery of the child and can hinder the relationship with the medical staff treating them. That is why this project has been developed to make them feel as comfortable and enjoyable as possible through the delivery of a kit for the 150 children who will undergo cardiac surgery this year and includes:

- **A bag to hold their items**
- **A hospital gown and shorts they will use during their stay and can take home**
- **A blanket**
- **Crayons and coloring book**
- **A plush toy or other age appropriate toy**

Each kit contains accessories that are designed to help the child feel comfortable, and distract them from the surgery or the hospital environment and allow them to focus on other interests. At the same time, they provide stimuli to help improve the mood of the child and their ability to cooperate with the medical staff treating them.

150 hospital gowns and shorts donated by Barbara Zeins, President of Gerson & Gerson.

150 bags donated by Digicel
SPECIAL THANKS FOR THIS QUARTER
April - June 2013

WWW.DIGICEL.COM.SV
WWW.MELHER.COM
WWW.HOSPITALDIAGNOSTICO.COM
WWW.LABSUIZO.COM
WWW.ATTENZA.NET

ROTARY CLUBS
• CUSCATLAN
• SANTA TECLA
• SAN SALVADOR
• SANTA ANA
• SAN MIGUEL SIRAMA
• CHAPARRASTIQUE
### CARING HEARTS OF THIS QUARTER

**April - June 2013**

#### VOLUNTEERS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Volunteers</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Nutritionist</td>
<td>Licda. Mónica Cordero</td>
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<tr>
<td>Family Therapist</td>
<td>Fredlee Kaplan</td>
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<td>Pediatric Cardiologist</td>
<td>Pierre Wong</td>
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<td>Arq. Rebeca de Cruz</td>
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<td>Lic. Armando Cruz</td>
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<td>Gerardo Durán</td>
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<td>Raúl Pineda</td>
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<td>Lucia Bolaños</td>
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#### CARING HEARTS

- Niall Mckornack
- David Castro
- Barbara Zeins
- Frieda de García

### COMING EVENTS

- **Medical Training Visit, Hearts with Hope Foundation:** July 21-27th
  (including Pediatric Cardiac Surgeon Dr. Giancarlo Crupi from Italy)
- **World Heart Day:** September 29th
- **Medical Training Visit, Boston Children´s Hospital/Chain of Hope:**
  October 7-11th
- **Medical Training Visit, University of Michigan:** December 2-6th