



An Evening of Celebration! 34th Annual Gala & Awards Ceremony

The newly renovated Canoe Brook Country Club in Summit, NJ was the setting for Healing the Children® NJ's 34th Annual Gala & Awards Ceremony held on May 2, 2015. During the evening, five extraordinary volunteers were honored. The honorees were surrounded by 250 family, friends and colleagues who helped celebrate their achievements and those of HTCNJ. A wonderful evening from beginning to end!!



The honorees of the evening (L-R) Major Glenn Battschinger, U.S. Army; Sean Abkowitz, Don Connell, CRNA; Peg Connell, RN; Dr. Sanjay Lalla





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A note from the President of the Board of Trustees:

This has been an exciting year for Healing the Children NJ. We have been working to increase our fundraising efforts with the addition of a Development Committee, and we have increased our presence on social media. Our Medical Teams Abroad has been busy with trips, we continue to add new host families to our roster, and our Domestic Aid program continues to flourish.

None of this would be possible without the incredible dedication of all of our volunteers. From our Board Members who give of themselves with both time and talent, to our many volunteers who share their expertise on trips and homes with our Inbound children, we are fortunate to have a talented and loyal group of volunteers!

Thank you for your continued support, and we look forward to another productive year at HTCNJ!

Diane Calesnick

Medical Teams Abroad Program News

2014 was a busy year for the Medical Teams Abroad Program.
A few hi-lights:

- 6 trips abroad
- 257 children received surgery
- teams traveled to Peru, Ecuador and the Dominican Republic
- 98 children received new eyeglasses, courtesy of HTCNJ

2015 started off with two trips to Peru!

February 14 – 21, 2015, Ophthalmology, Trujillo, Peru



The students at the Pingry School assembled Personal Care Kits for children in Peru!



Dr. Bruce Levine with a patient.

March 21 – 28, 2015, Dental, Trujillo, Peru



HTCNJ Dental team in Trujillo



Joe Charleman with a patient

Jeniffer from Kenya travels to NJ for Orthopedic Surgery

Article written by Peri Levine, Host Sister



In search of a yellow fever shot to prepare for a semester abroad in Africa, I stumbled upon Healing the Children New Jersey. Several months later, my family and I took upon the responsibility of caring for and living with a child born and raised in a developing country, a child who had never used a toilet, taken a shower or had a normal life due to her club foot. However through these disparities, language and cultural barriers, I learned that positive change is achievable.

Jeniffer is a bubbly, happy-go-lucky child who I had the pleasure of calling my sister for a challenging, inspirational and extremely rewarding seven months. Through extensive surgeries, cast changes and physical therapy sessions, I watched Jeniffer grow from a disadvantaged child into an empowered girl, who now had the ability to take control of her own life once she returned to Kenya, all thanks to Healing the Children New Jersey. I know I have made a substantial difference in Jeniffer's life, but I am filled with joy knowing she is the one who has made the difference in mine.

Jeniffer is only one of millions of children worldwide not receiving essential health and medical care. Healing the Children New Jersey has the power to make a ripple effect globally, creating opportunities for children who never imagined escaping their disabilities, Jeniffer will forever remain in my heart, and I am excited to help other children in the future; changing the world one child at a time.



HTCNJ would like to thank Dr. Frank Liggio and Overlook Hospital for donating their services!

This is an excerpt from a letter received by HTCNJ on 5/27 /15 from Mr. Simon K. Maweu, Executive Director of Kenya/USA Christian Relief & Development, Inc.

"I write this letter to you to express the moral debt I feel we owe Healing the Children New Jersey, who without them, Jeniffer's success story of her medical tour of the US and her return back this past Sunday healed, would never have been realized. Along this journey, other key individuals played critical roles and I would especially pay special tribute to Susie and her amazing family, the Levines, for playing such a pivotal role in taking Jeniffer in and treating her just as one of their own, and creating a true family atmosphere for her where everything a parent would do for his or her own child happened with Jeniffer.

An Update on HTCNJ's Domestic Aid Program

HTCNJ has assisted 33 children throughout the state of New Jersey since January 2015.

Meet two of the children we have recently helped!

HTC received a referral from Early Intervention/Passaic County for **Gabriel**, age 1. Gabriel was born premature, and suffers from Global Developmental Delays and plagiocephaly. HTCNJ is paying for a children's swim class to help Gabriel develop muscle tone.



Leah, age 2, has a diagnosis of Autism Spectrum Disorder and Expressive and Receptive Disorder. HTC purchased a weighed vest and several sensory tools which are utilized in her physical therapy sessions with Early Intervention.



HTCNJ Recent Fundraising Events!

- **Integra Life Sciences Inc.** sponsored a Jeans for Charity Campaign to benefit HTCNJ in October 2014.
- **Blue Moon Mexican Café Restaurant Group** donated 20% of total profits raised by HTCNJ on December 11th
- **Breakfast with Santa:** On December 21st, HTCNJ partnered with Red Lobster in Paramus NJ to sponsor a Breakfast with Santa! Children enjoyed a breakfast buffet, raffles, goodie bags, and a visit and photos with Santa.
- **Holiday Gift Cards:** Cedar Crest in Pompton Plains and Weichert Realty of Mendham, collected Holiday Gift Cards in December, which were donated to HTC, and then distributed to medically fragile children at St. Joseph's Hospital Pediatric Cancer Center , The Wanaque Pediatric Center and the Valerie Fund.
- **Women of Smoke Rise Holiday Charity Fund:** Each December, the Women of Smoke Rise in Kinnelon NJ host a volunteer recognition tea. HTCNJ is proud to be one of the suggested charities.
- **Arts 4 A Cause:** An evening of music and dance performances was held on February 28th to benefit HTCNJ.
- **Montessori School Hop-A-Thon:** Rainbow , Penta & Milestone Montessori schools held hop-a- thons in the Spring for the children to participate in, and raised funds for HTCNJ!
- **NJ Half Marathon:** Peter Buffington of Achilles Prosthetics and Orthotics assembled his own team for the May event and raised over \$1000 for HTCNJ!



Peter Buffington with his team at the NJ Half Marathon



Joanne Wilkinson is presented a check from Lauren O'Shea, Arts 4 A Cause



"Hopping" at the Montessori School Hop A Thon!

Save the Date!! Upcoming Events with HTCNJ

Merck Federal Employees Federal Credit Union's 15th Annual Golf Outing, Monday, August 17, 2015

Blue Moon Mexican Café Community Night, all locations, August 18, 2015

Casino Night, Washington Township NJ, Friday October 2, 2015

Wine and Cheese Tasting , November, 2015

Breakfast with Santa, December, 2015

35th Annual Gala and Awards Ceremony, Saturday May 7, 2016

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