



**Healing  
the  
Children®**  
NEW JERSEY, INC.

## UPCOMING MEDICAL TRIPS

October, 2018  
La Romana, Dominican Republic  
Ear, Nose & Throat



November, 2018  
La Romana, Dominican Republic  
Ophthalmology



January, 2019  
Guayaquil, Ecuador  
Orthopedic



February, 2019  
Guayaquil, Ecuador  
Ophthalmology



March, 2019  
Guayaquil, Ecuador  
Urology



April, 2019  
Trujillo, Peru  
Ophthalmology

### SAVE THE DATE!

### *A Night of Celebration*

Friday, March 29, 2019

Park Avenue Club

Florham Park, NJ

6:30 pm

HTCNJ

FALL 2018

# IMPACT

## NEWSLETTER

### President's Message

The number of poor children in developing countries who do not have access to medical care is growing. Corrective surgeries, often taken for granted in the United States, dramatically improve a child's life giving them the confidence to grow and develop. HTCNJ recognizes that increasing needs require additional services, and is currently planning six medical trips abroad in 2019, as well as working hard to secure new Volunteer Host Families.

HTCNJ "always leaves the lights on" for children desperate for medical care. How could we not? They are the future, and they will remember.

We remain grateful to all of our supporters and volunteers. We couldn't do it without you!

Diane Calesnick, President, Board of Trustees

## TOGETHER WE ARE MAKING DREAMS COME TRUE

In June, HTCNJ sent twenty-seven volunteers to Leon Becerra Hospital in Guayaquil to provide free surgical care to children born with eye misalignment. The team screened 202 children and performed 184 procedures on 109 children. They also ran a refraction clinic and purchased fifty-seven eyeglasses for needy children. The children and their parents travelled

from forty-seven cities in Ecuador seeking medical treatment from American doctors. Dr. Bruce Schnall led a team of leading ophthalmologists including: Dr. Jay Calesnick, Dr. Mary O'Hara, Dr. Amy Wexler, and Dr. Maureen Lloyd. "If left untreated strabismus could lead to permanent damage and even vision loss, as well as negatively affect a child's emotional health, social relationships, and self-image," said Dr. Calesnick.



To learn more about Healing the Children NJ, please visit our website at [htcnj.org](http://htcnj.org).

## CHILDREN YOU HAVE HELPED

“We are forever grateful to HTCNJ for your generosity!”

- Mother



James is a sixteen-year-old boy who is legally blind. HTCNJ provided financial assistance for James to attend Camp Marcella for a week this summer.

“Mateo had a great time at camp! As always, thank you for what you do for our kids!”

Pam Benloulou, LSW Early Intervention



Mateo is a four-year-old boy diagnosed with autism. HTCNJ provided financial assistance for Mateo to attend a two-week camp this summer.

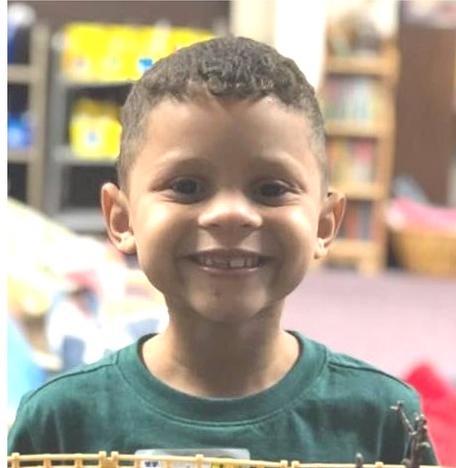
Yazan is a two-year-old boy diagnosed with global developmental delays.



HTCNJ provided financial assistance for Yazan to attend swim classes to improve his gross motor strength.

## HTCNJ WELCOMES EDUARDO

Eduardo Antonio Nicasio Gomez, a six-year-old-boy from the Dominican Republic, arrived in New Jersey in September to undergo a series of tests for gastrointestinal abnormalities. Dr. Rajinder Gandhi, Dr. Jeffrey Bienstock, and The Valley Hospital in Ridgewood have generously agreed to donate their services. Hosted by the Alectoridis family in Clifton, Eduardo is attending Rainbow Montessori where he is enjoying the company of children his age.



“When we met Eduardo at Newark Airport he immediately stole our hearts. We are looking forward to helping him through his surgery so that he can return home to his family as soon as possible,” said Jackie Alectoridis.

There are numerous children seeking life-changing surgical care through our International Inbound Program. HTCNJ is looking for new Volunteer Host Families to open their home and hearts while a child undergoes treatment in New Jersey.

## MENDED KIDS ARE HAPPY KIDS

The Alectoridis family cried tears of happiness when they said goodbye to Aydin at the airport in July. Aydin was born with a rare condition called nasal encephalocele, in which the protective structures around his brain did not form properly early in development. A gap in his skull let his brain push forward into his nasal cavity. After a nine-month stay, two successful surgeries, and much-needed dental work, Aydin was reconciled with his family in Guatemala.

“HTCNJ is grateful to Dr. Sylvio Podda, Dr. Richard Anderson, Dr. Helenann Desimone, St. Joseph’s Children’s Hospital, and the Alectoridis family for the care and compassion they showed Aydin during his time in New Jersey,” said Denise Malsky, Coordinator of the International Inbound Program.



## KEY PARTNERSHIPS MAKE IT ALL POSSIBLE

People often ask, “How is it possible to orchestrate a week-long medical mission for ten thousand dollars?” The answer is twofold, each volunteer medical team member purchases their own airline ticket and we have established relationships with medical supply clearing houses such as Americares, Map International, Medwish International, and Alcon. In 2016 and 2017, we received \$283,000 worth of donated medications and supplies from these companies. “Receiving donated medications and supplies enables us to orchestrate numerous medical trips to developing countries annually. We are grateful for this resource which allows us to help more children who would otherwise go untreated,” said Diane Calesnick, Co-Director of the Medical Teams Abroad Program and President of Healing the Children New Jersey.

## SENTIMENTS FROM ABROAD

*From our international partner in Peru:*

“You do the work of God, and all of you who participate in this work of miracles are blessed. I shall never forget all those you operated on in Peru. You never tired and always had a smile and a kind word. From Peru, I send blessings and joy to your families.”



*From our hosts in Ecuador:*

“WOW! Congratulations and many thanks for doing HTCNJ missions to Guayaquil, Ecuador. Gracias!”



*From a grateful mother in Ecuador:*

“I send my eternal thanks to Healing the Children New Jersey for giving my son the opportunity to have a better life.



HTCNJ and the doctors will be in my prayers asking God to keep you with blessings day after day, and that your help will reach many more children. I thank you immensely. God Bless you always!”



## VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

### Mother and Daughter who Inspire Each Other



**Dr. Mary A. O'Hara and Dr. Maureen Lloyd**

#### **Q. What was the impetus for volunteering on a medical mission together?**

**A. Dr. O'Hara:** When the opportunity to work together on a HTCNJ mission presented itself, it was a no-brainer. To be able to work side by side as surgeons was a dream fulfilled.

**A. Dr. Lloyd:** As a fellow at Wills Eye Hospital, it was a chance to directly affect the lives of children, to learn more about international medicine, and to operate alongside my mother. The stars were aligned!

#### **Q. What impacted you the most on the medical trip?**

**A. Dr. O'Hara:** One night, as we filed out the hospital door bone tired, sweaty, and hungry, a crowd gathered outside. One man, very softly and humbly, said, “Gracias, doctores.” It made it all worthwhile.

**A. Dr. Lloyd:** A twelve-year-old boy told me he wanted surgery because he liked a girl at school, who wouldn't hang out with him because she didn't want to be seen “with the crossed-eye boy.” I will always remember him and how lucky I felt to be able to help him.

#### **Q. What are the consequences if strabismus is left untreated?**

**A. Dr. O'Hara and Dr. Lloyd:** In young children strabismus can lead to vision loss. In older children and adults, strabismus can also have a profound psychosocial effect. A relatively straightforward procedure can make a world of difference to a person's confidence.

#### **Q. Do you plan on volunteering on future medical trips overseas?**

**A. Dr. O'Hara:** Yes. My next trip will be to Mongolia with Orbis, the Flying Eye Hospital.

**A. Dr. Lloyd:** Yes. I would love to make them an annual tradition.

#### **Q. Describe HTCNJ in three words.**

**A. Dr. O'Hara:** Heart. Soul. Hands.

**A. Dr. Lloyd:** Professional. Skilled. Compassionate.

## Shop AmazonSmile and help thousands of children!

If you're like many Americans, you have bought something from Amazon. If you're like some households, the majority of your purchases are delivered to your door via Amazon. Why not help improve a child's life by supporting HTCNJ with the things you are already buying? AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible purchases. The donations can really add up! Here's how to use AmazonSmile to support HTCNJ:

### How to Shop AmazonSmile:

1. **Visit smile.amazon.com.** Bookmark this page so you'll land on the Smile page every time you shop.
2. **Set up an account and select Healing the Children New Jersey as your charity of choice.** Once you make this selection, you will receive an email confirmation.
3. **Shop as normal.** Most items are eligible for an AmazonSmile donation, but they will let you know if something is not. Shop as usual, and watch the donations add up!
4. **Remember, always start at smile.amazon.com!** Our collective shopping will help make dreams come true.



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International Inbound /  
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## A NOTE FROM OUR TREASURER

I joined the team at HTCNJ a year ago as the charity's Treasurer and it has been such a joy seeing firsthand the remarkable impact the organization and its volunteers have on children's lives. Your donation goes directly to the support of one or all of our three amazing programs: Medical Teams Abroad, International Inbound, and Domestic Aid.

You can make an even bigger impact by donating long-term appreciated securities, including stocks, bonds, and mutual funds! Publicly traded appreciated securities can be among the most tax-advantaged items to donate to charity. Compared with donating cash or selling your appreciated securities and contributing the after-tax proceeds, you may be able to automatically increase your gift and your tax deduction. When you donate stock to charity, you'll generally take a tax deduction for the full fair market value. You also get the benefit of not paying any capital gains tax on the appreciation of the shares, creating a double tax benefit!

Everyone's tax situation is different. Please consult your tax adviser for more details. Thank you so much for your continued support!

Gregory Sawicki, Treasurer, Board of Trustees



## YOU'RE AMAZING—THANK YOU!

- ◆ **The Association of Surgical Technologists** for sponsoring the June ophthalmology trip to Guayaquil, Ecuador in the amount of \$10,000.
- ◆ **The Hitchon Family Foundation** for donating \$10,000 for the Matching Gift Challenge which raised a total of \$29,000.
- ◆ **Ray Candiloro along with IMPACT Volleyball Club and the Rahway Recreation Department** for sponsoring the Annual HTCNJ Volleyball Tournament which raised \$2,500.
- ◆ **The Women of Smoke Rise, Kinnelon, NJ** for donating hygiene kits to our Medical Teams Abroad Program.
- ◆ **The students at Academy of Our Lady** for donating hygiene kits to our Medical Teams Abroad Program.
- ◆ **Robin Matthews, Ellen Nash, and M. Avery Designs Sewing Studio** for making children's hospital gowns for our Medical Teams Abroad Program.
- ◆ **American Airlines and Mercy Medical Angels** for partnering with HTCNJ's International Inbound Program to bring children to NJ for much needed medical care.
- ◆ **Airline Ambassadors International** for escorting children in our International Inbound Program.
- ◆ **The faithful volunteers of Cedar Crest and the Senior's Group of Hawthorne Gospel Church** for helping with our bulk mailings.
- ◆ **Adrian Domaradsky** for helping in the office with clerical work.
- ◆ **Amanda Murray of Unleashed Creative Studio** for donating her graphic design talents.
- ◆ **To those** who donated hundreds of beanie babies for the children we serve on our medical missions throughout the year.

