

SUMMARY REPORT

Small Steps Healing the Children and Podiatry Institute Medical Mission Trip

San Salvador, El Salvador September 21-29 2019

The Small Steps Medical Mission team working in conjunction with The Podiatry Institute returned again this year on the annual medical mission trip to San Salvador, El Salvador. This year we celebrated the 26th anniversary of the groups working together to serve the children of Central America. The initial flagship trip by this team was made in 1993 to Guatemala.



Over 150 children were screened with 47 surgeries performed and over 300 orthotic devices were fit for children by a medical team of all volunteers. The team included an Orthopedic Surgeon, Podiatrists from Spain, Arizona, Georgia, and New York, Pennsylvania, as well as podiatry residents, CRNA's, nurses, prosthetists/orthotists, scrub techs and translators.



We are grateful for the continued selflessness expressed through the hard work and dedication of all

of the volunteers. Five days were spent screening patients, performing surgery, and fitting and dispensing orthotics to assist the children and families of El Salvador, who were all incredibly grateful. Patients with varying deformities were seen including polydactyly, clubfoot, neglected and over-corrected clubfoot, and spastic equinus. All follow up care was provided by a local Orthopedic Surgeon at the Military Hospital in San Salvador. We are grateful to the Military Hospital for hosting us and allowing us to use space to carry out our mission.



This year, to celebrate the 26th year of the mission, the Military Hospital hosted a ceremony with military officials present to recognize the volunteers. Club Rotario San Salvador Cuscatlán was also an immense help with the mission. Their fundraising efforts helped to cover hospital stays for the surgery patients, they provided assistance with translation and patient advocacy during the week, they provided the volunteers with meals throughout the week, and after the mission was complete, they hosted a beach outing and lunch for the volunteers. It was an opportunity to take in the culture and enjoy being in some of the most beautiful country in the world, with gorgeous landscapes and black sand beaches.

We would like to thank the Cuscatlan Rotary Club and the Military Hospital for their support. We would also like to thank MedShare as well as various hospitals and private organizations who assisted in donating the equipment needed to make this mission a success.

Podiatry Institute Faculty Members

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