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Faces of Hope

FACES OF HOPE

CELEBRATING OUR 8TH YEAR!

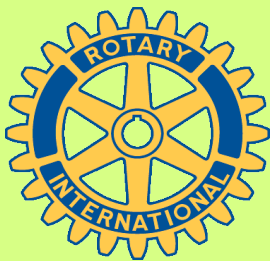
SPRING 2013

ABOUT FACES OF HOPE

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

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 our continued support of our Guatemalan partners, Faces of Hope helps families overcome stigma, helps children to grow up with hope for their future and helps further our Rotary motto of Service Above Self.



The ways we grow

A new term for the Faces of Hope team in 2012 was VTT. We launched a successful endeavor last summer to achieve our long term goal of furthering the education of local Guatemalan medical school students.

VTT stands for Vocational Training team. It is a term used by Rotary International to describe a group of professionals who travel to another country to teach local professionals about a particular field.

Our 2012 VTT focused on our pediatric Anesthesiologists. The Faces of Hope (FOH) Pediatric Anesthesia VTT conducted a 1-day seminar, attended by more than 75 Guatemalan medical residents chosen because of their interest in Pediatric Anesthesia. The seminar was pre-

sented by our international team including: 1 plastic surgeon specializing in facial deformities, 3 Pediatric Anesthesiologists, and 2 general anesthesiologists all have worked with the



FOH team in Guatemala for the past 8 years. Post seminar surveys indicated robust interest from the Guatemalans and a profound desire from our team to deepen our partnerships.

Eighteen residents were further invited to work with our medi-

cal team at Obras Sociales de Hermano Pedro hospital. Each day, 3 to 4 residents were assigned to an operating suite, learning cutting-edge techniques and participated hands-on with cases of cleft lip and palate surgeries. The program was overseen by our Medical Director, VTT Team and host hospital personnel. Video and written surveys from the residents indicated a high level of satisfaction and the desire to participate in a future project, and to volunteer in the future as a physician in order to "give back" to their country.

All in All, we are very proud of our first steps toward broadening the reach of our work and that of our partners.

From the Directors

Jolene Bortz, Oakland Sunrise, CA Rotary

Rose Padilla-Johnson, San Leandro, CA Rotary

We are honored to be a part of a group of dedicated individuals committed to helping change the lives of the most needy in Guatemala.

We have accomplished much in the past eight years thanks to each and every one of you. We delivered a successful educational seminar last summer, added the second housing unit to mitigate illness, brought in local medical

residents to work side by side with our anesthesiologists and provided life changing surgery to nearly 90 children! On our end, we conducted a team survey which will help us improve and strengthen our infrastructure; commissioned a photo presentation following 4 families from 2012 as well as a short documentary style video of the VTT, and we committed to launch our own website – facesofhope-anitgua.org

– soon to go live! This past year has been a year of change and growth. As we prepare for the 2013 we invite you to give us feedback.

Rose and Jolene



Growing up with FoH

Since our beginning, Faces of Hope has strived to use our annual trips to develop the humanitarians of the future. We encourage team members to bring their over- 18 youth to work with our medical personnel and volunteers. It has been our hope to cultivate their sense of service to the greater world.

We have had many young people travel with us over the years, some have come back to serve as leaders on the team. Jessica Johnson who we met as a college student working toward a degree in Education has served for several years

as the leader of our Casa de Fe convalescent team.

In 2012 we welcomed our first child of Faces of Hope as a full-fledged medical team member. After participating several times as a member of the Casa de Fe team and finishing nursing school, Jennifer Rumery participated in the 2012 trip as a member of the nursing staff. We are extremely proud of the role we have played in her education and exposure to volunteering in her chosen field.

We look forward to having her return in 2013 and beyond.



Jennifer Rumery, RN and her father Chris Rumery, MD

Encouraging Progress for all

Barbara D. Johnson, RN, PhD.

Rotary International has provided me with the opportunity to participate in activities to accommodate the needs of others. As a Registered Nurse volunteer for Faces of Hope (FOH) since 2007. An estimated one in seven hundred children worldwide are born with an orofacial cleft, and those born in Guatemala often lack access to corrective surgery. Without treatment they face a lifetime of hardships; delays in growth and speech, hearing loss and the ridicule that often accompanies facial disfigurement.



I soon realized that the foundation for service established by Rotary International also represented an opportunity to learn. I became interested in ways to measure the efforts and outcomes of FOH volunteers, and enrolled in a Ph.D program at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF), with an emphasis on global health. Rotary was with me all the way.

Willing to engage in defining and measuring the service provided by FOH our mission director participated directly in the process of obtaining Institutional Review Board approval from UCSF. This included required instruction about

research ethics and the protection of human subjects. She agreed without hesitation. This was followed by her willingness to provide me with access to the medical records of our patients for evaluation. Unafraid of what the analysis might reveal, FOH was prepared to confront the results unflinchingly, demonstrating the embodiment of the principal of service above self. FOH believed there was always more to learn and they welcomed the challenge not merely of service, but the possibility to improve it. Thus, an in depth analysis of surgical quality and outcomes, benchmarked with US national standards, was begun.

After four years the results are in. I was awarded a Ph.D in nursing from UCSF and selected as a Global Health Scholar. The research indicated that the work done by FOH volunteers is of comparable quality to that performed in the US. The children that experienced surgical complications were found to be severely undernourished which hindered wound healing. The study also demonstrated that children who came to us with an illness, or contracted it while waiting for surgery, were at greater risk for anesthetic complications. Analysis of eligibility, those children selected for surgery, revealed patterns that will help efforts designed to maximize access.

True to form, the FOH team has used this knowledge to make changes aimed at improving the mission. A nutrition

and public health program have been developed to support children in achieving the best possible surgical outcomes. The mission is also working with our partners in the field with patient selection. These efforts will help prevent a long and costly journey for hopeful families that may end in disappointment if their child does not receive surgery.

There is still work to be done. In the US children born with cleft lip can expect to receive surgical repair at approximately 10 weeks and those with cleft palate at 12-18 months. The average age for our FOH patients was over three years. This means many months of suffering for these children because they were born into poverty and lack access to corrective repair. Thank you Rotary International and Faces of Hope, it has been a privilege to serve.



Yes, I want to support Faces of Hope.

Faces of Hope is a part of the Rotary 5170 Foundation, a tax exempt 501(c) (3). All gifts are tax deductible. Checks can be made payable to **D5170 Foundation/Faces of Hope** and mailed to: 516 Grand Ave., Oakland, CA 94610

For more information please contact Jolene Bortz or Rose Johnson at jbortz@howardtours.net or rjohnson@davisstreet.org