



**Healing  
the  
Children®**  
SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

December 2010

**SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR—HOSPITAL  
BENJAMIN BLOOM—OCTOBER 2010**

What could be better? By special invitation, two excellent urology surgeons from University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, **Drs. Jason Wilson and Ismael Zamilpa**, and a great nurse from Presbyterian Hospital, **Paul Gallegos**, worked side-by-side with local Salvadoran surgeons Drs. Uriel Perez and Eduardo Rodriguez from October 23-30, 2010. Twenty three children received surgery for such problems as neurogenic bladder, hypospadias, and urethral fistulas. One mom said she had waited 3 ½ years for her son’s surgery.

Many Thanks to this surgical team and to Regalo de Vida for bringing lunch daily. Also our appreciation to UNMH surgery for saving discarded items for our medical missions.



**INFORMATION :**

- > Are you a member of Facebook? Become a fan of HTC: enter Healing the Children Southwest in the search box
- > Do you want to receive newsletters and other information via email? Join our email list by sending your address to [htc\\_sw@hotmail.com](mailto:htc_sw@hotmail.com)
- > Donate to Healing the Children via PayPal on our web-site: [www.htcsw.org](http://www.htcsw.org) (click “How You Can Help”)

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**ECUADOR IN 2011**

Board Director Bobbye Krehbiel traveled to Ecuador to have a look at hospitals that were requesting surgical help. She was joined by Dr. Cecilia Prieto (also at her own expense), long time supporter of HTCSW who is now practicing in Dallas. A plastics mission (Drs. George Hoerr - Virginia and David Obedorfer - Kansas) will go to La Troncal in March; ENT (Dr. Ed Hepworth - Colorado) and Plastics (Dr. William Loufty- Albuquerque) will go to Canar in October 2011. **Anesthesia and nursing are needed for the missions.** Please help spread the word. Missions to El Salvador and Guatemala for 2011 have not been scheduled at the time this newsletter goes to press. Interested surgeons should contact HTC at 505-228-1404.

### A STORY YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS



In 2006, Manuel Juarez was screened in his home country of El Salvador by visiting cardiologist Steve Yabek, MD from Albuquerque. Rita Lavin (HTCSW) with the help of Valerie Boesen, found Dr. Richard Mainwaring, MD a cardiac surgeon from Sacramento, CA who agreed to do the surgery. Sutter Hospital and the Landman family also came on board, and in 2007 Manuel had successful surgery. (You may remember the happy post-surgery photo; Manuel is second from left). He did well with surgery, but good nutrition was escap-

ing his family back home. (The father is an unskilled laborer who earns \$160 per month.) In 2009 his mother, Martina, received nutrition training, some minor business education, and a micro loan via Gift of Life (Regalo de Vida), one of our wonderful partners in El Salvador. She started a "firewood business" and has since repaid her original loan. Manuel is now much healthier, and the family is doing better because an extra \$60 per month profit can purchase a lot of fresh food.

### INCREDIBLE DEVOTION TO A CHILD FROM A LOCAL ALBUQUERQUE FAMILY



Nelson was born in Tegucigalpa, Honduras in 1998 with severe Tetralogy of Fallot (defects in the heart) and came to the US for repair. His condition was severe and he received only a shunt at that time. He stayed with his host parents, Kindra and Lenny Martinez and their children. As Nelson grew older, in November 2001 and again in August 2005 he underwent more repairs at Presbyterian Hospital and again stayed with his host parents Kindra and Lenny Martinez and their children. The doctors at Presbyterian Pediatric Cardiology Associ-

ates of New Mexico have followed his progress through the years as echocardiograms are sent from Honduras. He is now over the target weight of 30 kg and can have the next surgery. Because Presbyterian Hospital is no longer taking patients from outside the US a new hospital has to be located. This is Nelson with his sister, Kindra Sophia.

Donors wishing to continue support of Nelson should contact HTCSW.

### SCRUBS FUNDRAISER



We have received a second donation of new scrubs (primarily women's tops) to sell in order to raise some much needed dollars. We are still looking for someone in New Mexico to take this on as a project.

If you would like to help sell the scrubs at your favorite weekend flea market, or have other ideas, please let us know! (505 228-1404 or [htc\\_sw@hotmail.com](mailto:htc_sw@hotmail.com))

The amount of money raised could help at least 25 children in the Albuquerque and Santa Fe area.

RIO HONDO, ZACAPA, GUATEMALA - HOSPITAL GUSTAVO - NOVEMBER 2010

One week after the El Salvador mission, **Dr. Vicki Anton-Athens** made her 5<sup>th</sup> podiatry mission to Guatemala, this time to a new hospital, near Teculután, west of the capital. It is always a challenge visiting a new hospital, but they made everything work and served 25 children. The team included attending surgeons **James Hill** (back for the 4<sup>th</sup> time), **Chris Olenech** (2<sup>nd</sup> mission), **Guy Pupp**, and **Julie Fraser**; residents **Josh Morris** (2<sup>nd</sup> mission), **Trevor Whiting**, **Sheila Feaster**, **Bobby Koivunen**; nurses: **Sherri Polgar** (3<sup>rd</sup> mission); **Michelle Gon-yea** (2<sup>nd</sup> mission), **Debbie Stathakis**,

**Kathy, Mary Compeau, Melissa Brzys, Debbie Stathakis, Angela Viger, Kelly Terrian, Support: Connor Olenech, Gabriella Gallo, and Marisol Yurrita (for HTCSW)**

A week after the mission, Drs. Athens, Hill, and Fraser participated in a follow-up session via SKYPE. We received this email from Ana Fratti, one of the founders of the hospital: "...(*none*) of the patients had any problem; they did not have any infection, any pain and were very happy to come back to the hospitalito and more happy to leave some of them without cast and others with a new cast but without infection or pain. We had very nice experiences asking the patients how they

*feel, and what they are going to do from now on. One respond "play" another ask ¿when he can run? and Dr. Hernandez (the follow up doctor) said "tomorrow" and he said!!!!!!TOMORROW!!!!!!! yea, yea, yea, we feel like crying for all this wonderful experiences. Since we meet Vicky our lives change because she is a different person, she has a lot of humanity and compassion of the children. Our little hospital is open for any person or institution that wants to come and help the poor people of our country. From the bottom of our hard we THANK YOU for the entire wonderful job you did, it was more than we expect and God will bless you forever."*



## GOODSEARCH / GOODSHOP

Do you know that you can be helping Healing the Children SW just by using Goodsearch as your search engine?

Just go to:

[www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and add Healing the Children Southwest in the "search for" box. Every time you search for anything, HTCSW will receive a small donation. And every time you shop through Good-

shop, up to 35% will be donated depending on the merchant. This is a significant way to donate to HTC, particularly during the holidays!

Thus far in 2010 Healing the Children SW has received **\$282** just from these two simple acts. Please consider using Goodsearch and Goodshop for your online needs.



HEALING THE  
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Find us on the web at:

[www.htcsw.org](http://www.htcsw.org)

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**HARDSHIP RELIEF PROGRAM NEEDS RELIEF!**

**We need your help!**

**Help us keep this important program running in 2011!**



What would you do if you were homeless, without money and your child needed albuterol medication for severe asthma? Families have been turning to Healing the Children for needs like this and for other emergency issues since 1989. They also call on us if they have a child with special needs who simply requires something that will ease the burden of care for the family such as a specialized chair for the bathtub.

Every time you eat at one of our Restaurant Fundraisers, make a donation, or give us five boxes of un-opened Pampers, you support the **Hardship Relief Project**.

We are out of funds for this important service of HTC which serves children in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Area, and we cannot write more grants until next summer.

Please think of HTC as you write donation checks this month.

Thank you for attending the "Restaurant Fundraisers" (the next one will be in February; we notify supporters by email) and for using [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) when you make purchases on line.