

the Casa Corazón connection

Volume No. 3 Issue No. 1

January 2013

Jesus said: "Let the little children come to me:" and He took the children in His arms and put His hands on them, and blessed them.

-Mark 10: 14, 16

Casa Corazón is a 501(c)3 charitable ministry, a division of Special Missions Foundation.

Our mission is to assist children in Honduras to gain access to medical care and healthy living styles. This includes sponsoring children to come to The United States for life-saving/changing surgery that is not available to them in their country, organizing medical and surgical teams to Honduras, and assisting with projects that decrease the health risk factors in the mountainous villages and public hospitals of Honduras, Central America

www.ccorazon.org

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Gavi... No Greater Love

When Darin and Prudence Martín welcomed 1-year old Gavi into their home to care for her during her surgery and recovery for a cyst in her brain, little did they realize she would capture their hearts forever. Nor could they know that she would carry their hearts back to her small town in Santa Barbara, Honduras where she now thrives with her family. Gavi had a cyst that invaded her eye and brain. Without surgery this cyst would have continued to grow and eventually cost Gavi her eyesight and her life.



Casa extends a very special

Thank-you to Dr. Joel Winer, Wellspan Neurosurgery, Dr. Marc Hirschbein, Ophthalmology, Dr. David Turkewitz, Wellspan Pediatrics, York Hospital, and Anesthesiology Associates of York for graciously donating their time and talent to save Gavi's eyesight and life. We especially appreciate Dr. Turkewitz's



patience and kindness as he tirelessly treated Gavi for her "mystery" febrile illnesses that plagued her following her Surgery. These fevers caused her multiple hospital admissions and extended her stay in The United States. Darin and Pru, Thank you for giving so much of yourselves for this precious child.

Do you prefer to receive the newsletter by email? Please send a request to response@ccorazon.org

Casa Calendar

October 20-27, 2012: Surgical Brigade with World Surgical Foundation to Hospital Mario Catarino Rivas, San Pedro Sula, Honduras

May 11-18, 2013: Medical Team to Santa Barbara, Honduras (Team Forming)

June 10, 2013: 5th Annual Casa Corazón Golfathon: Contact Dr. Sam Woo 410-790-6513



Special Edition!!!

Casa Project Update

San Jose Las Palmas, is a small village nestled high atop a mountain in Lempira, Honduras. Made up of just 16 families, these Lenca Indian descendents welcome Casa Corazón's Medical Brigade each year with

enthusiasm and music. Our Casa Brigade travels nearly 3 hours by truck, then, when the road ends, the team hikes up the mountain for 4 hours before reaching Las Palmas. Days before we arrive, the men and boys clear a path with their machetes for the brigade. While we set up the medical clinic and evaluate the health of their village, they strum their musical instruments which are held together with strings, pens, sticks, or anything they can find to repair the aging instruments. When we discovered that the village was using what little money they had to rent horses to help us haul our medical supplies up the mountain,



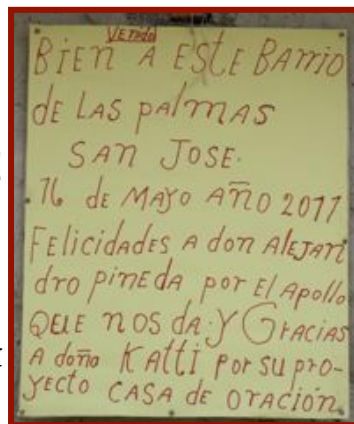
our hearts were touched. Thanks to a generous donation from Dr. Israel Landa, a faithful Casa volunteer and graduate of York Hospital's Emergency Residency Program, we were able to purchase a horse for the village. Last year, the horse gave birth to her first foal just before our arrival. The newborn made its maiden voyage down and back up the mountain following its mother as she carried water and medical supplies.



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Casa de Oración

After hearing about a Casa Construction Project in a neighboring village, the leaders of Las Palmas approached Casa about helping them build a church for their villagers. Casa provided the finances and the villagers provided the labor. Our appreciation goes to Alejandro Pineda, our Honduran contact, who made this project possible. The villagers worked very hard to complete their project before the team arrived and were so proud to show us their handiwork. This was the first time our medical brigade was able to see patients indoors. After the brigade finished the clinic, the villagers celebrated and dedicated their church by sharing a meal together. The leaders served all members of the community, young and old alike. All the cups were gathered from each family to be used to serve their communion meal... a cup full of rice pudding and a piece of bread. The team provided free medical care for more than 100 villagers.



Translation: Welcome to this village of Las Palmas San Jose; 16th of May 2011. Congratulations to Mr. Alejandro Pineda for the help he gave us and Ms. Cathy for her project; The House of Prayer.



So that more lives may be saved....

Donate online through our secure website at:

www.ccorazon.org/donate

Remember Jonaton? Jonaton came to the United States in 2001 for pediatric surgery. Well, Jonaton is all grown up now and enjoys helping others. When Casa sent a construction crew to a small village nestled in the mountains of Pinalito Honduras, Jonaton was eager to join the team and help translate as he still remembered some English that he learned during his stay in the United States. The leader of Pinalito had petitioned Casa for assistance to build a community center to serve as a church, school, village meeting place, and a shelter for Casa to provide medical care for the villagers. The Construction Crew, Phil Shertzer, Tom Bastian, Jeremy Garber, Josiah Rohrer, Tom Shenk, and Gabe Malanchuk joined efforts with the villagers to make this dream a reality. The crew hiked 2 hours up the mountain with their supplies on their backs and crossed a swinging hammock bridge suspended high over a ravine to reach the village. Once there, they spent the nights in tents, worked without electricity, learned how to make bricks from mud, and bonded with the villagers. Since Gabe was Jonaton's host Dad in The USA, this trip held special meaning for him as he was able to spend a week re-connecting with Jonaton. Thank-You to all the members of the Team for your hard work.



Laying blocks, Honduran style



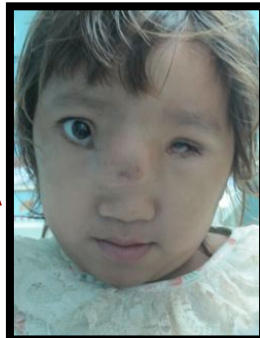
Josiah and Jonaton

In a world where... medical supplies are scarce and babies depend on their parents and medical students to squeeze bags attached to oxygen to breathe for them because there are not enough breathing machines to fill the ever increasing need... Where ERs are overcrowded and patients young and old wait for days, weeks, and even years for necessary surgical care... Where life-saving surgeries are canceled due to lack of supplies, working equipment, staff, and Yes... oxygen....Where the things we take for granted become a privilege... Where many die, just waiting....

There is HOPE... And you can HELP

WHY CASA??

BECAUSE EVERY CHILD MATTERS!!



Currently Accepting Tax-Deductible Donations to Send Medical Supplies to Honduras!

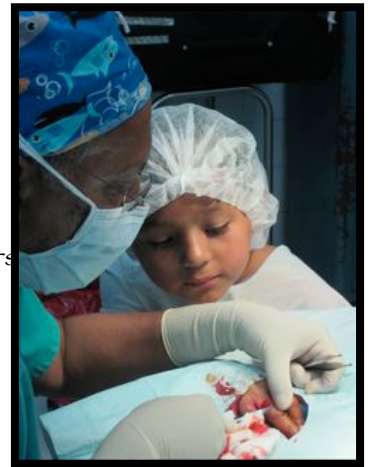
“The American Doctor Who Takes Our Pain Away...”

All the villagers of Gracias, Lempira, Honduras were talking about it. They came mostly by foot from the surrounding mountainous villages to the town which was once the capital of Honduras. Dr. Vasudhan Tiruchelvam (Dr. Tíru), general surgery, and Dr. Asuquo Inyang, anesthesiology joined forces with Casa to provide a week-long Surgical Brigade focusing on removing gallbladders and repairing hernias through the laparoscope. Local company representatives also collaborated with Casa to provide the laparoscopic equipment necessary. Dr. Tíru partnered with the local surgeons to teach them the skill of using the equipment. The small hospital of Gracias has only 2

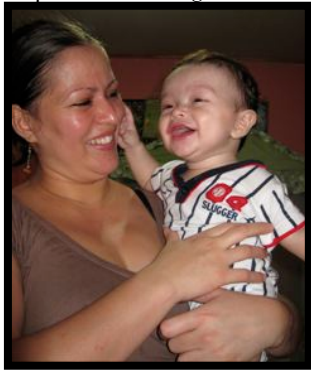
operating rooms causing the villagers to wait for months and many times years to have their ailing gallbladders removed or their hernias repaired.

Laparoscopic surgery reduces time spent in the hospital and recovery time. With smiles on their faces, the villagers were amazed how they came to the hospital in pain and the next day “thanks to the American Doctor” were able to walk back up the mountains to their families. Compassionate care is not new for Dr. Tíru. He has travelled to many countries providing charitable care for the poor, and has donated his time and expertise for several Casa Kids that came to The United States for donated surgery. A special thanks to; Connie Inners,

RN, Recovery Nurse, Melissa Gillis RN, Scrub Nurse, and Prudence Martin RN, Circulating Nurse. A total of 40 surgeries were completed in 5 days.



Casa Kid Highlight



Cinthya had no idea that anything was wrong with her heart until she visited her

doctor for a rash that would not go away. He heard a loud murmur in her heart and immediately sent her to a cardiologist, more than a 2- hour bus ride from her house. In Honduras, her only option was to have her name put on a long list of patients waiting for a visiting heart brigade from The United States. But there was no guarantee that Cinthya would be chosen, and no guarantee that she would survive the wait. Because of the large hole in her heart, Cinthya tired and became short of breath just by walking up the stairs. Cinthya was referred to Casa Corazón, graciously accepted for heart surgery by Dr. Bradley Taylor, Wellspan Cardiothoracic Surgery, and traveled to The United States for her life-saving procedure. Initially Dr. Taylor recommended a less invasive, cardiac catheterization to place a device that would cover the hole in Cinthya's heart. However, when Dr. William Nicholson performed the catheterization, he discovered that the hole was too big to repair without open- heart surgery. Thanks to Dr. Taylor's expertise, Cinthya recovered perfectly from her procedure and returned to Honduras less than 6 months later.

Today, 2 years after her open-heart surgery, Cinthya is happily caring for her newborn son! A big ‘heart-felt’ thank you to Dr. Taylor, Dr. Nicholson, York Hospital, and all those involved in Cinthya's care and recovery. Because of you, the heart beats on.....

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