

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS OF SERVING CHILDREN

Two hundred and forty guests joined together at Canoe Brook Country Club this past May to celebrate the provision of medical care to thousands of children who otherwise would not have received the care they needed.



Dana Robinson-Grim honored by Dr. Raj Chowdary



Diane Calesnick, HTCNJ Board President, congratulates Dr. Lloyd Gayle

This year, five very deserving honorees, as well as the Sisters of Christian Charity, received awards for their outstanding volunteer service. It was delightful to see their families, friends and colleagues at the Gala to celebrate the generous contributions these honorees have made.

Healing the Children exists because of the generous donations of time and energy from our volunteers. The Gala is our main fund-raiser and provides the funds necessary so that we may continue with our three great programs; International Inbound, the Medical Teams Abroad and Domestic Aid. We deeply appreciate and need your support to continue this worthwhile work.

**Please mark your calendars for the next year's event, scheduled for April 1,
and join us in helping to improve children's lives.**



Sr. Jane Frances Brady awarded by Dr. Frank Light



Lifetime Achievement Awardonorees
Jonathan & Tijana Hitchon



Sisters Mary Edward and Immaculata receive
award from Denise Malsky, of HTCNJ.

Heartfelt thanks from the HTCNJ Board of Trustees to everyone who attended and who has given their support throughout the years! You make it possible for us to continue our work of providing medical care to children both locally and worldwide.

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A huge thank you to Merck Employees Federal Credit Union

who held their Annual Golf Benefit to raise funds for Healing the Children NJ on August 15th at the Eagle Ridge Gold Club in Lakewood, NJ. We would like to thank Raymond Del Nero, President of Merck Employees FCU and everyone involved with this wonderful yearly event for their generous support over the years.



A special note from the President of The Board of Trustees

Healing the Children® New Jersey is currently seeking an extraordinary person to volunteer as our Interim Executive Director. This person would be responsible for programs, fund raising (particularly with corporate donors) and friend-raise, utilize social media and write grants.

HTCNJ is able to provide care to so many children who would otherwise go without care because our volunteers commit incredible energy to this important cause. Would you like to join us and become an integral part of our team? Please contact Denise Malsky at 973-949-5034 to discuss contributing to this unique and worthwhile organization.

Gratefully,
Diane Calesnick

Running For a Cause

On Sunday, September 18th, Katherine Onello, a sophomore at Mount St. Dominick in Caldwell NJ ran in Philadelphia's Rock & Roll Half Marathon to benefit HTCNJ because she wanted to help children in need. Through her fundraising efforts, Katie raised \$1,100.00! We cannot thank Katie enough for her hard work and support!



Car Wash Benefits HTCNJ



Jessica Waldeyer, a student at Manasquan High School decided she wanted to do something for HTCNJ after learning about the organization from her mother, Christine, who recently wrote an article about HTCNJ for Exceptional Parent Magazine. She decided to organize a car wash at her school. Her tremendous efforts raised \$500 to be used to help children locally and around the world. Thank you Jessica!

A Special Thank You

Jamie Ripke-Reading Specialist at School 12 in Clifton, NJ organized a district wide Teacher's Dress Down Day on April 1st. Over \$2,000 was raised to benefit Healing the Children New Jersey. HTCNJ thanks Jamie for her hard work! We would also like to thank Richard

Tardalo, Superintendent of Schools and Assistant Superintendent Mark Tietjen for their support of her efforts.

If you know anyone who would be interested in organizing a Dress Down Day at their office or school, please contact the HTCNJ office.



You can also show your support by shopping on Amazon Smile or join iGive.com



Cesar from Peru receives lifesaving surgery!

Healing the Children New Jersey was first contacted by Kevin Hurley, our in-country partner in Peru, in September of 2014. He was looking for help for a child who had a brain tumor. We knew that Cesar's case would not be easy - but neurosurgeon Dr. Lauren Schwartz responded with "we could save this child's life". HTCNJ secured the help of Saint Barnabas Medical Center, along with two volunteer host families and proceeded to make all the necessary arrangements to bring Cesar to New Jersey. Following are the reflections of host mom, Rosemarie Gelber, on her experience hosting Cesar.

Just one more struggling child in this enormous universe whose life was slipping away. Why should one be so concerned about him? There are an infinite number of children like him, all struggling to survive. So why him, and why us?

Well, I guess that being a parent for many years has drastically changed the way I look at things. Instead of 'one more struggling child', I can't help but see this anonymous child in a way as my own child. I see this child slowly losing his life, and can't imagine the incredible anguish his parents feel. So okay...my family will host one more child.

Enter Cesar - an 11 y.o. with a brain tumor. Although not malignant, it is growing at a rate that will shortly end his life. He steps off the plane at Newark Airport into the embrace of our family and that of neighbors Jon and Tijana Hitchon with whom we will co-host. This playful child, with a shy sense of humor and a big appetite for Nutella, slowly winds his way into our hearts. While here, Dr. Lauren Schwartz and St. Barnabas Medical Center undertake his complicated and lengthy treatment. Cesar proves tough to treat, but the team which cares for him never wavers in its goal. As Cesar slowly recovers, Children's Specialized Hospital donates two weeks to strengthening him mentally and physically, and the Sisters of Christian Charity in Mendham generously join in providing his care.

Finally, Cesar is ready to return to his family that so desperately gave him over to total strangers in order to keep him alive. At the last moment in the airport waiting area, he grabs hard onto my leg - and asks me to stay with him. Although he flies home - happy and healed - to his family's waiting arms, memories of his beautiful smile remain here in New Jersey with us.

So many people participated in helping this child to overcome the huge obstacle he faced. I feel privileged to have been part of a large team of individuals who were able to see beyond themselves to the inside of any parents heart. It gives me renewed faith in human-kind, and a feeling of profound joy for having been able to play a small part in this amazing journey of healing that Cesar found here in New Jersey.



A huge thank you to American Airlines/Miles for Kids in Need Program and Airline Ambassadors International-Medical Transport Program for partnering with HTC to provide free travel and safely escorting children to and from the U.S. to receive care.

For information on how you can become a host family, contact Denise Malsky at the HTCNJ office.

Guayaquil, Ecuador – Pediatric Urology Medical Trip – February 2016



At the invitation of Dr. Jorge Ocana, Pediatric Urologist in Guayaquil, Ecuador, Healing the Children New Jersey returned to the Hospital de Nino's Roberto Gilbert, with a team of 19 volunteers for the week of January 30-February 6, 2016 to provide pro bono surgery for children with serious urologic conditions. Ms. Isabel Valdez de Escala and the Junta de Beneficencia de Guayquil, a local organization dedicated to helping children, was instrumental with planning the trip and assisting HTCNJ with logistics.



Our volunteer team, led by Dr. Richard Schlusel, during the course of one week, provided surgery for 26 children. Many of the surgeries were complex procedures to correct congenital urologic conditions. After working long hours at the hospital, the HTCNJ team returned home to the US knowing they had made a huge difference in the lives of children treated by our team!



Ms. Josiane Hickson, RN a volunteer from Berkeley College, interviewed two families at length about their child's condition and the care provided by Healing the Children. Josiane spoke with Ashley and Dayana's families and was struck by the sincere gratitude expressed by these families.



Left: **Ashley, 2 ½ years**, has already had three surgeries in her life, the last one provided by the HTCNJ team. She told the HTC volunteers that she wants to be a doctor when she grows up! Her parents, Jorge and Christina are extremely grateful for the care provided to their daughter.

Right: **Dayana, age 6**, and her family traveled 4 ½ hours by bus for her to receive surgical treatment by the HTCNJ team! Her father Bernaldo stated "I will do whatever I can to make sure she is like all the other children". Following her surgery, Dayana was recovering well and told the HTC team "I want to play with my friends, I miss them!"



HTCNJ continues to help local children throughout New Jersey.

Jeremy, age 4 ½, diagnosis is several developmental disabilities requires continual custodial care. HTCNJ assisted with over the counter items needed for personal care.



A Letter of Thanks!

Dear Healing the Children NJ, I am writing on behalf of my patient, Norris & his family to thank you for your very generous financial assistance to purchase PediaSure. Norris has complex medical needs and through your organization's generosity and advocacy, he was able to get the formula he needs for his tube feedings. Children's Specialized Hospital and this family truly appreciate your support and your dedication to children with special needs & their families.

*Sincerely,
Shannon Swope*



Domenick, age 1 ½, diagnosis is global developmental delays/premature birth. HTCNJ assisted by paying for swim classes at the local YMCA to help develop strength and coordination, listening skills and socialization.