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Faces of Hope

# FACES OF HOPE

CELEBRATING OUR 6TH YEAR!

WINTER 2010

## 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.



## The Bucket List, Revised

Jon McSorley, Los Gatos Morning, CA Rotary

It wasn't long after I turned 55 that I started making my mental Bucket list. Like most middle-aged men, my list contained fast cars I was going to drive, mountains I was going to get in shape to climb, & exotic countries I was going to visit. One that often crept into my mind was traveling to help those in need.

Not speaking a foreign language, I thought my options were limited. But fate smiled on me. Thru my Rotary club I learned about Faces of Hope. Although most of the team are medical professionals, they did take a few non-medical volunteers. The volunteers coordinate activities like medical records, photography, or serving as nurse's or doctor's aide. So, I pleaded my case and packed my bags.

My job with Faces of Hope was

as a Ward Coordinator. It may sound pretty fancy, but in fact I was a: doctor's assistant, bed maker, IV monitor and all around "go get me this" for the three pediatricians that worked in Post-Operative Ward.



The first few days, I was an absolute wreck. I couldn't seem to get anything right; seeing children with stitched faces and worried parents had me running out in panic or tears. But something happened around day three. I started to feel competent. I was

helping and give comfort with a smile. I stopped looking at the disfigured faces as sad but instead saw the wonderful opportunity they had been given and how having a repaired mouth changed their lives and opened up opportunities they might never have had.

The parent would sit on a steel chair next to the bed, day after day. The first day I felt odd in hospital scrubs, like I was dressing up in costume, by the end I felt comfortable, honored to wear them and what they represented. On the tenth day we saw all the patients we had cared for and it was as proud of a moment as I have ever remembered. The work was grueling, the people I worked with were truly wonderful and the parents and kids gave me faith in the future of humanity.

## From the Directors

Jolene Bortz, Oakland Sunrise, CA Rotary

Rose Padilla-Johnson, San Leandro, CA Rotary

We are humbled to work with our dedicated cadre of volunteers and donors. We debrief and evaluate each trip, examine what went well, where we can improve and layout the plans for the following year. We are happy to share that the 2010 mission was among the best in our history.

Each of you, whether on the ground or back home in support, bring skill, experience and above all, your commitment to helping the less fortunate. It is because of YOU that these children's lives are changed.

Your compassion and wisdom are the hallmark of our Faces family. Our parents are forever grateful for giving their child a new opportunity at life. These parents entrust their most precious commodity, their child, to us and they have unconditional faith that we will be the helping hand they need. This year and for the last 6 years you have risen to the challenge and have transformed the lives of those who believe in Faces of Hope.

Faces of Hope continues to meet the emerging needs of those seeking medical care. We

encourage you to support these efforts by making a tax deductible donation. We have exciting plans for expansion in 2011 and you will learn more as we fine tune those plans.

*Rose & Jolene*



# Future Humanitarians

Annually, *Faces of Hope* brings 6-8 young adults on our trip to expose them to the joy of making humanitarian service a part of their future.

In 2010 we were proud to have 6 outstanding young people ranging from 17-24. These young adults are on various career and education paths. During their time with us they provide comfort and fun for our patients and their families who are far from home.

The following is written by Jessica Johnson, leader of the Casa de Fe team, a recent college graduate and is now a teacher at Head Start, Livermore CA.

The Casa de Fe team is primarily comprised of the children or family members of the medical and non-medical Faces of Hope mission members. The opportunity to join this team has been for me and many of the young volunteers a life changing opportunity.

The members of my team spend the time with patients and their families that few others on the team have the time to. We provide activities that are both fun, supportive and educational for the families. Faces of Hope has always encouraged young volunteers to pursue their goals. For some, the experience has encouraged them to go on to medical or nursing school. For me it has fur-

ther encouraged my pursuit of a degree in teaching and primary education. The Casa mission has given each of us an opportunity to examine and recommit to our goals. We are thankful to our parents, to our mission team members for this incredible opportunity to grow and mature in our thoughts, minds and above all, our hearts.



## Reaching Beyond

Part of our mission is to have an enduring effect not just on our patients but on the partners with whom we work and who serve our patients even when we are not there. During our 2010 trip, the team saw 2 completed projects started by members of our team on previous trips.

The first was the outfitting of a surgical theatre for the treatment of burn reconstruction at Clinica de Quemaduras Infantiles. The second was the purchase

of a new 4 wheel drive pickup for use by Companeros en Salud. Outreach workers travel great distances over rough terrain, often on foot, to visit with the families of our young patients.

The operating room and truck, procured by Rotary Foundation Grants, and many Rotary clubs led by the Rotary Club of Los Gatos Morning, California give the reconstructive surgeons and outreach workers the ability to effect a much wider population of patients.



**Yes, I want to support Faces of Hope**

**In six years, Faces of Hope has seen over 600 patients. We could not have done that without the support of our many partners.**

### Special Thanks to:

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Checks can be made payable to the **D5170 Foundation/Faces of Hope** and mailed to:

**516 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA 94610**

Or you can make a donation via PayPal by clicking [HERE](#).