

WAY-BI / MISSION OF LOVE
CLEFT LIP AND PALATE JOURNEY
JANUARY 2014



Today ends a week full of different emotions. Seven days ago we received a wonderful group of Mission of Love volunteers which included three maxillofacial doctors, their assistants, an occupational therapist and several companions. They all left their jobs and families behind and came to Guatemala to be of service for the Mayan children in need.



Children who have suffered different types of physical deformation since birth such as Roy, a 5 year old who had his jawbone fused and could not open his mouth more than half an inch in order to eat.



Other children and youngsters such as Diego, Julio, Josue, Dennis, Julio, Marta and Sheila where also blessed by the amazing work the doctors performed; and not to mention the unconditional support of the doctors, nurses and staff from Metropolitan Hospital.



The week began with the evaluation of all candidates for surgery. Doctors and assistants were in charge of reviewing all the children and young people one by one to understand their situation, if they were candidates for surgery and understand the complexity of the operation that was required.



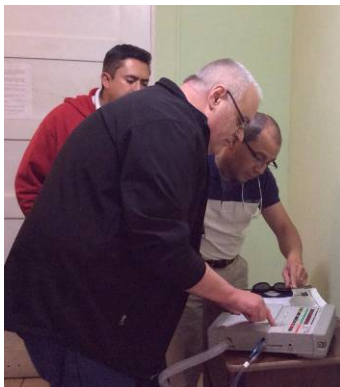
Another group of volunteers sorted and classified the surgical instruments and medicines that were brought by Mission of Love for operations and were in charge of running back and forth for the operating room to the supply room. Kathy, Deb and Flor gave out HOPE bags filled with

comfort quilts, cloths, and toys to the parents. Finally a small group of volunteers (me included) took care of the families and played with the children, with the sole aim for them to feel okay.



Several miracles were performed throughout the week. In total 22 children and youth were operated. Doctors followed up on them and made sure everyone returned home happy and with new HOPE.

Steve installed four breathing ventilators that were donated to Metropolitan Hospital by Mission of Love. He also trained hospital personnel on the setup and use of these ventilators and was able to meet a fellow Guatemalan respiratory therapist (Luis).





I cannot forget to mention the opportunity we had to serve Juan, a friend who was paralyzed from the waist down in an accident a year ago. We drove to Tecpan (88 km away) to pick him up at his home. It was amazing to see Juan's motivation to get ahead for his family. He even designed and built an "electrical bicycle" in order to work out and hopefully recover mobility in his legs.



It isn't the safest design but it definitely teaches us how much WILL can do.

Deb and Don then worked with Juan throughout the week and share tools with him and taught him several exercises and techniques that he can now use to make his mobility much easier and safe.

This incredible week ended in Tecpan with our visit to Juan's home where several improvements were made, a hospital bed was delivered and some tools were lent so Juan can begin using his creativity to earn some money.



We also visited the Santa Apolonia orphanage and shared piñatas and pizza with the children. We delivered school supplies and enjoyed spending time with them.



At the end we enjoyed a FIESTA with aldea Pueblo Viejo community. We enjoyed being at WAY-bi with the children and their families. A nice snack and some school supplies were given.



Living this experience was unbelievable for my family and I. We had the opportunity to live moments of nervousness, sadness and joy.



This week was vivid example (for me) that GOD is good and is always present ! He acts through ANGELS of LOVE (amazing people that don't never hesitate to serve)



Words aren't enough to express OUR eternal gratitude to this amazing group of people (ANGELS). Thank you a million MISSION OF LOVE and METROPOLITAN HOSPITAL!