



the newsletter from

austinsmiles

THE AUSTIN PLASTIC SURGERY FOUNDATION

Veracruz 2017, Surgery, Day Two

Written & Photography By

Natalie deLeon

From the Austin Smiles Blog 7/13/17

I walked into the hospital and immediately could feel the pressure of change I had felt the day before. I knew today would change my life and I would never see people the same way again. I walked into a mom holding her child tightly, a surgeon preparing his equipment, an anesthesiologist preparing her medications, all the documents getting organized, crates emptied, cold water put into ice chests. I knew today would be one of those days where a memory is made that sticks with you for the rest of your life.



We had our first patient – a sweet little one whose face had terror and fear of the unknown, written all over it. All of the patients get a preliminary check-up again before going down to surgery.

We poke, put cold things on them, and take them out of their comfort zone – some cry, some laugh. The moms or dads who bring them take it all in with

Some stay and watch until their baby is out of view, some stay a moment after with tears in their eyes, and some feel the need to hand over their child and immediately turn and walk away. A raw reaction.

stride, knowing this will be the best thing for their child in the long run.



The mothers hold their babies with such fervor that the moment they let them go for surgery you can see not only the relief, but also the pain of

having to see them go. Some stay and watch until their baby is out of view, some stay a moment after with tears in their eyes, and some feel the need to hand over their child and immediately turn and walk away. A raw reaction.



The moment the parents hear that their baby has come out of the OR, they pop up with intensity. The hallway to PACU is long with heat rushing at you, dim lighting, and people everywhere. The parents walk it with their head held high and red eyes. I asked a mom "how are you feeling?" she only said one word "nerviosa" (nervous). The first time a parent sees their baby after surgery, no matter the age, it's a personal moment. For a split second a mother may not recognize their child or know how everything turned out. Those are the moments we all came for, those moments where the children are out of surgery, are healthy, and within a couple of days able to leave and to go live a long healthy life.



From the Executive Director



It has been an incredible four months at Austin Smiles!

I am humbled and honored to serve as Executive Director for this wonderful organization, which has contributed so greatly to helping children and families get a fresh start at life. At Austin Smiles, every day represents a new opportunity to positively transform the life of a child, and for that, I am grateful. We are committed to our patients and the many families we serve locally and internationally, and to the conviction that every child deserves access to quality medical care, while reaching their fullest potential.

I was privileged to experience my first mission trip during the month of October; the mission took place in Guatemala City, Guatemala. The caring and concerned parents we met, the media, business groups, International humanitarian organizations, our ground support team, and Austin Smiles volunteers all found ourselves enveloped with hope and gratitude, and united through the common goal of providing children with a positive chance at a more fulfilling life.

The fueling force throughout this entire mission appeared to be none other than hope. Hope, coupled with actions taken to ensure a high level of care, delivery in a safe, nurturing and caring environment, provided our children, the many families who trustingly placed these precious lives in our hands, and our team, a fulfilling and life-transforming experience. I am grateful for the awareness this experience brought me and for the opportunity to open my eyes to my own privileged life.

Realizing the struggles these families undergo just to arrive to the medical center on triage day was humbling to say the least. Each

family reported spending an average of two to six hours traveling just to give their child a chance to be considered for surgery. Unfortunately, we could not help everyone, and some families had to be turned away. Part of delivering safe and quality care consists of assessing a child's present health condition, their age, and the complexity of each procedure. Although our outstanding medical team was unable to operate on everyone, the children whose lives were transformed forever during this mission now can live healthy and fulfilling lives.

During our mission trip I had the incredible chance to deliver therapeutic art workshops to parents in the waiting room. Through this guided curriculum, parents were able to share in a safe and contained group space, some of their fears, life struggles and deeply rooted pain. After each workshop parents who participated reported feeling a sense of relief during this respite moment. Some parents had never been exposed to creating art, however, their work served as testimony of their journey, innate talent, and unconditional love for their child.

These last four months have provided incalculable insight about the wonderful legacy left by Austin Smiles founders, the work which lays ahead for our organization, a clearer understanding of the hopes and dreams behind each family we touch, and the commitment of our entire team to augment each child's opportunity to living a healthy and fulfilling life.

Thank you for allowing me to become part of the Austin Smiles journey. Many thanks to our talented and dedicated team, to each of our volunteers, to our Board, and to our donors who generously share their resources so no child is deprived from the opportunity of growing healthy and happy.

Warmest Regards,

Teresa V. Cox
teresa@austinsmiles.org

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David W. Landry
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Teri L. Waters

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Teresa V. Cox
Executive Director

Leilani Briseño
Medical Missions Director

Natalie deLeon
Development and Communications Manager

Martha Mashburn
Director of Office Operations



the heart of a volunteer

“ 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. ”

~ Kobi Yamada

LAUREN CRAWFORD, MD

After having the distinct pleasure of participating on my fourth Austin Smiles mission trip this October, I can gladly say that my love for this amazing community of people has grown even greater. I want to thank all those who make such trips possible from Austin Smiles staff, volunteers, and donors. It is a privilege to be invited back to do this life changing and greatly fulfilling work. It's not just life changing for the kids. It's always life changing for me as well.

This time I also had the honor of being the lead surgeon for the team and this role filled me with a new pride. The team did not require much in the way of leadership. The mission was organized and volunteers came ready to work hard and efficiently. I enjoyed leading the team through the triage clinic and organizing our thoughts and opinions on the patients, particularly with the more challenging cases. I enjoyed coordinating the schedule to make sure the patients were served well and safely. I could not have asked for a better team atmosphere. It is a beautiful thing to behold the true teamwork and art of medicine in action.

I am also viewing the organization with a slightly different lens now that I've served ten months as a member of the board. I understand the organization, perseverance, and energy a small non-profit demands in order to stay financially healthy and functioning. This background changes my outlook on the contacts we make in a country such as Guatemala. Who may I meet that could help us in the future? Funding is crucial. Spreading the word of our good work is crucial. We need more friends and partners both here and there. This is on my mind now more than ever. I meet a business person in Guatemala, I talk about the organization and I encourage them to find us on social media. I ask them to read more about us. I talk to patients about our work. I recruit volunteers. I want Austin Smiles to flourish. Even a relative introvert such as myself can find an inner cheerleader when it comes to a subject I'm passionate about.

So, my parting thoughts after my most recent Austin Smiles mission trip are that I affirmed once again that these trips are a vital, spiritual journey for myself and fellow volunteers and Guatemala is just as magical for me as it was the first time around. I absolutely love the work we do and how we do it. I am proud to serve as a volunteer, lead surgeon, and board member. But, I'd like to press each and every one of us to strive to find the louder, inner cheerleader within you. Talk to people about your experiences on the trips and share your passion with others. We represent the best of 'the helpers' that people look to for inspiration in this world. Our 30 year legacy lies with how we treat our patients and the ripple effect that extends out from those life changing surgeries. I want that legacy to extend for many more generations to come. Happily, we can all have a hand in securing that.

Sincerely,
Lauren Crawford, MD



“ I ABSOLUTELY LOVE THE WORK WE DO AND HOW WE DO IT. I AM PROUD TO SERVE AS A VOLUNTEER, LEAD SURGEON, AND BOARD MEMBER. BUT, I'D LIKE TO PRESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF US TO STRIVE TO FIND THE LOUDER, INNER CHEERLEADER WITHIN YOU. TALK TO PEOPLE ABOUT YOUR EXPERIENCES ON THE TRIPS AND SHARE YOUR PASSION WITH OTHERS ”





Celebrating 30 Years of Austin Smiles

Austin Smiles celebrated 30 years with 300 guests at the “Starry Starry Night” gala on February 11, 2017 at the famed Starlight Terrace at The Oasis Lake Travis. Guests enjoyed scrumptious beef tenderloin and salmon while listening to Austin’s own American swing jazz band, 8^{1/2} Souvenirs. Gayle Stallings of FunAuctions led an energetic live auction and raffle where all proceeds went

to support the programs of Austin Smiles. Special thanks to our event honorary chairs, Dr. Jim and Gayle Cullington and Mr. Beau Theriot, for their leadership and support. We also thank our committee members: Stephanie Ashby, Jamie Barshop, Brenda Eckert, Deborah Kirk, Barbara Powell, and Eugenia Sewell. Finally, thank you to our presenting sponsor, Heritage Title Company, and sponsors ABC Bank, Capitol Anesthesiology Association, H-E-B, Marshall’s Tavern, The Oasis, Crescent House Unique Furniture & Accessories, Erickson Demel & Co., Inc., Restora Austin, Tarrytown Pharmacy, Jennifer L. Walden, MD, PLLC, Cornerstone Hospitals, Lauren Crawford, MD, Gage Multifamily Services, Moreland Properties - Mary Jane Parker, and Newberry Law. Thanks to the support of sponsors and guests, the “Starry Starry Night” gala raised over \$277,000!



1. Paul Dlabal, Kathryn Grimm, Stan and Brenda Eckert
 2. Pauline Winston and Terry Crossett
 3. Margene and Pat Beckham
 4. Rocco Piazza, Richard Donkersgoed, Michael Coleman, Michael Shearman
 5. Debbie and Fred Wilder.
 6. Carrie Comeaux and Tasha Beaugh
 7. Julie and Patrick Kelley with Mark and Paulette Hamilton
 8. Martha Mashburn and Kristen Brown
 9. Mady Combs, John and Cindy Greenwood
 10. Bill and Nancy Gorman
- Photos by Pamela Hulst Photographs



On Saturday, January 20, 2018 join Austin Smiles ***Somewhere Down in Texas!*** Supporters of Austin Smiles will gather to enjoy a night out with local music by Ty Grubbs and an exciting live auction and raffle at the Etter-Harbin Alumni Center at The University of Texas.

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 us at 512-451-9300.

**as of print time*

SAVE THE DATE

You are cordially invited to the
2018 Austin Smiles Gala
January 20th @ UT Alumni Center
presented by



2018 Gala Committee

Cindy Greenwood, Chair

Jamie Barshop | Brenda Eckert | Pam Frolow | Melissa Grant

Stephanie Nick Hurd | Tina Kemmerer | Deborah Kirk

Laura Pagnozzi | Jessica Philpot | Tiffanie Roberts | Stefani Tjelmeland

Event Sponsors*



Dr. Stan & Brenda Eckert | Kevin & Diane Daley

ANESTHESIA EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Yes – the patients, their families and community are impacted by the free and necessary surgeries Austin Smiles provides, but what about the essential and life-sustaining equipment needed by the Anesthesia Team to monitor and assure the patients are safe and stable during surgery? Thanks to your gracious support, we have raised \$45,000 which will make a broader impact in helping to acquire three of the much needed patient monitors. The Anesthesia Providers have evaluated, demoed, and confirmed the most appropriate patient monitor necessary for our mission trips. The final costs are being negotiated to purchase three new patient monitors at approximately \$15,000 each. With the future and growth of our organization, we hope to acquire additional monitors to be able to perform more surgeries during our mission trips which will enable us to create more smiles and improve more lives.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DONATION:

Anonymous	David Hampton
Arrowhead Hill Ranch	Deborah & Tom Kirk
Susie & Jim Awalt	Morgan Charitable Foundation
Richard Bonner	Beau Theriot
Randall Davi	Wayne Wurtsbaugh
Jennifer Fudge	



MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

El Salvador

SAN SALVADOR, EL SALVADOR

Team Leader: Dr. Raymond Harshbarger
Anesthesia Team Leader: Dr. Stan Young
Number of Patients Served: 41
February 18 - 25, 2017
Photography by: Sarah Carney

VOLUNTEERS:

- Quint Barnes, MD
Margie Bivens
Ian Brown
Cecilia Canales
Sarah Carney
Naomi Catron
Aisha Dull
Jeannie Flexer
Sarah Frommer, MD
Anthony Gomez
Matt Greives, MD
Laura Guerrero
Michelle Hagens
Kelly Hardy
Mitzi Hardy
Raymond Harshbarger, MD
John Hatridge, MD
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- Julie Loney
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Pat Narsete
Neha Patel
Michael Rossi, MD
Elizabeth Stephens
Veronica Thomason
Wanda Whitaker
Eric White, MD
Chad Whited, MD
Stan Young, MD
Kimberly Zachary
Jennifer Zachary

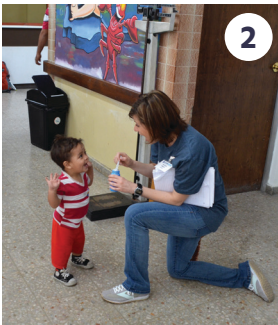
Leilani Briseño, Staff
Kristen Brown, Staff
Martha Mashburn, Staff



1. Dr. Michael Rossi, Dr. Matt Greives, Dr. Eric White, Lya Macaya, Brittan King, and Dr. Stan Young
2. Michelle Hagens
3. Baby Mirna
4. Cecilia Canales with a patient
5. Two patients with their new Austin Smiles t-shirts
- Austin Smiles t-shirts
6. The El Salvador 2017 Team
7. Jeannie Flexer with a happy mom and baby
8. Dr. Sarah Frommer, Dr. Ray Harshbarger, Dr. Pamela Bolaños, & Dr. Sofia deZepeda
9. Margie Bivens



"Mirna's grandmother emotionally conveyed her gratitude for Austin Smiles, saying our organization is "beautiful and kind," and that it is wonderful what Austin Smiles offers people who otherwise would not be able to pay." Kristen Brown



MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Mexico

VERACRUZ, MEXICO

Team Leader: Dr. Jim Cullington
Anesthesia Team Leader: Dr. Mary Zavala
Number of Patients Served: 52
June 10 - 17, 2017
Photography by: Natalie deLeon

VOLUNTEERS:

- Quint Barnes, MD
Alisa Baron
Margie Bivens
Jason Boatright
Eric Cole, MD
Cameron Craven, MD
Nicole Craven
Jim Cullington, MD
Connie Easley
Angie Englert
Maria Flores
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Del Waters
Teri Waters
Daira Wilson
Mary Zavala, MD

Leilani Briseño, Staff
Natalie deLeon, Staff



"The hallway looked like it went on forever with parents and children lined up as far as this 5'3" girl could see. Cheers and clapping lasted until everyone became too tired to clap and they thanked and blessed us at every moment they could. The experience overwhelmed every sense I had and only tears seemed to fit the moment." Natalie deLeon



1. A little guy sizes up Jason Boatright
2. Hugs for Dr. Simi Randhawa
3. Everyone likes a FidgetSpinner
4. Tom Kirk with a happy patient
5. The Veracruz 2017 Team
6. Dr. Margaret Maclin and Dr. Mariela Lopez hold a patient
7. A cute patient in his new Austin Smiles t-shirt

MISSION HIGHLIGHTS

Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY, GUATEMALA
Team Leader: Dr. Lauren Crawford
Anesthesia Team Leader: Dr. Mary Zavala
Number of Patients Served: 37
October 14 - 22, 2017
Photography by: Ranjani Agrawal

VOLUNTEERS:
Ranjani Agrawal, MD
Stephanie Ashby
Susie Awalt
Letty Balderas
Quint Barnes, MD
Carolyn Biebas, MD
Cecilia Canales
Ashley Chitty
Lucy Cinclair
Rob Cinclair, MD
Lauren Crawford, MD
Kevin Daley
Courtney El-Zokm, MD
Mary Fassnacht
Morgan Gillen
Tanya Gomez
Amy Graham-Carlson, MD
Cindy Greenwood
John Greenwood
Heather Hill
Patrick Kelley, MD
Carmel Kenan
Ashley Kerr
Mahlon Kerr, MD
Vanessa Little
Michael Mashburn
Inglan Medina
Mary Mellencamp
Neha Patel
Rocco Piazza, MD
Simi Randhawa, MD
Sandy Resendez
Hayley Ruegg
Janice Ryan
Terri Tobias
David Wainwright, MD
Emmy Wu, MD
Mary Zavala, MD

Leilani Briseño, Staff
Teresa Cox, Staff
Martha Mashburn, Staff



"Edgar*, 6 years old, serves as an example of the good work done by Austin Smiles over the years. In 2011 Dr. David Wainwright and Dr. Carlos Murillo preformed surgery for his bilateral cleft lip. In 2012 he received cleft palate repair by Dr. William Gorman. In 2013 he had a lip revision by Dr. Fred Wilder and today he will have Bilateral Myringotomy w/tubes (ear tubes) inserted by Dr. Emmy Wu. Today he is a very happy, healthy, confident boy..."
Susie Awalt



1. Cindy Greenwood playing with a patient
2. Dr. Patrick Kelley and Dr. Rocco Piazza
3. A mom with patients who are waiting for surgery
4. Sweet baby
5. L upper corner cw: Dr. Amy Graham-Carlson, Dr. Carolyn Biebas, Dr. Ranjani Agrawal, Dr. Mary Zavala, Dr. Simi Randhawa, Dr. Emmy Wu, Dr. Lauren Crawford
6. Mary Fassnacht with a happy child
7. Thumbs up for *Edgar
8. The Guatemala 2017 Team

Shoot for a Smile

The 20th Annual "Shoot for a Smile" was held at Capitol City Trap & Skeet Club on Friday, April 21, 2017. 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 over \$78,000. A special thanks to our co-chairs, Dr. Rick Parker and Mr. George M. Cowden who have spearheaded this event through the years!



Congratulations to our Winners!

Based on The Lewis Class Scoring System

FIRST PLACE:

- I. James Giddens Team
- II. Capitol Anesthesiology Team 2
- III. John Cottey Team

SECOND PLACE:

- I. Sonic / Labor Finders Team
- II. Advanced Pain Care Team
- III. Bob Clement Team



THIRD PLACE:

- I. Live Oak / Plains Capital Bank Team
- II. Bruce Rice Team
- III. Covert Bastrop Team



SAVE THE DATE!
21st Annual Shoot for a Smile
April 20, 2018
Capital City Trap & Skeet Club



Thank you to our Sponsors

PRESENTING SPONSOR - \$5,000



CHAMPION SPONSORS - \$2,500



SKETE SPONSORS - \$1,000



Austin Smiles Locally

Austin Smiles provides patients and families in the Craniofacial Program at Dell Children's Medical Center with annual social activities like the Spring Picnic at Zilker Park, a holiday party at The Oasis, and a weekend overnight camp – Camp Amigo. (please see the next page) Through these activities, patients and families have the opportunity to connect over shared experiences and form long-lasting relationships.

Spring Picnic



Holiday Party



CAMP AMIGO 2018
March 23 -25

AMPLIFY AUSTIN - AMPLIFY AUSTIN SMILES!

Save the Date for Amplify Austin Day – March 1-2, 2018! 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. With Amplify Austin, Austin Smiles has raised over \$55,000 through this digital day of giving!

**CELEBRATE OUR
30 YEARS
BY GIVING THE
GIFT OF A SMILE**



+



MARCH 2, 2018

TRIBUTE TO CAMP AMIGO VOLUNTEERS AND CAMPERS

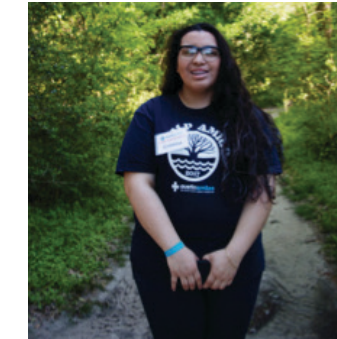
By Natalie deLeon / Photos by
Natalie deLeon and Joe Castaneda
From the Austin Smiles Blog 3/25/17

Burton, Texas - Camp Amigo, a project of Austin Smiles – The Austin Plastic Surgery Foundation, brings together patients in the Craniofacial and Reconstructive Plastic Surgery Center at Dell Children's Medical Center, and volunteers with both medical and non-medical backgrounds. Located at Camp for All in Burton, Texas, Camp Amigo is a unique camping experience for one weekend each year that gives young people born with cleft lip/palate the chance to be themselves, make friends, and have a great time with their peers. Kids get to be themselves without boundaries, limitations, or judgment. Camp Amigo counselors and campers motivate each other to step outside of their comfort zones, and every year many a camper and counselor alike say, "I can't wait to come back next year!"



2017 marks the six-year anniversary of Camp Amigo and many campers have come every year consecutively because of the friends they make and the fun activities they only get to do once a year. One young lady, Cristina, has come each year since Camp Amigo began at the age of eight. Now 14, Cristina talks about the continuous friendships she has made throughout her years at camp, like with Wendy, who she met three years ago. Wendy and Cristina are inseparable at camp, knowing they only

have one weekend each year to catch up in person.



When on the bus on their way to camp, these young people make more new friends and in a flash, they bond over their interests but also over what sets them apart. All the kids have a little scar on their lip from a surgery most don't even remember having, and some may need more surgeries to help them live a healthy life.



Over the course of the camp they talk about the "mean kids" who don't understand why they are different and make fun of them anyway. Camp Amigo lets these kids know they are not alone and there are others like them facing the same struggles. Early connections on the bus quickly turn into friendships

through fun activities like rock climbing, where one camper may be too scared to go all the way up but is motivated by other campers to push past the fear and keep going. Cristina remarks, "Everyone is supportive and it is a fun safe environment." And, if you ask the counselors why they come out every year to volunteer, you will hear the same theme: "We do it for the kids. You can see how happy they are to be here and how much fun they are having!"



The atmosphere at Camp Amigo is peaceful with the sun bursting through tall oak trees and over the hills. One cannot help but feel they are in a safe place where personality is set free, where no one is judged on appearance, where laughter is loud, and life-long friends are made. Camp Amigo is just another year away, and we can't wait!





Austin Smiles, The Austin Plastic Surgery Foundation
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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:

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