



Healing NEWS

Healing the Children Missouri
SPRING 2009



Healing the Children is a non-profit organization passionately committed to securing medical care for children in need from the United States and abroad.

A Message From Executive Director

Kathy Corbett



Dear Friends of Healing the Children,

We approach HTC's 5-year anniversary this summer with **excitement, appreciation and renewed energy** for our commitment to healing children.

Why excitement? Because it is truly breathtaking to see the lives of children transformed by life-changing surgeries through our International Inbound and Medical Trips Programs; plus we have strengthened our Missouri Kids program by partnering with Family Care Health Center to help kids with their vital dental needs. Healing these kids, getting them out of pain and back to school feeling good ... that is exciting.

We appreciate all of our committed donors and volunteers ... from doctors to host families to fundraisers ... who have reached out and created a strong, caring, dependable network for our kids.

And our energy is renewed as the tough economic times mean even tougher times for so many children locally and abroad who find it increasingly difficult to obtain the medical care they need.

Please share in our excitement, accept our appreciation and join in HTC's renewed commitment to sick children who have nowhere else to turn. In good times and bad, **they need us ... now more than ever.**

Around the World ———

Five Kids Undergo Life-Saving Surgeries

Five hearts, five personalities, five precious lives ... saved!

Five host families, two committed surgeons, two generous hospitals, one generous airline, many faithful donors ... countless hearts who all believe the same thing: ALL children, no matter where they live, deserve access to good medical care.

Each child pictured has finally had the open-heart surgery they have needed since infancy. While they delight in their new-found energy, their parents feel relief, joy and hope after spending years searching



Irving / El Salvador

and praying for the care their children needed to survive.

Ambar, Ryan, Edwin, Trishana and Irving depended on big hearts to save their lives; yet behind each child's success story are countless more kids who wait.

Healing the Children will work tirelessly to continue its mission to secure medical care for children in need ... around the corner and around the world. ●



Ambar / Dominican Republic



Ryan / Jamaica



Edwin / Nicaragua

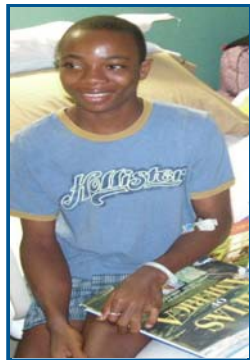


Trishana / Jamaica



Around the World ———

So Many Children's Lives are Forever Changed Through HTC's International Program



Semion / Liberia



Jarred / Nevis



Sandra / Honduras



Rasool
Iraq



In our last issue, we promised to update you on the HTC kids who were in the midst of their medical treatment. We happily report that all of the kids pictured are back in their home countries and doing well.

Semion made the furthest trip home to Liberia – without a wheelchair, his life no longer threatened by his infected hip. **Jarred** is happy to be back in the sunny Caribbean after his 8-month treatment that straightened his leg and greatly increased his confidence and quality of life.

Bright-eyed **Sandra** and energetic **Natalia** returned home walking better than ever after their respective surgeries and lengthy physical therapies. Undergoing multiple eye procedures, **Rasool** bravely completed his care with renewed hope for the future.

We were all shocked upon the discovery that the tumor in **Melissa's** finger was cancerous. Without treatment, her physician cautioned that this cancer spreads to other parts of the body quickly. This impressive young lady handled her challenges with great strength and grace and is now home, cancer-free.



Leonela / Honduras



Melissa / Jamaica

Finally, sweet **Leonela** ... no surgery on this trip but her evaluation points to hip surgery in the future.

All of these children went home with lifelong friends in St. Louis and a greatly enhanced quality of life. ●

Our Deepest Thanks to the
Following Hospitals Whose Generosity
Changed Many Lives:

Cardinal Glennon Children's
Medical Center

Shriners Hospital, St. Louis

St. John's Hospital,
Springfield, MO

St. John's Mercy Medical Center,
St. Louis

St. Louis Children's Hospital

Natalia / Dominican Rep.

On the Road to Healing

Healing the Children is deeply grateful to have many children in various stages of treatment and recovery. We'll keep you posted on the progress of these fantastic kids:

Kimberly (Age 17) / Home: Belize
Care: *Treatment and Surgery for Vitamin D-Resistant Rickets*

Alburt (Age 8) / Home: Belize
Care: *Analysis of Bone Disorder and Removal of Knee Tumor*

Josepia (Age 12) / Home: Belize
Care: *Analysis of Bone Disorder and Removal of Clavicle and Arm Tumors*

Erickson (Age 4) / Home: Belize
Care: *Surgeries for Arm and Scoliosis*

Carolina (Age 12) / Home: Guatemala
Care: *Hand Surgery*

Yimi (Age 8) / Home: Honduras
Care: *Urology Surgery*



Around the World ———

China Trip Provides Opportunity for Healing and Teaching



Dr. James Xiaodong Wang, vice-president of the Children’s Hospital at Soochow University welcomed Healing the Children for a second year to Suzhou, China to focus on children in need of surgical intervention for scoliosis.

Healing the Children team members included Dr. Dirk Alander, Dr. Aki Puryear, Dr. Hui Yuan, Evelyn Carson, Gregory Glover and Alicia Schnell.

The team spent three days at the Suzhou Children’s Hospital and two days at Nanjing Hospital examining patients,

consulting with local surgeons, teaching orthopedic surgical techniques, and providing care to indigent children in the area. Eleven children received surgery, others were evaluated for future surgeries and many more stand to benefit from the lectures presented by team doctors to more than 100 medical specialists in the region.

Dr. Puryear lectured and demonstrated his club foot casting techniques and Dr. Alander presented his minimally invasive spine surgery techniques.

Trip administrator Alicia Schnell expressed the team’s appreciation for Dr. James Wang’s deep commitment to providing top-level spine services to children. “He was very eager to learn new techniques and expected the same interest and openness to learning from his staff.”

By working with the Suzhou Children’s Hospital, over a period of years, Healing the Children is proud of its part in helping to establish a pediatric spine clinic which could serve as a model for all of China, said Schnell. ●

Around the Corner ———

Generous donations support HTC’s passionate commitment to helping kids Around the Corner and Around the World.

Partnership Provides Preventive Dental Care for Local Kids

In late summer 2008, Healing the Children entered into a partnership with the Family Care Health Center’s dental department to help children who have no insurance, yet do not qualify for state programs to receive preventive dental care.

Management at Family Care Health Center (FCHC) shared with HTC’s board a concern that a great number of children were identified as needing follow-up care after mobile units were sent to area

schools to conduct preventive dental care outreach. Though follow-up care was offered at a sliding scale rate, FCHC reported that “working poor” families were often unlikely to initiate the needed care.

Management could only surmise that this was due to a family’s inability to pay even their very minimal share of expenses. Healing the Children has partnered with FCHC in hopes that by eliminating this fee, more children might get the care they

need. FCHC immediately began an outreach program to draw the families in with the promise of help from Healing the Children to eliminate the fee. After launching the program, 60 children have been seen in the clinic. Children received preventive care, extractions, fillings or treatment for abscesses.

Healing the Children is excited to be making a difference in the health of children right here in St. Louis. ●



Missouri Chapter
P.O. Box 9227 • St. Louis, MO • 63117
Phone: 314 / 781 / 0244
Email: htcmo@swbell.net
Website: www.htcmo.org

Non-profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
St. Louis, MO
Permit No. 555

Address Service Requested

Board of Directors:

Kathy Corbett
Kevin Davis
Dianne Gray
Alicia Schnell
Bill Sommer
Margaret Sommer
Andrew Youkilis, M.D.

Healing the Children
Around the Corner  Around the World



HTC will soon begin sending Electronic Newsletters to supporters and friends. Please help us stay in touch by sending your name and email address to:
vickihtc@sbcglobal.net

Wish to Donate?

A Rosetta Stone Spanish Learning System?
Frequent Flyer Award Tickets?
A Digital Camera?
Please, give us a call at 314/781/0244.

and ... PLEASE ...
send in your financial contribution TODAY!

Donate by mail or go online to www.htcmo.org

PLEASE DONATE ... OUR KIDS NEED YOU!

You may contribute by check or credit card at www.htcmo.org



**Crisley's life is forever changed
when people who care ... give.**

