



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

FALL 2017

HTCNJ
IMPACT
NEWSLETTER

**UPCOMING
MEDICAL TRIPS:**

November, 2017

La Romana, Dominican Republic
Ear, Nose & Throat



February, 2018

Trujillo, Peru
Ophthalmology

April, 2018

Arequipa, Peru
Plastic & Reconstructive



April, 2018

Arequipa, Peru
Ophthalmology

June, 2018

Guayaquil, Ecuador
Ophthalmology



**SAVE
THE
DATE**

HTCNJ GALA

Saturday, May 12, 2018

6 PM

Canoe Brook Country Club

Short Hills, NJ

President's Message

In a world full of problems, Healing the Children New Jersey remains consistent. Our mission is to serve impoverished children in New Jersey and internationally. Our hearts remain open, as we continue to embrace children in need. We are a small organization with an ability to help and heal on a big stage. Let's hope our healing message becomes contagious. The world could use it. We remain grateful to all of our volunteers and supporters. We are lucky to have you!

Diane Calesnick, President, Board of Trustees

**MEDICAL MISSION TO ECUADOR
A HUGE SUCCESS—THANK YOU!**

Families travelled many hours to the Hospital Leon Becerra in Guayaquil and waited in long lines to have their child seen by the orthopedic medical team. The team screened 149 children and treated sixty-three patients for significant congenital orthopedic impairments. The surgeons on the trip included Dr. Douglas Avella, Dr. Brian Shaw, and Dr. Edward Nieuwenhuis. **"This is work that desperately needs to be done and we are able to do it. It is practicing medicine in its purest form,"** said Dr. Shaw.



The surgeons were assisted by anesthesiologists, nurses, a pediatrician and laypersons. **"Being part of this mission was a chance to partake in the making of miracles. Every member of our team worked tirelessly and was delighted to see many children depart with the ability to lead more normal and productive lives,"** said Rosemarie Gelber, the Trip Administrator.



To learn more about Healing the Children NJ, please visit our website at htcnj.org.

TESTIMONIALS

“Thank you so much “Healing The Children.” You have made a tremendous impact on our families who care for children with special needs. You have financially assisted them throughout the years with medical and other expenses that are not covered by insurance. Some of the areas of assistance have been for hearing aids, eyeglasses, medications, therapeutic programs, expensive over-the-counter items and more. In my heart, I send you blessings and gratitude.”

Trudi Gunsberg, LCSW Special Child Health Services, Passaic County



“Thank you for being of help in some way. It was wonderful receiving love from people we can’t see, but feel in our life, especially in our moment of need.”

Mother

Daniela is a three-year-old girl who is diagnosed with autism and global developmental delays. HTCNJ purchased over-the-counter items for her personal care.



“Thank you for my son's weighted vest. He is an amazing little boy and now outings in the community will be easier on him. Thank you so much!”

Mother

Cyprian is a two-year-old boy diagnosed with autism. HTCNJ purchased a weighted vest to help with sensory issues, and transitions from inside the house to the outside world.

THANKS TO YOUR SUPPORT TWENTY-TWO CHILDREN RECEIVED NEW SMILES

Healing the Children NJ sent a team of doctors to Arequipa, Peru in April to provide reconstructive surgeries on children with cleft lip and cleft palate. The team led by Dr. Lloyd Gayle, a plastic surgeon from NYC and Dr. Lee Eisenberg, an ENT surgeon from New Jersey performed fifty-five procedures on twenty-two children. “We came together as a group of medical professionals on our trip to Arequipa with one goal in mind—provide the children of Peru an opportunity to receive surgical care not readily available in their own country. Our goal was accomplished by helping twenty-two children during our time at Hospital Infantil-TMR,” said Dr. Jeffrey Bienstock, the team pediatrician.



The children travelled from local provinces to receive life-changing medical care and a chance for a brighter future. HTCNJ has been to the Hospital Infantil Tony Molleapaza Rojas twice since 2014, and plans on sending a plastic and reconstructive team and ophthalmology team to the same facility in April 2018.



VOLUNTEER SPOTLIGHT

**Barbara Herrmann
BSN, RN, CNOR**

Q. How did you learn about HTCNJ?

A. A notice seeking an OR nurse for a medical trip to Nicaragua for pediatric plastic surgery was posted at the hospital. I volunteered my services and was put on the team.

Q. How would you describe your first medical trip experience?

A. I embarked on my first trip with no expectations. The team was exceptional, both professionally and personally. The actual surgeries are performed the same, regardless of the location—home or abroad. Helping impoverished children had a huge impact on me.

Q. In 2018 you will be going on your twelfth medical trip. What makes you continue to volunteer your time and talents?

A. It is an honor to participate on a team that can make a difference in the life of a child who would otherwise go untreated. I am grateful for the opportunity to volunteer with HTCNJ, and I only wish I had more time to donate.

Q. Do you have a special memory from one of your medical trips abroad?

A. Each trip is unique, woven with the common thread of how grateful the parents are when they see their child for the first time after surgery. They have a broad smile, they cry happy tears, they give you a heartfelt hug, and that speaks volumes in any language.

Q. How would you describe Healing the Children New Jersey in three words?

A. Making a difference



HTCNJ WELCOMES AYDIN



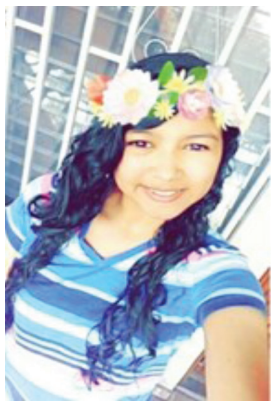
Aydin Lorenzo Cumatzil Tun, a five-year-old boy from Guatemala, arrived in the United States on October 3 to undergo surgery for a frontal encephalocele.

Dr. Sylvio Podda will perform the surgery at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital. Aydin is enjoying his time with the Alectoridis family, a volunteer host family who has cared for children from developing countries for over twenty years.

Thanks to your support children like Aydin are able to receive life-changing surgery that is unavailable to them in their homelands.



UPDATE FROM KATHLEEN



In October 2016, Kathleen Madeleine Lagos Pavon, a fifteen-year-old girl, arrived from Honduras to undergo medical treatment for scoliosis. Dr. Arash Emani and Dr. Michael Faloon performed the surgery at St. Joseph's Children's Hospital. During her stay in the United States Kathleen was hosted by the Oplinger family, a volunteer host family that has been affiliated with the International Inbound Program for over a decade.

Q. How are you doing since your scoliosis surgery ten months ago?

A. I feel good, both physically and psychologically. Before the surgery I was sad because of my limitations, but now I am very happy to have a straighter back with no complications. While I am still recovering, I am more active and look forward to swimming again soon. I am thankful to Healing the Children New Jersey for changing my life.

Q. Do you have a special memory with your Host Family?

A. The truth is that I could never forget the Oplinger family and what they did for me. My parents are grateful to them as well. I really enjoyed attending Matt's college football games on the weekends. I did not know anything about American football before coming to the US, and now I love to watch games on television.

Q. How has your experience with Healing the Children New Jersey's International Inbound Program affected your life?

A. Thanks to Healing the children New Jersey I was able to have my back corrected by excellent doctors. Although the operation was difficult, I now feel stronger and more confident. This experience taught me the meaning of kindness and generosity. I promised myself that one day I would help other children in need of care.

Q. What are your goals for the future?

A. My short-term goal is to graduate college with a degree in psychology. One day I would like to work in the United States and travel all over the world, learning about different cultures, and making new friends. Right now I have to be positive, believe in God, and have faith that my dreams can come true.



HTCNJ is always looking for new host families! If you have any interest in becoming a Volunteer Host Family, please email us at denise@htcnj.org.



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MAKE A DIFFERENCE

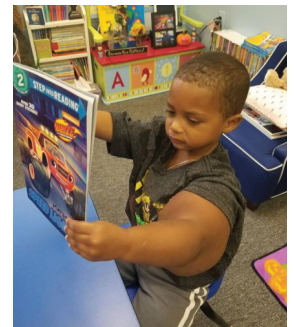
HTCNJ has been committed to making a difference in the lives of children since 1981. On every medical trip we take and every child we host we are painfully reminded of the millions of children from developing countries whose congenital disorders go untreated. We strive to help these children and give them a “fighting chance” at a brighter future. Help us help them!

GET INVOLVED

There are many ways to help HTCNJ continue its mission of providing health and hope to children around the world. We are always looking for volunteers and seeking new partnerships that would enable us to make a greater impact.

FEEDBACK

We want to hear from our supporters. If you have any comments or suggestions, please email us at karen@htcnj.org.



YOU'RE AMAZING!

After seven years of serving on the Board of Trustees, **Gina Lalla** is stepping down. We **thank you** for your contributions -- especially your longstanding commitment to HTCNJ and its mission.

Thank you to the **Merck Employees Federal Credit Union** for raising \$10,000 at their annual golf outing to benefit HTCNJ and The Children's Miracle Network.

Thank you to **Catholic Human Services Foundation** for the grant of \$5,684.

Thank you again to **Berkeley College** for the \$10,000 grant in support of a Medical Trip Abroad.

Thank you to **Newmark, Knight, Frank** for the \$10,000 grant.

Thank you to the **Rahway High School Girls Volleyball Team** for raising \$3,000 at their annual tournament in support of HTCNJ.

Thanks American Airlines and Airline Ambassadors for partnering with HTCNJ to provide free travel and safely escorting children to and from the US to receive care.

A warm **thank you** to the **Women of Smoke Rise** for putting together 100 care packages for the Medical Teams Abroad Program.

A **special thanks** to the **Residents at Cedar Crest and the Seniors Group of Hawthorne Gospel Church** for assisting with HTCNJ's bulk mailings.

Thank you **Unleashed Creative Studio** for assisting with the design of marketing materials.

