



END OF THE YEAR NEWSLETTER FROM

austinsmiles

THE AUSTIN PLASTIC SURGERY FOUNDATION

OUR YEAR END SUMMARY 2018

We had an amazing year here at Austin Smiles. But also one that really brought out a lot of **change**. Change can be uncomfortable, but transformation is powerful.

This year Austin Smiles is changing the way we serve our communities. Throughout our service, we have found the need for sustainable change in the lives of our patients. Where we can make lasting transformations on the patients and communities we meet. With this new direction we are hoping that there will

be greater impact as result of our diligence and partnership.

Our ultimate goal here is to one day not need to travel to these locations. By offering education, mentoring, funds and our time, we hope to be able to see our **transformation** working in the future within their community.

We cannot thank you enough for supporting us in this journey, as we could not do anything without supporters and believers like you!

CHANGE IS UNCOMFORTABLE BUT TRANSFORMATION IS POWERFUL

austinsmiles

THE AUSTIN PLASTIC SURGERY FOUNDATION

OUR 31ST YEAR IN REVIEW

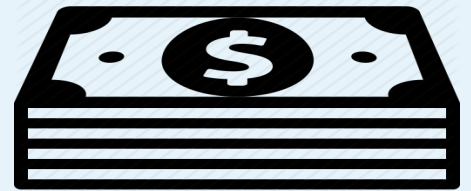
THIS YEAR WITH YOUR HELP WE...

CREATED A SUSTAINABLE PARTNERSHIP WITH EL SALVADOR'S LOCAL MEDICAL COMMUNITY

PARTICIPATED IN THE FIRST EVER #GIVINGTUESDAY ON FACEBOOK

HOSTED TWO GALA'S "SOMEWHERE DOWN IN TEXAS" AND "CHIPS AND SALSA"

AND



RAISED \$550,000
FOR AUSTIN SMILES

WE



WENT ON 3 MISSION TRIPS AND
PERFORMED OVER 150
PROCEDURES



HAD APPROXIMATELY 200
VOLUNTEERS
COME TOGETHER FOR OUR MISSIONS



HAD ABOUT 5600 HOURS
DONATED BY OUR VOLUNTEERS!

AND



GAINED OVER 60 NEW VOLUNTEERS
FROM TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY



ARE FORMING A FOUNDATION IN EL
SALVADOR TO ENSURE CONTINUUM OF
CARE



STARTED A TELEHEALTH SPEECH
SERVICE FOR OUR PATIENTS IN EL SAL-
VADOR



MEET ONE OF OUR VOLUNTEERS

Everybody can be great. Because anybody can serve. You only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love

~Martin Luther King, Jr.

AMY KING, GUATEMALA 2018

Having never participated in a Mission Trip before, I had no idea what to expect when I first volunteered to travel to Guatemala with Austin Smiles. Arriving at the airport along-side so many incredible volunteers, all focused on a singular mission, was exhilarating and exciting! Once we collected all of the medical trunks from baggage claim, the weight and responsibility of what we were about to take on for the week settled in – I was in awe of the medical staff that so graciously donated their time and talents to help serve these children. We were greeted with an enthusiastic parade of high-fives and celebrations from the hospital staff as we arrived at The Moore Pediatric Surgery Center. As we were walking in to the center, Kris Kennedy spotted one of the The Moore Center volunteers, a former Austin Smiles patient, and all of the feels settled in – seeing their joyful reunion brought tears to my eyes and I knew that I was in for an experience that would change me forever!

While at The Moore Center, I assisted with patient check-in and discharge and had opportunity each day to observe the surgeons work their magic in the OR. During check-in and discharge, I had the privilege of getting to capture a before and after picture for each patient's file - the transformations were INCREDIBLE! I am amazed at how resilient children are and nothing was more rewarding than seeing the patients and families during rounds on the day following their procedure.

I enjoyed every minute that I got to spend at The Moore Center working with the children, however, equally rewarding was the time spent getting to know all of the other amazing people that are a part of Austin Smiles. I can't wait for my next mission and look forward to serving Austin Smiles for many years to come!



“Serving Austin Smiles and the precious children and families in Guatemala has changed my heart forever – I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and look forward to many missions to come!”



SUSTAINABILITY OUTLOOK FROM OUR BOARD CHAIR

"In the 21st century, I think the heroes will be the people who will improve the quality of life, and introduce more sustainability."

~ Bertrand Piccard

CURT ROBERTS, CHAIR

Austin Smiles is a medical mission with a rich and beautiful history, but also one with a bright and progressive future. Established 30 years ago in Austin, Texas, Austin Smiles has performed thousands of life-changing surgeries to children with cleft lip and palate abnormalities in Central and South America. But now, we want to do more. We are partnering with the communities we serve in order to build systems of care that will help our children even when we are not there on an annual trip. These children need surgery, medical, dental, speech, and mental health care. By joining with the resources in the communities we serve, we are able to bring more help to our children. We are utilizing technology, empowerment, and innovative

partnerships to give the people we serve the ability to care for their children independently. We are profoundly grateful to all of you who are involved in this mission with us. With you, we can help these beautiful children. With you, we can change lives.

Together with you,
Curt



*"We shall never know all the **good** that a simple **smile** can do." – Mother Teresa"*



MEET ONE OF OUR SURGEONS

You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you.

~John Bunyan

MAHLON KERR, MD

A little over two years ago my wife Ashley and I attended our first Austin Smiles Gala. We were excited to go on our first mission a few months later. I am happy to say we are now veterans of four nearly consecutive Austin smiles missions with plans for a fifth this February and still excited as ever! Having visited each of our core locations (Veracruz, Guatemala City, and San Salvador) has given us insight into each unique mission plan, and joining the board this fall has helped us to learn more about our overall vision and the future of this wonderful organization. Austin Smiles has a long tradition of helping children in all of these locations, and we are working on plans to further our mission model to provide more support and stability for ongoing care after the team goes home and starts work for the next trip.

This year in El Salvador we are excited to evolve our model of cleft lip and palate care. Plastic surgery organizations in general have a long history of showing up, operating, and then packing up to go home. The difficulty with this approach is it provides little to no long-term care, and does not do a great job of keeping track of children as they age and approach the next stage in their cleft care. As some of you may not know, most children with clefts will require multiple operations throughout their childhood. This is often poorly understood by the families

of children with clefts. As a result these children often miss the correct age for their next surgery, or fail to have it all together. Back home in the US these problems rarely happen as the planning for treatment and support resources are carefully managed.

We are excited to start bringing this new structure to El Salvador in 2019. Hopefully we will roll this care plan to all of our locations eventually. By partnering with local clinics we hope to bring a more stable transition in dental and speech care after we leave, and by utilizing electronic medical records keep better track of our patients. Using a more team oriented approach we hope to lose less children to follow-up, and provide an overall higher level of care. This new transition will hopefully evolve into each separate mission location over time. Our goal is to slowly teach these underserved communities to fish for themselves rather than just serve them a quick meal with a single surgery. Ashley and I remain as excited as ever, and we look forward the San Salvador trip this February as the start of a new chapter in the long history of the Austin Plastic Surgery Foundation.



“I am grateful to be a part of Austin smiles, and excited to help write a new chapter in the history of the Austin Plastic Surgery Foundation.”

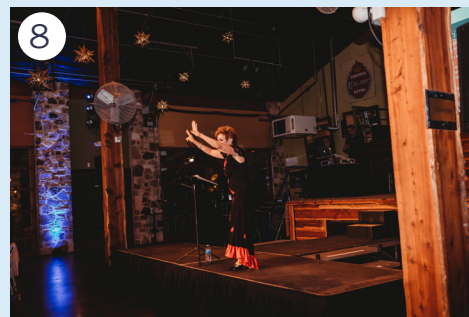
CHIPS & SALSA



CELEBRATING 32 YEARS OF AUSTIN SMILES

Austin Smiles celebrated 32 years at the “Chips and Salsa” gala on November 17th, 2018 at the famed Starlight Terrace at The Oasis Lake Travis. The night was filled with delicious Tex-Mex cuisine, Casino Games provided by Casino Knights, and Salsa Dancing performances and lessons by Event

Dancer. 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 Mr. Beau Theriot, for his venue and support. We also thank Ashley Kerr for helping make the night possible. Thanks to the support of sponsors and guests, the “Chips and Salsa” gala raised over \$200,000!



1. Gala Table Decorations
2. Casino Games by Casino Knights
3. Austin Smiles supporters
4. Closer look at roulette game
5. Some of our supporters
6. Curt and Tiffanie Roberts salsa dancing
7. Salsa Dancing Lessons by Event Dancer
8. Gayle Stallings - with FUN Auctioneers
9. Poker Game Playing
10. Attendees Arriving

Photography by Ellise Nicole
Photography LLC

THE IMPORTANCE OF SUSTAINABLE CARE IN REGARDS TO SPEECH THERAPY

*Written By Suzanne Chandler and John Paschal
From 2018 Trip Blog Posts*

Most children that are born with cleft palates will have a speech disorder that impacts their ability to communicate effectively with others. These children frequently do not receive surgeries as babies and develop poor habits as they are trying to speak with a hole in their mouths. After surgery these poor habits continue until they learn to correctly produce the sounds. Often they are ostracized by their peers and bullied, and have a poor self esteem. Many indigenous families living in rural parts of Guatemala do not understand why their child was born this way and are embarrassed to present them into community. Others with strong religious beliefs feel these children have been possessed by evil and they are not allowed in church. Often these kids don't go to school.

As part of the continuum of care, Austin Smiles provides speech Therapy services to our patients. These services include evaluation, therapy, parent education and training, and connecting patients to Speech Therapy after surgeries have been completed.

WRITTEN BY SUZANNE
CHANDLER

EL Salvador 2018

On this trip, Julie Loney, CCC/SLP is our speech pathologist. This is her 3rd mission trip. She has been practicing in the field of speech therapy for 33 years in various setting including rehabilitation, long term care, and pediatrics in the public schools. She is a co-investigator of the study at Texas State University that is looking

at the effectiveness of tele-therapy services in Latin American countries where speech therapy services are unavailable. On this trip she has connected with 12 patients for this program.

Why is this mission crucial to Guatemala? Centro Moore is the only hospital in country that does not have access to free health services. They depend strictly on donations. Their services are 100% free of charge for the patient. They have an average waiting time of 6 months. This hospital has the lowest complication rate in all of Guatemala

Patients will receive speech therapy services via WhatsApp from Texas State graduate students and their supervisors. Patent education this trip included watching videos demonstrating how to teach their child to say sounds, direct observation of therapy, and flyers with strategies for improving language development. Inside the room, Loney joins another speech language pathologist, Maria Metidieri, for an impromptu session with 3-year-old Miriam Elena Cortes. Earlier this morning, Miriam made an unscheduled visit to the military hospital with her mother and an aunt – the third child today who has arrived unscheduled.

Now, Loney leans in and shows the little girl a children's book featuring the cartoon dog Clifford. Loney points to the illustrated dog and says, in Spanish, "perro," emphasizing the "p" to help teach Miriam how to properly pronounce the consonant. Miriam has a hole in her hard palate, and because of the hole,

she uses compensatory strategies to pronounce certain letters.

"Puh," says Julie, emphasizing the sound of the letter "p." "Puh."

The speech and language session is a spontaneous demonstration of Austin Smiles' commitment to services beyond the headline-grabbing surgeries. As part of a far-ranging initiative, the organization provides not only follow-up care for surgery patients and training for medical professionals in the mission communities, but also speech and language education and follow-up coordination with outside professionals to provide further instruction and care. In sum, a mission is no small potatoes. The annual cost of each mission trip is more than \$675,000, all funded by donors and the volunteers themselves.

"Puh. Puh. Perro," says Loney again, leaning toward Miriam.

In frazzled response, the girl cries, "No quiero!" ... to which the room erupts in laughter.

A minute later the room erupts again, this time in applause, when Miriam shouts, "Puh!"

WRITTEN BY JOHN
PASCHAL

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THE AUSTIN PLASTIC SURGERY FOUNDATION
CREATING SMILES, IMPROVING LIVES

OUR 2018 MISSION TRIPS



1. Identical twins in Guatemala
2. Guatemala 2018 - Mahlon and Ashley Kerr with a child before surgery
3. Guatemala 2018 - Precious bilateral smile
4. Veracruz 2018 - Mother sending her child off with doctors for surgery
5. Dr. Cullington (Founder) and his granddaughter in Veracruz
6. El Salvador 2018 - Rotary member holding a baby after a unilateral lip revision
7. El Salvador 2018 - Infant getting cleared for surgery
8. El Salvador 2018 - we serve teenagers often in El Salvador

Austin Smiles volunteers and staff went on three missions this year, to Veracruz, Guatemala and El Salvador. We performed over 150 procedures this year on our missions! To learn more about our mission trips from our volunteers perspective check out our blog page on our website.

2019 YEAR AT A GLANCE

- ELSALVADOR MISSION - FEB 9 - 16TH
- AUSTIN SMILES FEST - MARCH 2ND
- SHOOT FOR A SMILE - APRIL 19TH
- VERACRUZ MISSION - JUNE 15-22ND
- GUATEMALA MISSION - OCTOBER 5-13TH

2019

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And that is how change happens. One gesture. One person. One moment at a time.
~ Libba Bray

TERESA COX, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Have you ever heard anyone say change is easy? Although change is by nature uncomfortable, and it entails making decisions that may not be popular for a while, change is necessary for growth. As an organization, we aspire to do the best job possible for those we serve. Our mission is and will be, to serve children born with cleft lip and cleft palate in a way that provides the best surgical and rehabilitative care, involving everyone who's vested interest aims to reaching an optimum end result.

Many of you know that our organization faced important changes during 2018. Some of you also know about the exciting things happening at Austin Smiles in light of our new vision. We are developing an inclusive system of care with local and international partners, who wish to be a part of transforming the way surgical and rehabilitative care is provided.

At Austin Smiles, we envision a world where children don't wait until they are 12 or 15 years of age to receive quality of care; where we don't



have to turn away 75 children on every mission trip, because we lack the capacity to serve everyone; a world where we identify these children as early as it is possible to initiate care; a world where there is no difference in access to comprehensive medical care for patients, just because of their socioeconomics; and a world where we work together to fully utilize everyone's assets, and optimize the opportunities for children to reach their highest recovery potential.

Change leads to transformation when a vision is unified by the desire to help others. We invite you to join us and participate actively this coming year, locally and internationally. Everyone's talent, abilities and resources get us one step closer to creating new smiles and transforming the lives of children around the world, through sustainable quality care. We need your help to materialize our vision and we thank you for your continued support throughout 2018.

Happy Holidays from our family to yours!

Teresa V. Cox
teresa@austinsmiles.org

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Dee Dee Ritzinger, Vice Chair
Sheri Perry Gallo, Secretary
David W. Landry, Treasurer
Forest D. Cook
James R. Cullington, M.D.
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Raymond J. Harshbarger, III, M.D.
Mahlon Kerr, M.D.
Ashley Kerr

STAFF

Teresa V. Cox
Executive Director

Nelda Lopez
Bookkeeper

Ellise Perry
Development and Communications Intern

Steve Harp
Mission Logistics Coordinator

A big thanks to Andrea Wodopian, and Becky Czapski for your work on getting supplies and inventory in shape and packing for our mission trips!



April 19th, 2019

**Capital City Clays
10:00 am - 5:30 pm with BBQ
Luncheon**

INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

We are in need of:

CRNA's
RN's with OR experience
Anesthesiologist's
ENT's
Pediatric Dentists
Certified Surgical Techs

Pediatric experience and bilingual spanish speaking is a plus!



Please email Teresa Cox at
info@austinsmiles.org for more information



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CREATING SMILES, IMPROVING LIVES

AUSTIN SMILES – THE AUSTIN PLASTIC SURGERY FOUNDATION IS A NONPROFIT ORGANIZATION WHOSE MISSION IS TO PROVIDE SUSTAINABLE SURGICAL CARE TO CHILDREN BORN WITH CLEFT LIP AND CLEFT PALATE BOTH IN CENTRAL TEXAS AND LATIN AMERICA.



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!

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