

## TESTIMONIALS



“Hosting a child means that your family has the privilege of partaking in a miracle that significantly changes the life of a child. To watch a HTCNJ child come to the U.S. without parents and often without English, and then adapt to a new home and medical treatment, is inspiring to the entire family. Each child we hosted served as a catalyst for a tremendous increase in our own children’s maturity, adaptability and empathy.”

**The Gelber Family**

“Through Healing the Children New Jersey, my children have learned compassion. They have learned that the world is really a small place and kids are kids no matter what language they speak, how much money they have, or what county they are born in. Our experience not only meant a great deal to our family but to our entire town. Hosting a child is so much greater than opening your door to a child who needs you. The impact it has on your family and community is immeasurable.”



**The Eagan Family**

## Leadership

**Diane Calesnick, CRNA** — President  
**Richard Colavita, MD** — Vice President  
**Joanne Wilkinson, RN, BSN, CNOR** — Secretary  
**Gregory Sawicki, CFP, CPA, PFS** — Treasurer  
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**Tijana Hitchon, MA**  
**Gina Lalla, ANP-C**  
**Justin Oplinger, MBA**  
**Fr. Dennis Weezorak**  
**Francis B. Light, MD** — Trustee Emeritus

## Administration

**Karen Mackie** - Executive Director  
**Denise Malsky** - International Inbound/Development Coordinator  
**Laura Gilmartin** - Medical Teams Abroad/Domestic Aid Coordinator



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

112 5th Avenue, Hawthorne, NJ 07506

973-949-5034 • 973-949-5036 Fax • [www.HTCNJ.org](http://www.HTCNJ.org)



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

BECOME A VOLUNTEER



HOST FAMILY

Through Healing the Children New Jersey's  
International Inbound Program



He who has health, has hope; and he  
who has hope, has everything.

-Thomas Carlyle

## Requirements

Host Families open their home and hearts to children from developing countries in need of life-changing surgeries that are unavailable in their homelands.

The most important requirement in becoming a Host Family for Healing the Children New Jersey is that you want to give a child the opportunity for a brighter future.

Each prospective Host Family is required to complete an application and undergo a Home Study.



## Responsibilities

Healing the Children New Jersey secures commitments from doctors and hospitals throughout the state, who participate in our International Inbound Program, to provide donated medical care to children in need.

- Take on the role of “parent” of the child for the duration of their stay
- Provide a nurturing home environment while the child is undergoing medical treatment
- Create a supportive atmosphere that lends to a speedy recovery



## Rewards



Hosting a child from another country while they undergo life-changing surgery in New Jersey is a rewarding and enriching family experience. There is no greater gift a family can give to a child seeking medical care than a nurturing environment and commitment to changing a life.

- The knowledge that your family improved a child’s quality of life and gave them hope for a brighter future
- Immeasurable life lessons for your family
- An enriched understanding of other cultures

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“Besides the reward of being able to help a child that is in need, there are no words to describe what we, as a family, have learned. We learned that love has no limits or borders, and that courage comes from within. The courage we have seen in the children we have hosted is like no other. Temporarily taking the place of the child’s mom, dad, sister or brother is an honor - loving the child like our own is easy and they soon have a very special place in our hearts.”

**The Alectoridis Family**



“With every child you host your family embarks on a new journey. When you open the doors of your home and embrace this new addition to your family — you all grow together. You learn about a new culture, different habits, you gain a new perspective on life, and a new appreciation of things small and ordinary. You watch an amazing transformation from a shy, frightened child with a serious medical condition, into a healthy, confident and curious individual with a future.”

**The Hitchon Family**



“Hosting a sick child from another country and nurturing them through surgery and the recovery process is demanding, but the rewards are immeasurable. It warms our hearts knowing that we have permanently changed their quality of life and they can return to their families healthier and happier. If you only do it once in your lifetime, the experience and the smile on your host child’s face will stay with you forever.”

**The Oplinger Family**

