

austinsmiles

THE AUSTIN PLASTIC SURGERY FOUNDATION

**Austin Smiles -
The Austin Plastic Surgery Foundation**
Creating Smiles, Improving Lives

MEDIA KIT



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THE AUSTIN PLASTIC SURGERY FOUNDATION



Mission

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.

About Austin Smiles

In 1985 and 1986, three of the first plastic surgeons in Austin, Texas – Dr. Patrick Beckham, Dr. Jim Cullington, and Dr. Jim Fox – came together, sharing their experiences doing medical mission work around the world and wanting to advance their passion for volunteerism in the local Austin community. A local measure was passed providing that all Austin doctors receive compensation for their “on-call” time and the three doctors felt inspired to start their philanthropic initiative with this unexpected, “extra” funding. Working with fellow doctors in the Austin Society of Plastic Surgeons and pooling these funds, the idea to provide free cleft lip/palate surgery was realized in **1987** when Austin Smiles – The Austin Plastic Surgery Foundation officially received its 501(c)3 nonprofit certification. Starting out doing local surgeries/supporting Austin’s Central Texas Cleft Lip and Palate Team and going on mission trips to repair cleft lip/palate in Mexico, Austin Smiles has since its inception **served over 4,000 patients** and **conducted over 80 medical trips** to many countries including Brazil, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Micronesia, Nicaragua, and the Philippines.



7th

Trip to
Guatemala

375+

Guatemalan
Lives Changed

2.2k+



289



206



Press Release

Press Release

For Immediate Release
July 12, 2017

Austin Smiles Proudly Announced Seventh Trip to Guatemala City, Guatemala

(AUSTIN, Texas) Austin Smiles, announces its seventh medical mission trip to Guatemala City, Guatemala on Saturday, October 14 through Saturday, October 22, 2017 at Moore Pediatric Surgery Center. Austin Smiles will take a team of 41 to evaluate about 120 patients, of those approximately 60 will be candidates for surgery.

In Austin Smiles' 30-year history Guatemala is one of ten countries served in Latin America. Over the last seven mission trips to Guatemala, Austin Smiles has helped over 375 patients.

Orofacial clefts don't discriminate, they can afflict children of any race, ethnicity or socioeconomic status. While their cause is uncertain, poverty and environment may play a role. This may be why children in Latin America are roughly two times as likely to be born with orofacial clefts as children in the U.S. and why we focus most of our time in this region.

Children with orofacial clefts often face health and developmental problems along with long-term psycho-social impacts. Austin Smiles believes no child anywhere deserves to live with the physical and social hardships associated with an un-repaired orofacial cleft.

The cost for a trip as a volunteer is \$750 while doctors pay their own way. Every volunteer takes time out of their busy schedules to help change the lives of these children.

"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," said Laura Holcomb, 2016 Guatemala Junior League Volunteer. "The Austin Smiles team is going to make that happen over the next week."

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Media Contact

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"Austin Smiles' guiding principle has always been to offer services where needed regardless of any reward, and to treat all patients to the best of our capability regardless of ability to pay."

-Dr. James Cullington, Founder



Guatemala Spokespeople



Teresa V. Cox
Executive Director

"For the communities we serve, Austin Smiles means hope. Children living with cleft lip and palate related conditions, generally suffer from respiratory, speech and other health issues. Through surgery, the additional health concerns will be corrected and/or mitigated, enabling our patients to live healthy lives."

- Executive Director of Austin Smiles since July 2017
- Practices therapeutic art with waiting room patients
- Excited to go on her first trip with Austin Smiles to Guatemala
- Native Chilean and bilingual



Dr. Lauren Crawford
Plastic Surgeon and Board Member

"The mission of Austin Smiles is to directly improve the quality of lives by providing access to plastic surgical services to children unable to otherwise get treatment. These surgeries are life changing. Without these surgeries eating can be difficult, speaking can be difficult and social barriers to attaining education, jobs, and even marriage can be huge."

- One of the youngest plastic surgeons in Austin and one of our youngest board members
- Excited to go on her third mission to Guatemala in a row
- Loves Guatemala and the people- has a close friend from Guatemala



Dr. Mary Zalvala
Head Anesthesiologist

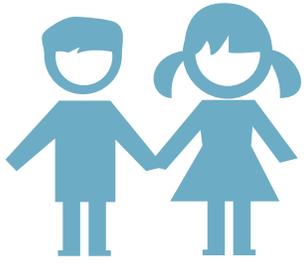
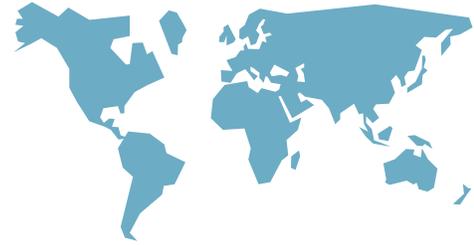
"One of my uncles had a cleft lip and palate and was not repaired until he was an adult, by a group like Austin Smiles. He was so proud he had pictures taken and sent to us in the US from El Salvador. The surgeries changed the way he saw himself, and the way others saw him. We do the same for these children and their families, changing something that brings shame to something that brings pride."

- Pediatric Anesthesiologist
- Excited to go on her seventh mission trip with Austin Smiles and fourth trip to Guatemala
- Salvadorian giving back to her community with medicine
- Strong connection to Guatemala with local family

Fact Sheet

80+ Mission Trips

Brazil, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Micronesia, Nicaragua, and the Philippines



1 in 7

children is born with cleft lip and/or palate



18,000+

lives changed¹

6,800+

surgeries performed¹

¹30 years

\$675,000+

cost of mission trip

+

\$296,000+

in-kind professional services and supplies



\$3,500

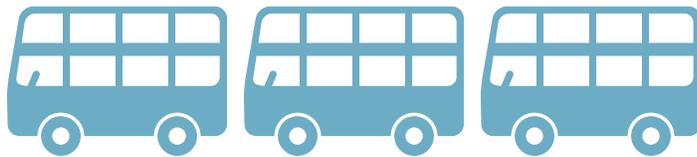
cost of each surgery

135+

mission trip volunteers²

100+

Austin program volunteers²



each child receives a

Bear

+

T-Shirt

after surgery



²per year

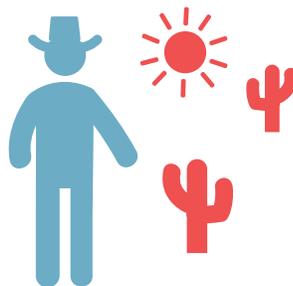


30th

anniversary

Austin Smiles founded in

1987



Central Texas

Austin Smiles collaborates with the Craniofacial and Reconstructive Plastic Surgery Center at Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas supporting

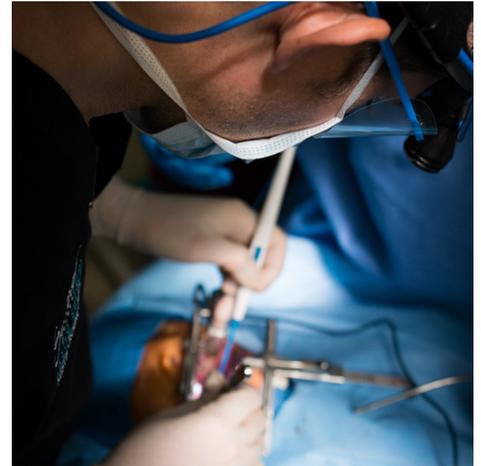
800+ Patients

Media

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Thank you!

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A 501(c)3 nonprofit organization creating smiles and improving lives in Latin America and providing support to cleft patients at the Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas.