

**Healing the Children
Annual Report 2012**



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History and Mission

Healing the Children (HTC), established in 1979, is perhaps the oldest and largest non-governmental organization (NGO) in the U.S. with a mission to help underserved children access the healthcare they need and deserve. HTC services are provided no matter what the medical issue, what country the child lives in, and without regard to race, creed, religion, or politics. Over the past 34 years, HTC has helped nearly a quarter of a million children, representing 105 countries, and provided an estimated \$650 million in donated medical services, supplies, and equipment. HTC currently has 12 chapters within 24 states as well as many International Partners (IPs) who help facilitate our work. The IPs are our 'boots on the ground' and work with HTC to assist children from countries where needed medical resources are not available. To meet increasing demands, HTC recently launched an outreach campaign to add additional chapters and IPs over the next 5 years.

HTC works with and relies on its many medical/healthcare volunteers and medical facilities to provide donated medical care that would be otherwise unobtainable for children. We are thankful for the support of our volunteers and hospital partners who choose to work with us to help children in need.

Programs

So that we can accomplish our mission to serve children, HTC has developed several programs to facilitate our work. Chapters may participate in all or only one or two of the programs that they deem compatible with their resources.

- **International Inbound Program (IIB)** is where we assist a child with serious medical issues, who doesn't have the needed pediatric specialty resources in their home country. We bring him/her to the United States for pro-bono treatment within one of our participating pediatric hospitals. Prior to seeking a solution in the U.S., the IIB program first makes an effort to locate solutions closer to where the child and the family lives; if that fails then we present the case to participating pediatric hospitals in the U.S.
- **Medical Teams Abroad Program (MTA)** At the invitation of the host county, we assemble a medical team built around the specific pediatric surgical specialty requested. The MTA volunteers work in the local hospitals and clinics along with the local healthcare providers to screen and provide surgical care in specialties otherwise not available there. Medical trips are usually 7-10 days long. All of our dedicated team members provide pro-bono care for the children, pay their own expenses and use their vacation time for the trip.

- **Non-Surgical Teams and Special Programs (International and Domestic)** This includes dental and non-surgical (medical, dermatology, audiology, etc.) teams in addition to programs that provide medical/surgical equipment, medical supplies, medicines and training for local healthcare providers. Some examples are the provision of hearing devices, eye exams, eyeglasses, immunizations, medical evaluations, support programs for special needs children, and special events to benefit children, etc.
- **Our Domestic Program** assists children here in the United States to acquire medical care, medicines, equipment, and other related needs that fall through the cracks of our existing insurance and social services programs. Since needs vary so greatly between the States, each chapter supports its own unique Domestic Program.
- **International Medical Assistance Program (IMAP)** is a relatively new program where HTC uses collaborative contacts to help find medical care for an international child in a country closer to where he or she lives. Through IMAP, certified facilities and staff have been identified and the cost of treatment is substantially lower than in the U.S. This program supports the twin objectives of developing solid medical resources internationally, and providing urgently needed medical help for the children. We believe this program will become increasingly important in the near future.



2012 Program Results

In 2012, HTC provided urgently needed medical assistance to a total of 10,575 children listed here by program:

Program	Number of children Helped
International Inbound	73
Medical Teams Abroad	7,048
Domestic	213
Non-Surgical and Special Programs	3,208
International Medical Assistance	<u>33</u>
TOTAL	10,575

HTC chapters planned and executed 33 outbound medical teams to 12 countries:

Country	Visits in 2012
China	2
Colombia	6
Dominican Republic	1
Ecuador	7
El Salvador	2
Ethiopia	2
Guatemala	6
Honduras	1
Nepal	1
Nicaragua	2
Thailand	2
Vietnam	1

2012 Financial Highlights

Total Assets	\$1,730,581
Total Liabilities	\$ 146,739
Net Assets	\$1,583,842
Total Expenses	\$17,895,077
Total Revenues	\$17,840,289
Decrease in Net Assets	\$ 54,788
% non-program Overhead	1.95%

Arizona Chapter

In 2012 we treated three children through our international inbound program: Hussein, Bryan, and Nelly.

Hussein is a 17 year old from Iraq. He first came to us in 2005 due to major scarring on his face from stepping on a landmine. He returned to us again in 2010 and has finished his treatment. He has one prosthetic eye, a prosthetic lower arm, and is legally blind. He was treated at Shriners' Hospital for Children in Los Angeles. He also received services and vision equipment from Arizona Foundation for the Blind.

Bryan is a 16 year old from Honduras who has suffered a severe form of scoliosis for half his life. He underwent a spinal fusion and a rod placement at Shriners Hospital for Children in Los Angeles. It has significantly improved both his quality of life and his self-image.

Nelly is a 13 year old, also from Honduras. She grew up with a congenital deformity which caused her right leg to be 15 inches shorter than her left. She was never able to walk and used crutches for mobility. Nelly came to AZ where she had an amputation below the knee so that she could wear a prosthesis. The surgery was performed by Dr. Brad Bruns at John C Lincoln Deer Valley Hospital. Her prosthetic leg was donated by Hanger Orthotics and Prosthetics.

We also organized an ENT team that traveled to Cuenca, Ecuador to provide ear, nose and throat care to the people there. The team screened 82 children and performed 49 procedures on 30 children.



Hussein



Bryan before and after



Nelly

Florida/Georgia Chapter

In 2012 our seven volunteer medical teams screened 691 children and performed 345 operations. On top of healing, our medical team members provided educational symposiums and lectures to update and educate overseas hospital staff.

In addition to organizing medical teams, we brought two children to the US for surgical care through our International Inbound Program.

Our Local Kids Program provided 68 children with in-kind services and we enrolled 9 children in the Medicaid/Kidcare Programs. Of the 68, 11 children were provided with ancillary support services that included CT scans, MRIs, Ultrasounds, EKGs, EEGs, lab work, speech therapy and orthopedic devices. All the services, supplies, medical equipment, and educational services were provided for \$1,224,877.

Our chapter was able to accomplish all of our goals for the year 2012 on a combined income of \$117,809.



Kentucky Chapter

In 2012, a total of 172 children with severe medical conditions were helped by the Kentucky Chapter. Two children from Central America had conditions that could not be treated in their home countries and were brought to the U.S. via our international inbound program for pro-bono surgical procedures at local hospitals. A third child, planning to travel to the U.S. for surgery, was so sick from her brain tumor that she could not continue her travel without significant risk. Emergency neurosurgery, arranged via our International Medical Assistance Program (IMAP), at the MyungSung Christian Medical Clinic in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia successfully removed her brain tumor and saved her life.

The Kentucky chapter also arranged a surgical trip to Manabí Province, Ecuador in February 2012. Despite heavy rains and electrical outages, the team was successful in accomplishing 169 life-saving procedures. This was our third year of sending medical teams to Manabí and we are very proud of the strong relationship of cooperation that has emerged.



Greater Philadelphia Chapter

In 2012, the Greater Philadelphia chapter executed three medical trips.

A 16 member surgical ENT/Audiology and Pediatric Urology team, traveled to Ethiopia in March. A total of 134 children were screened and 24 surgeries performed. In addition, 70 children had audio exams and 20 of those were provided with life changing hearing aids.

A Podiatry team traveled to El Salvador in September. Our medical professionals worked closely with the El Salvador Rotary and the military hospital personnel. A total of 104 children were screened with 25 having surgical procedures and additional 32 had foot procedures. 94 children were fitted with prosthetic and orthotic devices.

Our third medical team traveled to Ethiopia in October of 2012. This ENT/Audiology team was smaller than the one we sent to Ethiopia in the spring, but just as life changing. They screened 100 children, operated on 12, provided 15 children with hearing aids, and accomplished 30 audiograms.

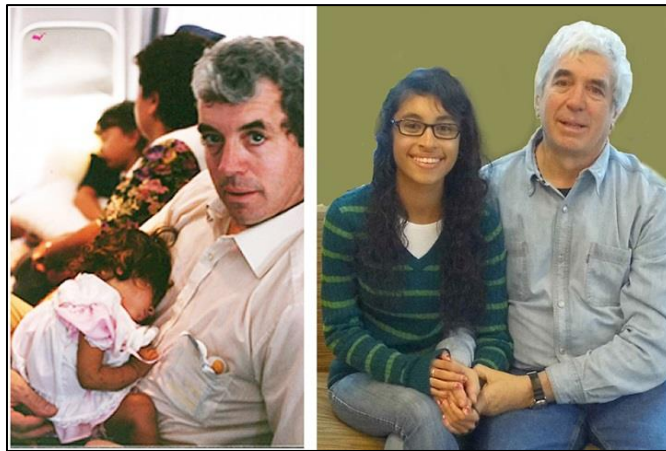
Next year, we hope to do a few procedures in a portable OR designed by one of our surgeons, Dr. David Bara. His portable surgical unit can be inflated in less than an hour and is completely self-contained with a Hepa filter, water filtration system, electrical wiring and LED lights. It weighs less than 60 pounds and the cost projection is less than \$10,000. We look forward to implementing Dr. Bara's design on a trip and hope it will help us in our mission to heal.



Illinois/Indiana Chapter

In 2012, Illinois-Indiana brought three children to the USA for medical treatment through our international inbound program. Our chapter also organized a one-week medical trip to Rivas, Nicaragua. 82 children were screened and 11 had life-changing surgeries.

Another highlight for the Illinois-Indiana chapter included the reunion between a former HTC child Ingrid, and her escort, Jeff Degner. Nineteen years ago, Ingrid, from Nicaragua, was born without an esophagus and needed immediate surgery to survive. At the time Jeff was an escort for the Wisconsin chapter, and he was sent to get baby Ingrid and bring her to the US. Nineteen years later Jeff and Ingrid reunited. It was a happy reunion and Ingrid's college studies and good health point to a promising future for her.



Inland Northwest Chapter

In 2012, our chapter welcomed back a young child from Honduras for an evaluation at Shriners' Hospital in Spokane. She had a spinal fusion several years ago and needs periodic evaluation as she grows. We also provided financial assistance to fund transportation for a ten year old boy from the Ukraine who was coming to the U.S. for medical care. The Inland Northwest Chapter is very active in the community and concentrates on healing at a local level. We supply local organizations like CAPA (Childbirth and Parenting Assistance) and Our Place Community Ministry with items such as layettes, diapers, clothing, toys, backpacks and school supplies. Our dedicated, weekly visits to these organizations strengthen relationships and increase our exposure to the community while providing compassion to families in need. Our local mission also includes Beats and Rhythms Camp, which provides a week-long refuge in a camp setting for children with heart defects. We were able to sponsor ten children with tuition to attend the camp.

Michigan/Ohio Chapter

In 2012, HTC Michigan-Ohio sent out four surgical and two non-surgical teams. Two Oral Maxillofacial teams traveled to Colombia to repair cleft lips and palates and a third team provided non-surgical specialty care. Our urology and neurosurgery teams traveled to Guatemala. One pediatric urology team performed many complex urological procedures and the second, working with local doctors, provided follow-up care and screened additional children for future surgeries. The neurosurgery team operated on children with intricate cranial and spinal defects. Combined, the teams screened 578 children and performed surgeries on 243 children. All six teams achieved their goals of healing children, teaching local doctors and continuing relationships with hospitals to maximize healing in impoverished locations.

On top of all the healing by medical teams, our international inbound program changed the lives of another 35 children. Doctors and hospitals in the U.S. with their extensive knowledge and equipment healed children like Netsai with severe burns, Sol with a vaginal fistula and Karla with vascular malformations.

Also exciting in 2012, our domestic focus, a program called Faces for the Future (FFF), made great strides in helping children right here in our community. FFF serves children with facial birth defects whose additional medical and dental needs fall through the cracks of our present insurance and social services systems. They are assisted with dental, orthodontic, speech therapy and other needs that they have as a result of their craniofacial birth defects.

We are thankful to our extensive donor and volunteer network that make all of this work possible.



Oral Maxillofacial team



Netsai



Waiting room in
Guatemala



Sol



New Jersey Chapter

In 2012, The New Jersey Chapter brought 21 children to the U.S. through our international inbound program to receive donated medical care from area hospitals and medical professionals. The children arrived from the Dominican Republic, Panama, Vietnam, Honduras, China, Peru, and Nigeria and were warmly welcomed by their various host families. They were transformed by a variety of services including orthopedic, ophthalmology, neurosurgery, urologic, and craniofacial care.

Also in 2012, we organized four medical trips. A few highlights include a dental team that traveled to San Pablo, Ecuador and performed 738 procedures on 189 children. Additionally, surgical teams went to Esmeraldas Ecuador, Guayaquil Ecuador, and La Romana Dominican Republic. They screened a total of 590 children with 267 children having 304 procedures; some required multiple procedures to be healed.

On a local level, our Chapter assisted 90 children through our Domestic Aid program. We help New Jersey children who have complex medical diagnoses and developmental disabilities. We assist with prescription medications, special needs therapy, special needs summer camps, adaptive equipment, hearing aids, and glasses. We receive referrals for this program from trusted community social workers, school nurses, and hospital social workers.

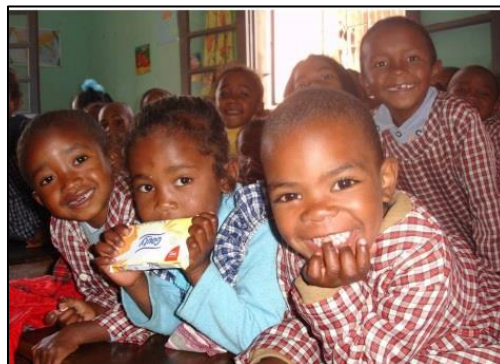


Northeast Chapter

The Northeast Chapter sent seven cleft and burn teams to four countries to provide surgery and other services for children in need. These teams screened a total of 692 children and operated on 376 children; with a total of 451 procedures (some had multiple procedures). Each of these teams also delivered and donated many cartons of medical supplies and equipment to the hospitals where they performed the surgeries. The countries visited were Thailand, Colombia, Ecuador and Nicaragua. Three dental teams also traveled in 2012. They went to Peru, Jamaica and Nicaragua where the children received free dental care including extractions and cleaning and were taught oral hygiene techniques. These dental teams served 1021 children. Again, the teams donated many cartons of supplies to the local facilities and healthcare providers.

Through our international inbound program, we brought a little girl from Kosovo for treatment of her severe scoliosis; her care is continuing.

On a local level, our Chapter reached out to two local families after a devastating home explosion killed one and severely burned others at the scene. We set up tables at local businesses and accepted monetary and gift card donations during Labor Day weekend. We collected nearly \$11,000 to help these families recover and get back on their feet.



Oregon/Western Washington Chapter

In 2012, Oregon-Western Washington Chapter supported four children through the international inbound program and provided continuing care and medical resources for 22 children already receiving support from the program.

Yeltsin came to the U.S. in September of 2011 after being referred to by the medical care teams in Honduras. He had a unique vascular condition and had surgery in June of 2012 at Boston Children's Hospital. Yeltsin is continuing his treatment plan while living with a host family and attending school.

Another child, Djoubens, age 5, came to the US from Haiti to repair a hole in his heart. Thanks to our skilled volunteer doctors, he made a rapid recovery. Djoubens happily reunited with his family in January of 2012. Dr. Don Van Nimwegen, an anesthesiologist who regularly volunteers for medical trips, often to Haiti, escorted Djoubens home and then stayed to evaluate medical needs with his contacts there.

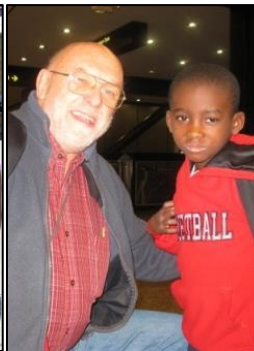
Our Chapter also organized nine medical teams which included 122 volunteers who traveled to Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Vietnam, and Nepal. The six surgical teams screened 717 children and operated on 136, with 199 procedures as some had multiple procedures. The very busy audiology teams screened 899 children and provided hearing aids to over 100 of the children. Another team traveled to Vietnam to provide education and training to health care personnel.



Yeltsin (on right)



Djoubens



Djoubens & Dr. Don



Blissful

Southwest Chapter

2012 was a great year for our Southwest Chapter. We organized an Ear Nose and Throat/ Plastic Surgery team that traveled to Santiago Texacuangos, El Salvador where they screened 89 children and operated on 61 of them. While they were there, they provided an additional 26 children with dental cleaning and evaluation. A month later, we sent a team of ENT doctors and General Surgeons to Baja de Caraquez, Ecuador where 104 children were screened and 71 children had surgeries. An internationally known photographer, Pablo Corral Vega, took interest in this mission to heal; one of his photos of a mother and her baby appeared in *SCRUBS* magazine. Also notable, a baby named Andrey needed more help than our temporary team could provide, so HTC Southwest partnered with the Arizona Chapter and we found a surgical program for Andrey in Argentina.

On a more local level, through our Chapter's domestic children's program, The Hardship Relief Project, we assisted 46 children with medications, humidifiers, dental care, eye exams, glasses and gas cards for travel to doctor appointments. This project partners with local healthcare providers who are aware of their patients' need for financial assistance.

In an effort to expand medical outreach even further, our all-volunteer organization supported a local group heading for Haiti; held a fundraiser that brought in over \$5,000; and most notably, five years following the economic crisis, we convinced our local hospital to once again accept international children for surgeries.



Photo by Pablo Corral Vega

Andrey

Wisconsin Chapter

In 2012, the Wisconsin Chapter brought 14 year old Alejandra from Citlaltepec, Mexico for treatment of what was diagnosed as a hemangioma. Shortly after she arrived, her doctor found that that Alejandra had an end stage high flow facial arteriovenous malformation (AVM). A specialized team of physicians through the Vascular Anomalies Center at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin successfully treated Alejandra over her 10 month stay through a series of embolizations followed by removal of the lesion and plastic surgery. Thanks to Dr. Beth Drolet, Dr. Craig Johnson, Dr. John Jensen and the entire staff at Children's Hospital of Wisconsin Alejandra's prognosis has changed from months to decades of life. She returned home in time to celebrate her Quinceanera with her family in September 2012. Below you see Alejandra's before surgery picture on the left, a picture of her with her surgeon in the middle, and on the right is after surgery at her Quinceanera.



Before surgery



with her surgeon



At her Quinceanera

How YOU can make a difference

Thank you for reading the stories of many brave children and learning exactly why Healing the Children envisions a world where every child has access to medical care, regardless of circumstance. If you were touched by a story in any way and would like to get involved, Healing the Children would love to hear from you.

Here are a few ways you can help:

- **Donate.** A simple monetary gift provides children with the gift of health, so precious and priceless. Visit www.healingthechildren.org and click on the “Donate” button. Feel free to donate to a specific chapter or to HTC National, which benefits all chapters.
- **Consider volunteering your services or time.** Visit www.healingthechildren.org to find the chapter that is closest to you. Just contact that chapter to learn of specific needs and opportunities in your area. Whether you’re a doctor and want to participate on a Medical Trip or be a host family to a child, there are many volunteer opportunities for each chapter.
- **Be a Leader.** If you live in an area that is lacking a voice for children in need, we would love to work with and help you establish a new HTC chapter. You do not need a medical background, just the ability to attract medical resources in your city or state, some organizational or non-profit experiences and most importantly, a genuine desire to help heal children who are counting on you.



“Changing the World... One Child at a Time.”