



# Thousand Smiles Foundation

*Changing Lives One Smile at a Time*

## November Clinic a Huge Success!

The Thousand Smiles clinic on Nov. 6-7 treated 153 pediatric dental patients plus 10 surgeries performed at the Ensenada General Hospital. This included a record 95 patients seen on Friday, Nov. 6. Late in the day on Friday a mother arrived with a 3-year-old infant with a severe cleft. Ordinarily, Thousand Smiles does not operate on one so young but she was in excellent health, evidently having enough of a palate to receive sufficient nourishment. We had an open slot on the surgical agenda for Saturday so we, to the great relief of the mother, accepted her for her initial procedure. One never knows who will appear at the clinic on any given day, or at what time!

## A New Annex is On the Horizon

Work is expected to begin in January on a two-story annex to the existing clinic which will contain on the bottom floor two operating rooms, a prep room, a recovery room, larger Xray rooms, and other supporting facilities. The top floor will contain 12 dental chairs, audiology, speech therapy, and a dental laboratory. This will eliminate the need to transport surgeons, nurses, patients, and families three miles to the Ensenada General Hospital for the surgeries and will enable surgeries to be performed on Fridays and Saturdays. The time saved will enable us to accomplish so much more during a clinic weekend.



Interact students from Francis Parker School attended the November clinic and engaged the children in a variety of games and crafts to hold their attention.



Volunteers from C.H.I.P.S. in Rotary District 5330 make sack lunches for the patients and their families.

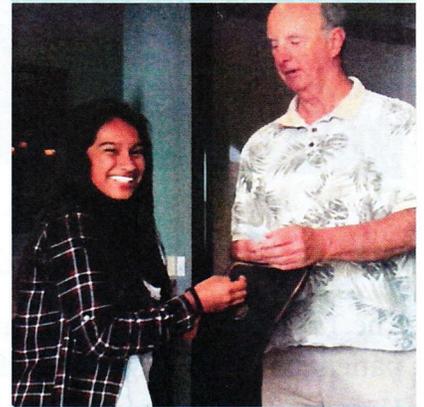
## Thank You Kenia!

Before the opening of business at the TSF board meeting last June, President Dave Irwin introduced 15-year-old Kenia Carachure. Kenia had just celebrated her Quincineara, which in the Hispanic tradition marks the fifteenth birthday and a transition from girlhood to young womanhood. It includes parties, dinners, and, of course, gifts presented to the honoree. Kenia asked her family and friends not to give her traditional tangible gifts, but rather to make her gifts of money, which she planned to donate to the Foundation. Imagine the surprise of all when Kenia then walked over to our Treasurer and handed him an envelope containing more the \$1,000 in cash! Way to go, Kenia!



## Welcome Mr. Mayor...

During our Friday clinic on Nov. 6, TSF was honored by a visit from the Mayor of Ensenada, Hon. Gilbert Antonio Hirata Chico, his wife, and Jaimie Felix, president of the Ensenada Centenario Rotary Club. (center rear). On hand to greet His Honor were TSF board president Dr. Dave Irwin (left rear) and Dr. Alberto Romero, TSF board member. Mayor Hirata Chico is also a member of the Ensenada Centenario club, which has been an invaluable resource and partner in helping to address the various governmental rules and regulations that invariably attend new construction.



Board President Dave Irwin introduces Kenia Carachure before her presentation of her gift to Thousand Smiles Foundation.

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Thousand Smiles is always in need of volunteers, both with dental training and not. Most stay for the entire two days and reserve a room at the Villa Marina or another of several fine hotels. Bus transportation is available, leaving Chula Vista shopping center early Friday morning and returning Saturday evening. Of course, WE MUST RELY ON YOUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT to meet the substantial expenses of operating the clinic.

Visit our website at [www.thousandsmiles.org](http://www.thousandsmiles.org) to find out how you can make a difference in the lives of children in need.