# the newsletter from **OUSTINSTIC SURGERY FOUNDATION**

#### **#SmileSanSalvador** Day 3 – June 13, 2016 By Hannah Reed

Photography by Ellie Falcao From the Austin Smiles Blog 6/13/16 he 5:00 am alarm this morning was a bit shocking; nonetheless, I'm so thankful for the mug of strong coffee at breakfast I was able to gulp down. At 6:00 am sharp the first half of our group loads the bus and drives to the hospital. It's hard to not be in awe when we drive through the city each day. Have I mentioned yet that the city of San Salvador rests in a valley surrounded by volcanoes on all sides? The views are breathtaking!



We arrive at the hospital. The medical team goes upstairs to prep for triage and surgery; the rest of us find ourselves in the waiting room with the parents and children that are scheduled for surgery today. I feel so much joy as I catch eyes with little Lester, one of the babies that was evaluated yesterday. I prayed that he would make it on the list for surgery on his cleft palate this week. On his left sits four-year-old Nathaly in her Minnie Mouse bow and matching shirt. She sees our team photographer and my roommate Ellie, and immediately gets a huge smile on her face; and of course she did, we all grin when we see Ellie - she's one of our team's favorites! After talking to little Nathaly and her

parents, we go and meet an older boy named Javier who is standing in the hallway with his mother. This will be his fifth surgery completed by Austin

> This will be his fifth surgery completed by Austin Smiles; they first operated on him at six months old. How incredible to know that our organization has essentially impacted his entire life for the last 14 years!

Smiles; they first operated on him at six months old. How incredible to know that our organization has essentially impacted his entire life for the last 14 years! His mother, Claudia, speaks close to perfect English, and she is a single mom and flight attendant. I ask her how she was feeling about surgery today, and she tells me, "Honestly, I am used to it, but I am also so grateful my son can be here today." Mary Jane, our team leader - who has been an active Austin Smiles volunteer for over 20 years - happened to go on her first mission trip to El Salvador 14 years ago and remembers Javier when he had his first surgery as a baby!







A few nurses are making their way down the stairs to the waiting room and asking for the families' orange tickets, which verify they are scheduled for Monday surgery - the Austin Smiles' version of a golden ticket! Next, Mary Jane and Dr. Barnes come down the stairs and motion for the parents and first three children scheduled for surgery to come upstairs for triage. As I follow these first patients and their parents upstairs into a white-tiled room, we see that the triage room is in full motion. Dr. Barnes then motions for Lester and his mother to enter the room so that he and Jenny, one of our RNs, can check Lester's vitals and temperature. Next in line is Mateo, an adorable eight month old brought in by his grandmother. It breaks my heart to hear Lester's and Mateo's cries as they are dressed in their teal-green smocks and surgical bonnets. They are really hungry since they haven't been able to eat since 9:00 pm last night. As much as I dislike the sound of their cries, I keep going back to my most recent conversation with Dr. Barnes. Continued on page 11

#### **From the Executive Director**



**"SEEING FIRST-HAND** WHAT AUSTIN SMILES **DOES FOR THOSE AFFLICTED WITH** CLEFT LIP/PALATE **IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES INSPIRES ME EVEN MORE** TO SUCCESSFULLY **CONTINUE THE** LEGACY OF Sincerely,

am honored and excited to be the new Executive Director of Austin Smiles! Since starting in July of this year, I have met so many of you who care so deeply about this well-loved and established organization. From original founding members to current and past board members, major donors and supporters to long-time medical and nonmedical volunteers, I have learned that the Austin Smiles community is one that is profoundly devoted and incredibly proud.

I recently went on my first mission trip with Austin Smiles to Guatemala in October. I was able to observe the team of 39 volunteers in action. Surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, surgical technologists, and speech language pathologists – many who had never met until arriving at the airport in Austin to travel to Guatemala – soon became a seamlessly united crew, efficiently intaking patients and quickly moving forward to coordinate and perform 76 surgeries on 44 patients - all babies and children. I watched our nonmedical volunteers - members from the Junior League of Austin, board members, translators, and others – take on every task, big or small, with passion and importance, like taking photos and writing for the Austin Smiles blog, making daily runs for additional needed supplies, or even simply blowing bubbles or putting on a make-shift puppet show to make the children laugh. I observed each day many hopeful yet fearful mothers wait for hours with their small children, and saw these mothers cry tears of joy and relief when reunited with their little ones.

Seeing first-hand what Austin Smiles does for those afflicted with cleft lip/palate in Latin American countries inspires me even more to successfully continue the legacy of this beautiful organization. I am also eager for our upcoming local events like Camp Amigo and the Spring Picnic where we creates fun and fellowship for patients in the craniofacial program at Dell Children's Medical Center.

We could not do any of this work without the financial and volunteer support of so many of you so thank you for caring about Austin Smiles. I am honored to serve this tremendous organization!

THIS BEAUTIFUL ORGANIZATION." Kristenbrown@austinsmiles.org

#### **BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Ned Snyder, IV, M.D., Chair Dee Dee Ritzinger, Vice Chair Robin Demel, Treasurer William P. Barnes, V, M.D., Secretary Jamie L. Barshop Forest D. Cook James R. Cullington, M.D. Stanley R. Eckert, M.D. Liz L. Fox Cindy Greenwood Jeffrey W. Hall, M.D. Raymond J. Harshbarger, III, M.D. David W. Landry **Del Waters** Teri L. Waters

### STAFF

**Kristen Brown Executive Director** 

Leilani Briseño Medical Missions Director

**Kristin Garcia** Director of Development and Communications

> Martha Mashburn **Director of Office Operations**



# the heart of a volunteer

**G** There is nothing stronger than the heart of a volunteer. With it beats the spirit of service, generosity and compassion...and the health and well-being of our community, our country and our world.





#### WE LOVE OUR VOLUNTEERS!

On August 21, 2016, Beau Theriot, owner of The Oasis and long-time Austin Smiles supporter, generously hosted an informal Austin Smiles volunteer appreciation party. Two past post-trip parties (Dominican Republic and El Salvador 2016) turned into a larger occasion for recent trip volunteers, board members, original founding members, and dedicated supporters to reconnect and celebrate Austin Smiles. Thank you to everyone who came out to The Oasis and a BIG thank you to all of you who do so much to further the mission of Austin Smiles!

1. Deborah Kirk, Mary Jane Parker, and Brittan King 2. Rick Parker, Jim Cullington, and Pat Beckham



KENDRA GIVES BACK EVENT BENEFITING AUSTIN SMILES On September 12, 2016, Austin Smiles was the beneficiary of a Kendra Gives Back event at the Kendra Scott store on North Lamar in Austin. From 6:00 to 8:00 pm, Austin Smiles staff, board members, long-time volunteers and supporters, and many new faces to Austin Smiles enjoyed sips, sweets, and mingling with 20% of all purchases made going back to us. In just two hours of shopping, Austin Smiles earned over \$1,200! We are grateful to everyone who came out to the event and to Kendra Scott for selecting Austin Smiles as one of its nonprofit beneficiaries.



 Forest Cook at the Color Bar
Leilani Briseño, Kristen Brown, Kristin Garcia, and Martha Mashburn
Kendra Gives Back





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# Vince Gill Headlines Wish Upon a Smile Gala

Country music legend Vince Gill performed for a packed crowd at our annual "Wish Upon a Smile" fundraiser on November 14, 2015. The Starlight Terrace at the Oasis provided an enchanting setting for the intimate concert where guests enjoyed a fabulous seated dinner followed by an energetic live auction with Andrew Bost of Benefit Auctions as auctioneer. The evening concluded with a special acoustic set by Vince Gill. Special thanks to our event chair, Stephanie Ashby and honorary chair, Beau Theriot, for their leadership and support. We also thank our presenting sponsor, Heritage Title Company, and sponsors ABC Bank, Capital Anesthesiology Association, HEB, Moreland Properties, the Oasis, and Westbank Flower Market. Thanks to everyone who attended and supported 2015's event – Austin Smiles netted nearly \$200,000!











- 1. Vince Gill, Jeanene Demel, and Robin Demel
- 2. Beau Theriot, Renee Snyder, Amanda Dudley, Dale Dudley, Ned Snyder, Leslie Laverty, and David Laverty
- 3. Billy and Becky Colby
- Janice Ryan, Vince Gill, and Suzanne Chandler
  Vince Gill
- 6. Josh Wuthrich, Callie
- Wuthrich, Teri Waters, Del Waters, Jim Nivens, and Alice Nivens
- 7. Mary Kay Lauden, Stella Denny, Vanessa Little, Melissa Reyes, and Kelly Cantrell

## **Celebrating 30 Years of Austin Smiles!**



On Saturday, February 11, 2017 join Austin Smiles for Starry Starry Night – Celebrating 30 years of Austin Smiles. Supporters of Austin Smiles will gather to enjoy a night out with local music and an exciting live auction at The Oasis Restaurant's Starlight Terrace.

For more information on how to become a sponsor of the event or to purchase tickets please visit our website, www.austinsmiles.org or contact Kristin Garcia at 512-451-9300.

Committee 🛪

Honorary Chairs Dr. and Mrs. Jim Cullington Mr. Beau Theriot, Owner of The Oasis and Theriot Retail Interests **Committee Members** Stephanie Ashby Jamie Barshop Brenda Eckert Deborah Kirk Barbara Powell Eugenia Sewell Sponsors

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# **MISSION HIGHLIGHTS**

#### Dominican Republic

#### PUERTO PLATA, DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

Team Leader: Dr. Jim Cullington Anesthesia Team Leader: Dr. Paula Rushing Number of Patients Served: 17 April 30 - May 7, 2016

#### **VOLUNTEERS:**

Tanja Abercrombie Dr. Quint Barnes Jamie Barshop Dr. Eric Cole Dr. Jim Cullington Angie Englert Liz Fox Grant Gardner Laura Guerrero Tom Kirk Mary Kay Lauden Sarah Luna Dr. Simi Randhawa Dr. Paula Rushing Janice Ryan Yeny Sandoval Lori Seti **Tim Simecek** Jennifer Skinner Willis Skinner Dr. Ned Snyder Elizabeth Stephens Ana Sweeney Patrick Sweeney **Cindy Thomas** Dr. Aisha White Dr. Mary Zavala

Leilani Briseño, Staff













"My wonderful friends, Tim & Cindy are at it again. Donating their time to Austin Smiles, this time in the Dominican Republic. I'm amazed how they help change the lives of these strangers. True angels!" Mark S.







- 1. Dr. Ned Snyder, Dr. Eric Cole, and Lori Seti
- 2. Cindy Thomas
- 3. I to r top: Dr. Ned Snyder, Dr. Luis E. Redondo, Dr. Jim Cullington, Dr. Daniela Mayer, Dr. Eric Cole, Dr. Quint Barnes; I to r bottom: Dr. Mary Zavala, Dr. Paula Rushing, Dr. Antonio Placido, Dr. Aisha White, and
- Dr. William C. Redondo Galán
- 4. Laura Guerrero
- 5. Yeny Sandoval
- 6. Dr. Ned Snyder, Tom Kirk, Dr. Eric Cole, and Dr. Aisha White
- 7. Sweet Patient
  - 8. Jamie Barshop entertains a patient
  - 9. The DR Team with our hosts, the Redondos

# **MISSION HIGHLIGHTS**

#### **El Salvador**

#### SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

Team Leader: Dr. Raymond Harshbarger Anesthesia Team Leader: Dr. John Hatridge Number of Patients Served: 43 June 11 – 18, 2016 Photography by: Ellie Falcao

#### **VOLUNTEERS:**

Lindsay Ashby Stephanie Ashby Dr. Quint Barnes Alisa Baron Isa Cinclair Joseph Cinclair Lucy Cinclair Dr. Rob Cinclair Dr. Holly Clause Lori Dominguez Angie Englert Ellie Falcao Morgan Gillen Trent Gillingham Tanya Gomez Paul Gonzalez Drew Greene Dr. Matt Greives Andrea Guidry Tara Hargis Dr. Raymond Harshbarger Dr. Tuan Truong Dr. John Hatridge Stephan Jessin Jenny Knight Edna Lopez Lya Macaya

Dr. Keller Matthews Pat Narsete Dr. Tom Narsete Mary Jane Parker Anneke Paterson Abby Paust Hannah Reed Elisa Carmen Reyes **Cheryl Robison** Dr. Jim Robison Kathryn Robison Adam Sawicki Dr. Angeline Sawicki **Caitlin Secrist** Dr. Tom Sentz Dr. Taylor Shepard Maureen Sloan Elizabeth Stephens Anton Stoebner Jamie Sun Gayle Truax Dr. Jackie Wegge

Leilani Briseño, Staff Kristin Garcia, Staff



"Most of the families there had been told by doctors in their country that their child's surgery wouldn't be possible. Even if the surgery was possible, the parents wouldn't be able to afford it. They were scared, they were tired, they were anxious, yet there was a glimmer of hope in their eyes. Hope that comes from knowing a team from America cared enough about their children to improve their quality of life." Hannah Reed











- 1. Two adorable patients
- 2. Dr. Ray Harshbarger with the Borgo family
- 4. Dr. Rob Cinclair and Dr. Jim Robison with a patient
- 5. The El Salvador Team 3. Dr. Jackie Wegge and Dr. Matt Greives speak with a dad 6. Hannah Reed

# **MISSION HIGHLIGHTS**

### Guatemala

#### **GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA**

Team Leader: Dr. Patrick Beckham Anesthesia Team Leader: Dr. Mary Zavala Number of Patients Served: 44 October 15 - 23, 2016 Photography by: Leslie Spencer

#### **VOLUNTEERS:**

Tasha Beaugh Dr. Patrick Beckham **April Bloomingburg** Cecilia Canales Dr. Lauren Crawford Mary Fassnacht Dr. Amy Graham-Carlson Kiera Griffin Laura Guerrero **Carol Hamilton** Heather Hill Lauren Holcomb deLorme Kiefer Deborah Kirk Tom Kirk Cameron Klein Dr. Jeff Klein Dr. Kevin Lin Vanessa Martin Steve Milev Dr. René Myers Neha Patel Kate Raetz Lauren Holcomb Dr. Simi Randhawa Sandy Resendez Christian Schley Leslie Spencer Carolina Taylor Terry Taylor Dr. John Teichgraeber Del Waters Teri Waters Jennifer Zachary **Kimberly Zachary** Dr. Syboney Zapata Dr. Mary Zavala

Leilani Briseño, Staff Kristen Brown, Staff Martha Mashburn, Staff

















- 1. Dr. Amy Graham-Carlson, Sandy Resendez, Dr. John 6. Dr. Lauren Teichgraeber, deLorme Kiefer, and Dr. Kevin Lin
- 2. Carolina Taylor, Kiera Griffin, and Vanessa Martin
- 3. Dr. Mary Zavala, Deborah Kirk, Mary Fassnacht, and Carolina Taylor
- 4. Tom Kirk and **Kimberly Zachary**
- 5. Tasha Beaugh, April Bloomingburg,

Dr. René Myers, and Steve Miley

- Crawford, Dr. René Myers, Dr. Kevin Lin, Dr. John Teichgraeber, and Dr. Pat Beckham
- 7. Tasha Beaugh, Carol Hamilton, Dr. Pat Beckham, and Neha Patel
- 8. The Guatemala Team

"While I've realized that these parents are more trusting than anyone I know, I've also realized how desperate they are for their child to be healthy. The Austin Smiles team is going to make that happen over the next week."

#### Shoot for a Smile

he 19th Annual "Shoot for a Smile" was held at Capitol City Trap & Skeet Club on Friday, April 22, 2016. Guests enjoyed shooting, BBQ, prizes, and a silent auction and raffle. Thanks to the generous support of our teams and sponsors, Shoot for a Smile raised nearly \$31,000. We could not have done it without our co-chairs, Dr. Rick Parker and George Cowden who have spearheaded this event through the years!







#### **Thank you Sponsors!**

Budweiser/Brown Distributing Co. Cameron Craven, MD Capitol Anesthesiology Association Deborah Kirk Interiors Inc. Dr. John Eggleston, III Bob Ersek, MD Frost Bank Patrick Kelley, MD McBride's Guns Moreland Properties, Mary Jane Parker RESTORA AUSTIN – Ashley Gordon, MD & Dustin Reid, MD James T. Robison, IV, MD Sportman's Finest Galen Wachtman, MD

















# Shoot for a Smile Teams

Jim Berkey Capitol Anesthesiology Association Covert Bastrop Bob Clement, MD Micha Coelho George M. Cowden Jim Cullington, MD Endeavor Frost Bank

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Giddens Homes Bill Gorman, MD Stephan Humphrey Labor Finders Steve Meyer Priscilla Nicholson Rick Parker, MD George Ramsey Sportsman's Finest

# **Austin Smiles Locally**

ustin Smiles provides patients and families in the Craniofacial Program at Dell Children's Medical Center with annual social activities like the Family Fun Day and Picnic at Zilker Park, a holiday party, and a weekend overnight camp – Camp Amigo. Through these activities, patients and families have the opportunity to connect over shared experiences and form long-lasting relationships.





# <image>

### AMPLIFY AUSTIN -AMPLIFY AUSTIN SMILES!

S ave the Date for Amplify Austin Day – March 2-3, 2017! Amplify Austin Day is our city's annual community-wide day of online giving hosted by I Live Here, I Give Here. The 24-hour period provides an easy and fun way for our entire community to give together while helping local nonprofits, like Austin Smiles. And, your gift made on Amplify Austin Day will be amplified by incentive matching dollars from generous sponsors. Over the past four years, Austin Smiles has raised over \$40,000 through this digital day of giving!







#### Continued from Page 1

We were standing there in the midst of the chaos in the hallway on triage day, and yet he was so calm. He has been on about 30 trips with Austin Smiles and he was teary eyed as he told me that despite the amount of trips he's experienced, he still gets emotional thinking that one short hour of his life can impact a child's life forever.



Lester has been cleared by Dr. Barnes in triage, and is now following Dr. Cinclair down a narrow hallway several feet away from the operating room. I can feel the anticipation in the air as camera flashes are going off to capture the moment, and the nurses and doctors are eagerly waiting outside the operating room, ready to get surgery started. Baby Lester is being called in, and as Dr. Cinclair comes and reaches for him gently from his young, solemnfaced mother, both mother and son start to cry uncontrollably. As quickly as she starts to cry, Ellie and a few sweet Salvadoran women were just as fast to reach out to embrace and comfort



her. Despite the tears in our eyes, each person in the room can surely feel an overshadowing force of love: the love of a mother for her child, the love of the doctor as he took the child in for surgery, the love of strangers as they rushed to comfort the crying mother, and even the love of generous people all around the world that made this very moment possible.



I walk past the row of mothers waiting for their children that were just wheeled in for surgery and into the PACU room (Post Anesthesia Care Unit). The team of RNs are prepping the room for their first patients. You can tell they are itching to get to work! We have seven PACU nurses: Morgan Gillen, Lori Dominguez, Paul Gonzalez, Tanya Gomez, Gayle Truax, Angie Englert, and Maureen Sloan. Right next to the PACU, there are two sets of double doors to access the operating units. In the first room I put on a blue hairnet, blue shoe covers, and a white mask. No one can enter the OR without wearing all three. I peek through the glass window on the door to see two beds – Lester on one side and Mateo on the other – and a total of 16 surgeons, nurses, scrub techs, and volunteers all wearing some blend of bright blue and green scrubs. I force myself to



open the door and walk in. My first thought is that I am experiencing so much anxiety, as I'm having trouble breathing and my chest is tight, but quickly realize I just have to get used to breathing through my mask. I am evidently far from my comfort zone – I've never been in an operating room to see surgery performed. Despite my apprehension, these skilled individuals are so at home. They work well as a unit and flow together in unison, just like the 70's-rock-music lyrics and medical equipment that echo quietly in the background of the busy room.



Baby Mateo is now finished with surgery. Dr. Cinclair brings him into the PACU, and the little guy is crying. This is a good sign, though - it means that he is breathing on his own. The PACU nurses are taking such gentle care of him as together they place little splints around his arms to prevent him from touching his mouth. He looks so darling in his green smock and straight black bed hair, and as they care for him all of the team can't help commenting on how cute he is! I saw him right before he went into surgery, and I can't stop smiling as I get my first glimpse of his nose and mouth as he lies on the recovery bed. Baby Mateo has a new smile!



Now it is almost 7:00 pm and the sun has just set over the city. The last two patients are in the PACU recovering and waiting to be taken upstairs to sleep overnight. Most of us are finished with our work so we changed out of our scrubs in preparation for the ride back to the hotel. Eleven children have had surgery completed today and all have been successful!



Austin Smiles, The Austin Plastic Surgery Foundation 9415 Burnet Road, Suite 207 • Austin, TX 78758

A Project of The Junior League of Austin







Follow Austin Smiles on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram!

# **Mission Statement** - Creating Smiles, Improving Lives

Austin Smiles - The Austin Plastic Surgery Foundation is a nonprofit organization working to advance its mission of creating smiles and improving lives, focusing in Latin America and the Central Texas region. We provide cleft lip and palate repair surgery for patients in mission countries, comprehensive follow-up cleft care for these patients, and training for local doctors and nurses in their communities. Austin Smiles also provides local program support for all cleft lip/palate patients undergoing surgeries and treatment, especially in the Craniofacial and Reconstructive Plastic Surgery Center at Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas.



#### Thank you for your support!

During this year-end season of giving, we know that you have many choices when it comes to making charitable contributions. We hope that reading our newsletter will inspire you to make a donation. Every dollar counts. Please consider mailing in your donation or clicking the DONATE button on our website www.austinsmiles.org to securely give. Thank you!

#### We are grateful for support from:

Carl C. Anderson Sr. & Marie JoH – E – BAnderson FoundationThe JuniAdvanced Pain CareKLS MarAustin SonicsNelson FECG FoundaionPadgettErickson Demel & Co., PLLCSterling-

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Note our new address: 9415 Burnet Road, Suite 207 · Austin, TX 78758