



Faces of Hope

# FACES OF HOPE

CELEBRATING OUR 5TH YEAR!

WINTER 2009

## ABOUT

### FACES OF HOPE

Faces of Hope is a children's health project started in 2004 by Bay Area District 5170, Rotary clubs.

We serve the needs of Guatemalan children born with cleft lips and palates who can not afford surgery any other way.

By providing these services and further support to our Guatemalan partners, Faces of Hope helps families overcome stigma and helps children to grow up with hope and confidence for their future.



## Love, Faith and Courage Tracey Walsh, Charter Member, Faces of Hope

We are called **Faces of Hope**. A team of volunteers who annually pack up medical supplies, stuffed animals, and hand made quilts, along with a few essentials and head south. Our receiving families are mostly Mayan language speaking and travel LONG distances, walking or riding a bus to be in Antigua for Opening Clinic.

I have learned of love, faith and courage from these gracious people. What would it take to carry your baby on your back while holding the hands of your other children for hours...spending what little money you have saved to get to a city far from your village? What would it take to wait for hours in the hospital for your child to be seen ... in hopes of bringing new possibilities for their life? Your little child that has been treated unkindly, due to something you cannot explain. They were born

a little 'less than perfect' in some way or were burned while playing over the open fire you cook on or unable to eat or talk due to an open palate in the roof of their mouth. A child with a crooked smile with teeth in places there should be none...BUT a smile no less...



These children have learned to smile with their eyes!

How much courage does it take for a mother or father to hand over their child to people that don't look like them or

speaking their language? How much faith must you have to pray the entire time your little one is in surgery...unsure as to what is happening behind the huge wooden doors...just trusting. More waiting... until someone calls your family name...so you can be dressed and brought into the recovery room. To walk in and burst into tears...at the sight of your child...that has never been called beautiful! Within the next 2-3 days your little one will have a new smile!

Faces of Hope heads south once again in mid July...new families will be waiting. Our thanks to those of you that have supported us in this service to humanity. We must find love, faith and courage to serve others...not just in Guatemala...but wherever we find them.

## From the Directors

Jolene Bortz, Oakland Sunrise, CA Rotary

Rose Padilla-Johnson, San Leandro, CA Rotary

Five years goes by in the blink of an eye. 2009 was our 5th birthday and another extraordinary year for Faces of Hope. We changed 87 futures in 5 days of surgery and expanded our services by aiding the only treatment center for burn victims in Guatemala. With our supporting Rotary Clubs we helped purchase a truck to bring healthcare into rural communities and brought our host hospital equipment

needed for their intensive care unit. The year was capped off by a musical celebration of our 5th birthday with our partners in Guatemala.

But we are not done. Planning for the future, we visited a new surgical site with hope to expand our annual trip and add additional patients. Stay tuned for 2010!

We are grateful to our volunteers, partners, patient families

and donors. We would thank you from the bottom of our hearts, but for you our hearts have no bottom.

Faces of Hope continues to grow to meet the emerging needs of those seeking medical care. We encourage you to support these efforts by making a tax deductible donation.

*Rose and Jolene*

## Expanding our Reach

Meet Isabel. She is a 13 year old from Sacapulas who came to us accompanied by her father. The pair endured a 2 hour walk and 6 hour bus ride to be evaluated for surgery. Isabel has severe burn scars covering nearly all of her neck and upper torso.

Treating burns is not new to our doctors, but what is new is our commitment to strengthen the capacity of the Burn Clinic.

This summer we brought nearly 50 lbs of supplies for the clinic, everything from compression fabric to thermoplastic for the treatment of

burn scars. Our support is helping the outpatient clinic at Roosevelt hospital with supplies, while our ongoing fundraising efforts are earmarked to outfit the new surgical unit for pediatric burn victims. This multiyear commitment will enable the founders: Dr. Fuenmayor and Dr. Santiso to provide quality care to children whose parents might not otherwise be able to afford the cost of treatment.

Isabel's scars were treated by our doctors during our time in Antigua. She was then transported to the clinic in the capital city by our partners at Obras del Hermano Pedro. She was treated over

the course of the next 3 weeks, receiving 2 skin grafts at the clinic. With help from our co-sponsoring Rotary Club, Guatemala Metropoli, Isabel's father was given room and board at a Ronald McDonald House during her treatment so that he could remain close to her. Isabel is now home and says she wants to be a doctor when she grows up!

We would like to thank Physicians for Peace, the Surgecenter of Palo Alto and the Palo Alto University Rotary Club for their help and support this past year and the Rotary Club of Los Gatos Morning for sponsoring the ongoing fundraising for the operating theatre.



Dr. Fuenmayor and Isabel

## Very Special Partners

Since the beginning, when our team flies to Guatemala...the medical supplies are packed with gifts of love for our patients. NEW soccer uniforms are donated by **Shirlee Roeder, Half Moon Bay AYSO and SCORE Uniforms.** Futbol in Central America is THE sport! You should see the excitement of these young patients as they try on the new uniforms for the first time! EVERYONE loves soccer!



In addition, our patients...both small and large are wrapped in a handmade quilt as they leave surgery. When their parents

are called into the recovery room they find their child beautifully wrapped in a colorful quilt! Our thanks to **Piece-Makers by the Sea** of Half Moon Bay, California, **Wrap a Smile** of Wells, Maine and our quilting friends in Santa Rosa, Arcata and Eureka, California for their BIG contribution to Faces of Hope.

As the team is raising funds for the next mission, the materials manager is ordering the medical supplies, the team is being staffed and the **many** behind the scenes details are being handled...our friends from around the USA are quilting with love.



# Love abounds at Casa de Fe

Jessica Johnson, Pleasanton, CA and  
Cyndy FitzGerald, Scotts Valley, CA Rotary

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Our Casa team worked hard to provide a welcoming environment for patients' families. The team jumped in and became acclimated with both Antigua and the Casa. From shopping for the week's food at the open air market, to preparing the meals throughout the week, our team engaged in hands on experiences to serve the children, parents, grandparents, and siblings.

This year we introduced art therapy to the families. The children and parents participated in art activities to draw favorite animals and home scenes as well as to provide ways to express their feelings and provide distractions from pain. The team helped the children to make puppets, fold paper hats and boats, color in coloring books, play card games, put puzzles together, and blow bubbles. The bonding of our team and the families were heartwarming for everyone involved with Faces of Hope.

Interactive healthy lifestyle activities with parents provided another positive addition to our work this year at Casa. Parents watched multi-lingual videos on wound care and hygiene to facilitate their children's healing process and their families' overall health. These videos

were created by our partner, Compañeros en Salud. It was amazing to see the parents watch the videos and absorb the information. The parents also participated in a tooth brushing demonstration. The team had a great time teaching the parents and children while several parents translated for us. The laughter could be heard all through Casa as we engaged in mutual learning.



Hopefully with each mission we will build upon our successes and continue to grow with our new volunteers and the families we serve.

## Future Humanitarians

Sandy Hawley,  
UCLA School of Nursing, Class of 2011

*Annually, Faces of Hope brings 1-2 medical students on our trip to enhance their education and expose them to the joy of making humanitarian service a part of their future medical career.*

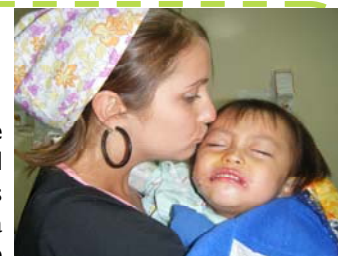
*In 2009 we were proud to have Sandy Hawley and Melanie Lamprecht with us. Melanie is a medical student at Touro University and Sandy is a nursing student at UCLA.*

As a nursing student, I never imagined I would be invited to come on an international medical mission, much less with such an amazing group of people. The nurses on the trip were truly inspiring and helped me put the knowledge I had acquired over the last three years of school into practice. I returned having learned not only from observation, but hands-on experience.

They taught me to administer professional and compassionate care. I was able to speak with parents, comfort babies as they awoke after surgery, work

alongside exceptional doctors and build a strong base of fundamental nursing skills.

On our final day in Antigua, we saw all of the children smiling through newly repaired lips. It was the most rewarding day of my life and I have never been so sure that I want to be a nurse. Faces of Hope is an incredible team, an unforgettable experience and I feel privileged to have been a part of it.



## A night in the Ruins



The ruins of San Jose El Viejo in Antigua was the backdrop for an enchanted evening of classical music celebrating Faces of Hope's 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The evening began with inspired performances by a soprano and a pianist. The evening's highlight was our very own, Dr. Christopher Rumery's solo performance accompanied by Maestro Igor Saramientos and his orchestra in this ancient setting. The enchanted, candlelit venue was eclipsed only by our own Chris' trumpet playing.

Our team shared this delightful evening with local Rotarians, staff and volunteers from our partner organizations. The musical performance was followed by a wine reception.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Drs. Jesse Dominguez and Christopher Rumery for sponsoring the evening, to Rotarians Richard Rivera for coordinating the event, Jeanette Umana for marketing and Brad Howard for managing the evening. It was indeed, a special birthday celebration.

# Thanks to you 2009 was a great year!

In five years, Faces of Hope has seen over 500 patients. We could not have done that without the constant unwavering support of our many Rotary Clubs and other partners who have helped us to do this work.

We thank all of the people and groups who have given to Faces of Hope.

## Special Thanks to:

The Rotary Foundation of  
Rotary International

MAP International  
Americares  
Surgecenter of Palo Alto  
Physicians for Peace

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**Faces of Hope**

Find us at  
[www.Rotary5170.org/Faces](http://www.Rotary5170.org/Faces)

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