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# Healing the Children<sup>®</sup>

## SOUTHWEST CHAPTER

December 2009

### Information:

- Are you a member of Facebook? Become a fan of HTC: enter Healing the Children Southwest in the search box.
- Visit the HTC website to view the summer newsletter which was only published on-line.
- To receive the newsletter via email, please send your email address to htc\_sw@hotmail.com Thank you.
- You may donate frequent flyer miles to Healing the Children.

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## Message from the Executive Director and Board of HTC

Although it was disappointing that we could not bring even one child to Albuquerque for donated surgery this year, we feel great about the year's accomplishments. Three medical teams went to Guatemala and one to El Salvador serving nearly 300 children with donated surgery or basic care. (More information about the 2009 surgical missions can be found in the summer on-line newsletter by going to the website. The most recent primary care mission is highlighted on Page 2.)

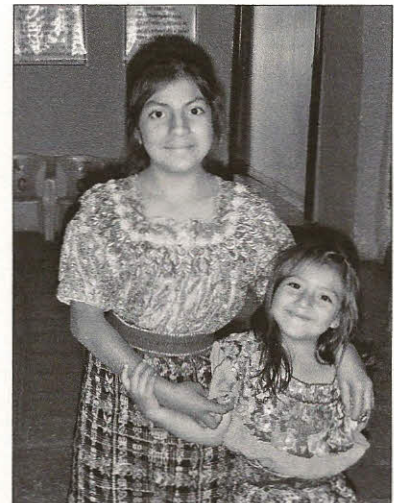
On a local basis we helped nearly 50 families directly who had medical needs for their children. The assistance came through payments for medications, dental care, or special equipment. We thank you for helping make this work possible by sending us your dollars or volunteering your time. Poverty is affecting more and more children during these hard times and we feel privileged to be able to help children get the medical care they need.

As we slide into another holiday season we can sleep better knowing that 350 children were supported in 2009 and over 6000 children have been helped since HTC was established in 1989.

Thank you for your continued support.

**Our warmest wishes  
for the holidays!**

*Rita Lavin and  
HTC Board of Directors*



## 20 Year Anniversary Celebration October 2009

Jeanne Griste, RN was honored for her 20 years of service to HTC as a medical missions nurse and board director where she served as an officer. In the photo Jeanne (right) receives an award from director Rita Lavin.

Maurcena Wells, RN was also appreciated for her many medical missions and 5 years as a board member.

The chapter could not man-

age without these two devoted individuals. Their willingness to continue as an Advisory Board member is greatly appreciated.

How did we do the past 20 years? See impressive numbers on page 4.





While waiting their turn at the ASSADE Clinic in San Andres Ixtapa, children enjoyed the donated Spanish books transported by the team members who decreased personal items to provide extra space in their luggage.

**A mother approached the doctor and said in Spanish "I want to say many thanks." He softly replied "For me it is a privilege" (Story told by Tracy Kidder about Paul Farmer, MD)**

## Guatemala Primary Care Mission—Nov 09

Dr. Carl Friedrichs had to find another family practice physician to cover his Santa Fe office for a week, and Kit Elliott, LPN, took vacation time from work at First Choice Health Care to provide services to 140 children at ASSADE clinic in San Andres Ixtapa where primary care resources are stretched very thin. The ASSADE clinic is run by an energetic giant-hearted nurse volunteer who works 5 1/2 days a week to help the local indigenous population. The team treated gastrointestinal illness, dermatologic problems, insect bites, minor respiratory illness, malnutrition, poor hygiene, and dental caries. As was the situation for this mission and throughout Guatemala children needing surgery are referred to hospitals with visiting surgical teams such as those organized by HTC.



**Hunger zaps your energy.**

Both Dr. Friedrichs and Rita Lavin (volunteer for HTC who accompanied the team) hope to explore possible assistance especially for improving the dental care infrastructure. The nurse in charge of the ASSADE clinic depends on volunteers from the US, Canada and Spain to keep the clinic running. Interested in helping? Call 228-1404.

## Eat to support HTC and other fundraising

Fundraising is like doing the dishes, it never ends! To ease the burden HTC tried our first Eating Out effort with Albuquerque business Il Vicino Restaurants. All three restaurants participated by donating 15% of their profits. We had a good response and thank all of you who participated. We will do it again with another local restaurant and hope you will help spread the word by sharing the

coupons, bringing someone along, and helping us build our email address list.

Thank you Il Vicino!

HTC earns a penny every time you use the Goodsearch engine, and up to 25% on some purchases through Goodshop.

[www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com)

With a **\$5 per month pledge**, in a year HTC can help local children who have no Medicaid or insurance with flu shots, asthma meds, dental exam, special formula, eye glasses, medications for infections, lice treatment, dental sealants and more.

For medical missions we can buy antibiotics for 3; distilled water for the autoclave for a week, bus fare for 10 families to the hospital, tooth brushes for 50, needles and syringes for 25, treatment for worms, bandages, sterile gauze.

**Wonder what \$10 will buy?**



**Volunteer Sharyn Davidson converts photographs and graphics for newsletters and flyers.**

## Volunteers

Past newsletters recognize our medical volunteers, host families, and others who help in significant ways. In addition to medical volunteers, if you would like to organize the fundraising lunches, write the newsletter, design a new brochure,

or assemble newsletters please call or send an email.

Special thanks this issue go to the mission travelers, **A&R Medical Supply of Albuquerque** for the donation of two much need nebulizers to the ASSADE clinic, and Sharyn Davidson for photo work.

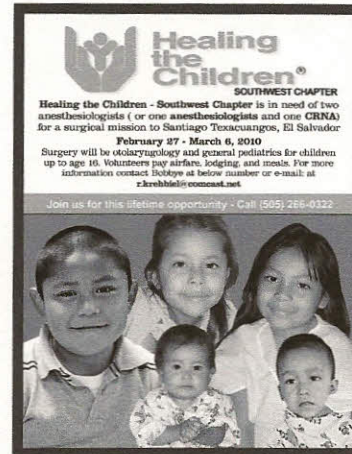


## Surgical Mission to El Salvador

Several volunteers from the surgical trip to Hospital la Divina Providencia in March 2009 are returning on February 27, 2010. They will pay all of their expenses and donate their services for one week. Returning are surgeons Dr. Ron Escudero (ENT) and Dr. Linda Nicolette (General Pediatrics), nurses Jeanette Maxwell, Linda Harper, and Kay Boneberg, and administrator Bobbye Krehbiel. Joining

the team are anesthesiologists Dr. Joanne Orr (her last mission with HTC was to Guatemala in 2008) and Dr. Penny Lindgren. Rounding out the team are nurses Jesse Wetherbe, Jennifer Coffey, and Sharon Prudhomme.

Other medical trips are being organized as needs are brought to our attention. Email or call if you are interested in volunteering.



Recruiting Flyer

Terry Breedlove

## A Bath Lift for A Special Little Girl

She is a 5 year old who attends New Mexico School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. She also has serious medical complications and weighs nearly 50lbs. Recently her mother fell trying to get her daughter out of the bathtub, and HTC was asked for help with the purchase of a bath lift which had been denied by Medicaid. Thanks to support for the **Hardship Relief Project** from **Albuquerque Community Foundation (ACF)** -the **Hines Family Trust** and **Rotary Del Norte Foundation**, the family has a new bath lift. In this photo is a large "Thank You " poster made by the children at NMSCVI.



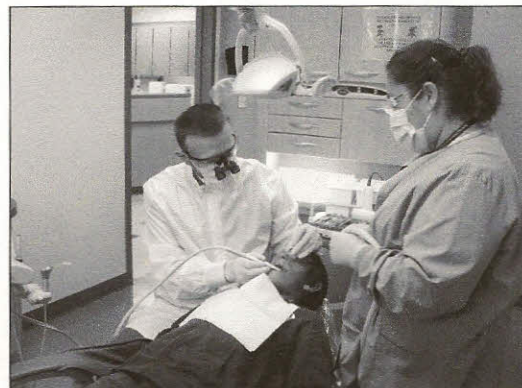
Staff member Nora Sandoval of NMSBVI holds a thank you card made by the students

## Funding for Local Dental Needs through the *Hardship Relief Project*

When parents can hardly scrape together enough money to have a child's painful tooth pulled, imagine how they feel when the dentist suggests more visits for cavities or sealants. The reality remains that for some families under financial stress, the child has to suffer with pain as long as possible. Thanks to ACF - the Hines Family Trust, the **Hardship**

**Relief Project** will support more families in 2010. The photo shows a dentist and assistant treating a child at First Choice Community Healthcare in Albuquerque.

Like all those donations to support the **Hardship Relief Project** are tax deductible!!





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Healing the Children,  
around the corner,  
around the world, one  
child at a time.

**2010 Board Members:**

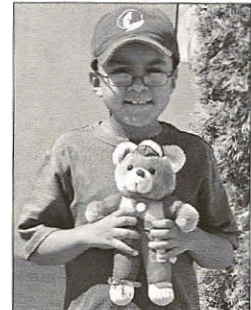
Walt Brown (director)  
Mary Jarrett (secretary)  
Roberta Krehbiel (president)  
Rita Lavin (director)  
Frank Ortiz, CPA (treasurer).

**Advisory Board Members:**

Mark Belville  
Donna Brown  
Dr. Diego Gonzalez  
Jeanne Griste  
Phil Krehbiel, esq.  
Barbara Menendez  
Dr. Laura Stern  
Maurcena Wells

## HTC Helps with Medications for Muscular Dystrophy

Cristian is a bright 8 year old boy who goes to school in Columbus, NM and is dealing with muscular dystrophy. Because his family is struggling financially, Healing the Children was asked by a social worker at the school to pay for some of his medical expenses. Everyone is hopeful that the medications will help alleviate his symptoms and allow him to play and learn like other children his age.



### Since 1989 Healing the Children—Southwest Chapter has served

3200 children in New Mexico  
(numbers include equipment that benefits at least 20)

172 International Inbound Children  
(from Korea, El Salvador, Guatemala, Iraq, Russia, Nigeria, Honduras)

2638 Children in Central America who received medical care or surgery  
(Numbers include surgeries, screening and primary care clinics)

**Thank you donors and volunteers!**

