



Thousand Smiles Foundation

Changing Lives One Smile at a Time

TSF And DIF Reach Historic Agreement

On August 5, 2016, representatives from Thousand Smiles Foundation (TSF) and Desarrollo Integral Familiar (DIF) met and agreed on a plan to serve maxillofacial deformities in children like cleft lip and palate. DIF is an organization comprised of the spouses of elected officials whose purpose is to provide for the nutritional and health care needs of indigent children in the Ensenada area.

For its part, DIF will conduct a campaign every six months to locate patients with maxillofacial deformities, announce the availability of dental treatment for financially challenged families, and verify their financial situation. They will send to TSF a list of registered patients one week before each clinic and will provide transportation between the clinic and the laboratory on the first day of the clinic.

In return, TSF will provide multidisciplinary procedures including dental treatment, surgeries, limited orthodontia, ENT, audiology, and speech therapy with priority to patients recommended by DIF. TSF will also offer CPR classes independently of clinic dates and dental hygiene classes during the clinics.



From left: TSF-board member Bob Chalfa, TSF president Dr. Dave Irwin, DIF president Mrs. Maria del Consuelo Moro de Hirata, and DIF director Lic. Pic Benjamin Eduardo Salgado Lopez.



An ENT physician is one who is trained in the medical and surgical management and treatment of patients with diseases and disorders of the ear, nose, and throat. Longtime volunteer ENT physician Marc Lebovitz (above) typically examines roughly 80 pediatric patients on Friday of a clinic weekend. On Saturday, one can find Dr. Lebovitz at the Ensenada General Hospital inserting ear tubes to drain fluid in those cleft palate cases in which intracranial deformities have resulted in a fluid buildup. Our new surgical annex will eliminate the travel time for Dr. Lebovitz and his patients.

**November Clinic report:
Over 100 patients seen;
10 surgeries at the hospital**

The Chalfas: A Family Tradition of Service Above Self

If there is a glue that has held Thousand Smiles together for the thirty-one years of its existence it has been the Chalfa family and the countless hours of volunteer service they have provided. Bob has been president of the Foundation and a long-time member of the Board of Directors. Currently, he supervises the operation of the warehouse which stores and distributes the needed supplies to the doctors and nurses. Bob's wife Gloria does patient management and ensures that when a chair becomes available there is a patient ready to occupy it. Their son Bobby is an extraordinary handyman who can fix about anything. Grandson Daniel calls out and locates the patients for his grandmother and granddaughter



Briana arranges for the sale and distribution of tickets for the volunteers' Friday evening dinner at Bronco's restaurant. Granddaughter Jessica helps with patient registration and inventory. Bobby's daughter Kylie also pitches in. Truly an inspiring family effort!



The photos show some of the new construction as we move toward the completion of our new surgical annex on the site of the clinic.

**To volunteer or donate please visit us at
www.thousandsmiles.org**

Triage is a system of assigning priorities for medical treatment. On Friday of each clinic weekend, the team of maxillofacial surgeons and nurses evaluate each candidate for cleft palate surgery and prioritize on the basis of urgency, severity of the malformation, distance traveled by the patient to come to the clinic, and other factors. On the following day, Saturday, surgeons, nurses and patients travel to Ensenada General Hospital to perform the operations. Rarely does a child who needs care not receive it.



Reminder To Volunteers

Bus transportation is available for the trip to Ensenada. The bus leaves the Chula Vista shopping center early Friday morning and returns Saturday evening. Please register and pay in advance to ensure a reserved seat for you on the bus.