

Guayaquil, Ecuador – December 2015

She was tired of listening to those nasty names the kids called her son. And of watching children stare and then ask their mothers what was wrong with him. She knew she couldn't make this better for her child. Neither she nor her country had the resources to get him the surgery he needed to fix his crossed eyes (strabismus).

Enter Healing the Children New Jersey, who organized a team of 19 volunteer American doctors, nurses and administrators for a mission to Ecuador this winter. We flew in on a Saturday morning then arrived at Leon Becerra Hospital in Guayaquil early Sunday morning to unpack 40 suitcases of supplies and equipment. By mid-day we were immersed in the screening of some 160 children to determine who would most benefit from surgery to fix their strabismus.

The next few days were long but exhilarating, filled with an average of 24 surgeries each. I serve as trip administrator, bringing each child and his or her family into the pre-op area to prepare them for surgery. They change into their "johnnies", meet again with the surgeon and anesthesiologist, and then enter into the "other world" of the operating rooms. Seeing the hope and fear on the parents' faces is always a haunting experience for me. Often there are tears as final kisses are given. Some children enter innocently, trotting alongside the anesthesiologist with an excited chatter. Others fiercely grab hold of their parents, determined never to let go. It is often a sacred moment to witness the trust and courage it takes for the parent to put their child's life in the hands of a stranger.

In an hour or two, the parents are called back to be with their child. Together they are wheeled out of the Post-Anesthesia Care Unit to recover before leaving for home. The expressions of relief and thankfulness from the parents are the reward for this work.

The steamy days passed in a blur. Seven days after we arrived, we packed up and flew back to the U.S. 112 pairs of eyes had been uncrossed, 112 lives changed forever. It is inspiring to witness the transformation of so many, not an easy task to achieve in countries where resources and expertise are dear. Having observed scores of post-operative reunions, I know this: Looking into the eyes of your child and seeing their two eyes look straight at you for the first time is a profound experience, one that all of us are privileged to be able to contribute to.

Written by Rosemarie Gelber, Trip Administrator



"I have no words to thank you for what you have done for my daughter and all of these children. Your good hearts fulfill many dreams, above all the dreams of innocent children. We wait for you to return soon. Thank you Mr. U.S.A."

Gaby and Brittany Castro

"I warmly thank you for giving us the opportunity to improve the lives of our children. It is a lot for a mother to see her son's eyes fixed and this smile. Thank you for this Christmas gift."

Kenneth and Zolia Chavez

Thank you for making me very happy, and even more, for my daughter. We are very grateful because this will change her life. Remember that in Guayaquil, there are now many grateful hearts."

Ferrin Valezquez



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Giving Tuesday

Healing the Children NJ participated in its first #Giving Tuesday campaign. We joined over 20,000 non profits worldwide to share our mission and our story. We look forward to participating in 2016!

You can also help raise funds for HTCNJ by shopping at stores on line that participate in the **iGive** program and also shopping on **Amazon!**

iGive.com®
Change online shopping for good.



A note from the President of The Board of Trustees

Healing the Children New Jersey is a small organization. Our success depends on the kindness and generosity of our volunteers and donors. I would like to thank everyone who donated to our Holiday Annual Appeal this year. Your generous response will allow us to say “yes” to more children who need our help.

I hope that everyone will mark their calendars for May 14th. I am proud to be a part of this wonderful organization and am looking forward to celebrating 35 years of service to children in need. I hope to see everyone at the Gala - let’s make this our most successful event of the year!

With your continued support, we look forward to a productive new year, bringing hope and good health to countless children throughout New Jersey and worldwide.

Gratefully,
Diane Calesnick

Breakfast with Santa Event Benefits HTCNJ!

The air was filled with excitement at Red Lobster located in Paramus on Saturday, December 19, 2015. One hundred fifty children and their parents anxiously awaited Santa’s arrival. Healing the Children NJ and Red Lobster at the Comfort Inn hosted the event for the second year. A wonderful breakfast buffet was generously donated by Red Lobster and the Comfort Inn. Santa handed out books and crayons and the toy raffle was a huge hit.



This event was made possible by Red Lobster and Comfort Inn, Paramus and

raised \$2,100 to benefit HTCNJ! Please help us thank them both by visiting these establishments whenever you can. Thank you to Clarin Photography who helped capture the fun and excitement of the day.



Special Thank You

We would like to thank our supporters at Cedar Crest Retirement Village, Pompton Plains and our friends at Weichert Realty in Mendham for their donation of over \$1,200 in holiday gift cards that were distributed to children at The Wanaque Center, St. Joseph’s Pediatric Oncology Hematology Department and The Valerie Fund at Newark Beth Israel.



Meet Gressy !

Gressy first arrived in New Jersey in January of 2012 at two years of age! Her story begins when in May of 2011, her mother traveled from Ayacucho to Ica Peru with the hope that her daughter would be seen by the HTCNJ volunteer medical team that was in Peru for one weeks time to perform plastic surgery on children from the region. After being evaluated by Dr. Lloyd Gayle, it was determined that Gressy would be a good candidate to receive help from our International Inbound Program and steps were taken to have her travel to New Jersey for treatment. Gressy was born with a cranial defect and a congenital encephalocele. Dr. Silvio Podda and St. Joseph's Regional Medical Center agreed to donate their services to help Gressy. The Imbert family of Ringwood hosted Gressy for the duration of her stay. The first stage of her surgery was successful and she was able to return to her family in Peru in September of 2012. It was decided that Gressy needed to return for further surgery in 2015



after she had grown. She arrived in June of 2015 to continue her treatment and was welcomed by the Imbert family once again! Gressy will return to New Jersey when she is approximately eight years of age to finalize her treatment. We thank everyone who has committed their time and talent to helping this very special girl.



When asked how Gressy has affected her life and that of her family, Donna Imbert, host mom said, "I think the thing that impacted our family the most was knowing that forever you have changed the life of a child for the better. Your children learn to be grateful for the blessings that they have here in the States and to share their generosity with others. The entire family learns that it doesn't necessarily take only money to help change lives; all it takes is your time, your love and the desire to make their futures one filled with hope for a better one."

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.

Through our **Domestic Aid program**, HTCNJ assists families in all 21 counties of NJ, who are caring for a child with a medical illness or developmental disability. HTCNJ receives referrals on an ongoing basis, from community based social workers throughout New Jersey. Our goal is to offer assistance that will help the family provide the best care possible for their child.

David, age 12, has a diagnosis of severe autism and developmental delays. Recently David's grandfather was hospitalized for heart surgery.



HTCNJ paid for 2 nights of respite care for David, giving his mother the opportunity to visit her father while he was recovering from cardiac surgery.

Jade, age 2, was born prematurely, and consequently suffers from global developmental delays and weak muscle tone. He was referred to HTCNJ by his social worker with Early Intervention.



HTCNJ is providing financial assistance to Jade's mother, so that he can be enrolled in a swim class for toddlers. The Physical Therapist with Early Intervention recommended a swim class to help improve Jade's muscle tone and overall strength.

In the News.....



HTCNJ volunteer Dr. Marc Goldberg, MD receives the Leader Award presented by Movado at the GQ Gentlemen's Fund Awards & Cocktail Reception held in New York City on October 22, 2015. Marc is pictured here with Victor Cruz of the NY Giants. HTCNJ received a generous donation of \$7,500.00 from Movado.

Save the Date!

Join us in celebrating 35 years of service to children !

HTCNJ will celebrate its' 35th year of providing children with medical care and services throughout NJ and worldwide! Please join us at Canoe Brook Country Club on Saturday, May 14, 2016 for a wonderful evening.

This year we will be honoring the Sisters of Christian Charity, Dr. Lloyd Gayle, Dana Robinson-Grim RN, Jonathan & Tijana Hitchon and Sister Jane Frances Brady.

April 5, 2016: You can support HTCNJ by participating in Blue Moon Mexican Cafes' Community Night!
More information to follow.

Recent Support

- Women of Smoke Rise & the Smoke Rise Community raised \$595 through their Holiday Charity Fund Tea
- Mary Help of Christians Academy Students raised \$1,400 under the leadership of Junior Stephanie Domaradsky and the Penny Wars competition
- Berkeley College generously donated \$10,000 to support the important work of Healing the Children New Jersey



Donate your Miles

Your miles can help bring children to the U.S. in need of medical care.

Both United and American Airlines offer reward mileage to Healing the Children to assist with bringing children to the U.S. to receive donated medical care - care that is not available to them in their country. Please go to the airlines website to learn how you can help heal a child by donating miles.

American Airlines: aa.com/donate – Miles for Kids in Need

United Rewards Program:

<https://secure.unitedmileageplus.com/CharityMilesSSO.jsp>

Please choose Healing the Children

ENT & Ophthalmology Teams travels to La Romana, Dominican Republic



Dr. Lee Eisenberg and Dr. Jay Calesnick led a team of 24 volunteers to La Romana, the Dominican Republic, in late October 2015 to provide Ear, Nose & Throat and Ophthalmology surgery for children. Once again, our team was welcomed by our friends at Centro Medico Central Romana Hospital, Casa de Campo and Hogar del Nino in La Romana. Through this partnership, Healing the Children NJ has provided surgery and related services to thousands of children over the last 22 years.

During the October trip, 97 children received pro bono surgery by our team; 63 had ENT procedures, and 34 received Ophthalmology surgery. In addition to surgery, our team held a Vision Clinic to provide full pediatric eye examinations. HTCNJ worked with a local optician, and at the end of the clinic 44 children had received new eyeglasses!

Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this trip a success!



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