

Partners in Care



Blanca Rivera Rio de Lozano, wife of the governor of Aguascalientes (center), meets with M.O.S.T. volunteers Everardo Gutierrez, Pat Robinson, George Ochoa, Sister JoCeal Young and Salvador Hernandez.

Excited about the M.O.S.T. trip to Aguascalientes, Mexico, in October 2011, Blanca Rivera Rio de Lozano, the wife of the newly elected governor of the state of Aguascalientes, met with our team at Scripps Mercy Hospital in February to express her support of our program.

She also serves as the head of the state's social services agency, Desarrollo Integral de La Familia (D.I.F.) – one of M.O.S.T.'s vital international resources. D.I.F. spreads the word about our services prior to the arrival of our volunteer team and sponsors a screening clinic for potential patients. The agency also coordinates necessary follow-up care and assists with the importation of needed supplies for our missions.

M.O.S.T. is thrilled to have the support of Blanca Rivera Rio de Lozano and D.I.F. This partnership will help enhance outreach and build credibility among local families with children who may need reconstructive care.

The Mission of M.O.S.T.

During the past two decades, hundreds of M.O.S.T. volunteers have worked endless hours, providing life-changing medical care to more than 9,000 children and adults. The far-reaching impact of our program would not be possible without your philanthropic support. Thanks to your generosity, M.O.S.T. is able to carry out our mission to:

- bring hope, comfort and the opportunity for a better life to children and adults through corrective surgery;
- share medical knowledge and expertise with colleagues in a host country; and
- provide an opportunity for team volunteers to experience the spiritual rewards of service.

Whether it is \$250 to support one child's surgery, \$10,000 to sponsor a two-day mission, or \$100,000 to sponsor a weeklong mission, gifts of all sizes help provide care that offers our patients a brighter future.

To learn how you can support our medical missions, please contact Sister JoCeal Young, M.O.S.T. coordinator, at 619-721-7313 or email: young.jocean@scripphealth.org.



Message from the President, George Ochoa



Generosity and goodwill are the heart of our organization. Funded entirely through philanthropic contributions, the success of M.O.S.T. is due to the gifts we receive from our community. Just as our patients depend on us to provide compassionate care and brighter futures, we depend on donors, like you, to support our surgical missions.

The need for M.O.S.T. is great. In Mexico alone, there are more than 100,000 children who desperately need life-changing reconstructive surgeries. Since our program began in 1988, we have provided medical care to more than 9,000 – only a small fraction of those who seek transformational care. Through our 2011 Making Miracles Happen campaign, our goal is to raise \$250,000 to further our outreach. To date, we have received nearly \$60,000 in charitable contributions. With your help, we can reach our goal by the end of the year.

Please continue to join us in our effort to provide surgical care to children who might not otherwise receive it. To get involved, you don't need to be a millionaire or medical specialist. All you need is the spirit of giving.

To learn how you can support M.O.S.T. medical missions, please call **619-721-7313** or visit **www.scripps.org/mercymost**.

Stay Connected with M.O.S.T.

Join our Scripps Health Foundation e-news list to receive the latest updates on M.O.S.T. volunteer trips, special events and fundraising priorities, and learn more about ways you can make a difference in the lives of our patients. Scripps does not share your personal information and limits the number of e-communications. To register, visit: www.scripps.org/emails.

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Scripps Mercy Hospital 

Making miracles happen.

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Mercy Outreach Surgical Team

Making miracles happen. Spring/Summer 2011

A LIFE-CHANGING EXPERIENCE



Brent Fox (center) assists our M.O.S.T. physicians as a volunteer anesthesia technician. His M.O.S.T. experiences have ignited his desire to become a nurse.

Learning about Mercy Surgical Outreach Team (M.O.S.T.) on his first day as a new employee at Scripps Mercy Hospital, nursing student Brent Fox knew he had to get involved.

“Sister JoCeal Young was presenting how Scripps impacts people’s lives both locally and globally,” he recalls. “I thought, ‘I want to be a part of that.’”

Since then, Brent has volunteered during two M.O.S.T. missions. Serving as an anesthesia technician, he helps prepare the operating room and sterilizes critical surgical instruments. Most recently, Brent traveled with our team to Pachuca, Hidalgo, Mexico, in October 2010.

“During the weeklong trips, you really build an attachment with the patients and their families. Watching them through the various stages of transformation and recovery, it is amazing to witness the significant impact of our organization,” he says.

One patient that Brent remembers most is a young boy who was born without an ear. During the Pachuca trip, he was one of more than 10 children with the same condition who sought reconstructive care from M.O.S.T.

To address the child’s malformation, M.O.S.T. surgeons fashioned an external ear using cartilage removed from the boy’s rib. The lengthy surgical procedure also required the patient to receive future follow-up care from a local surgeon.

“The talent and dedication of our surgeons and staff are incredible,” says Brent. “They give up a week of their time, unpaid. Although their service comes with little notoriety, the rewards of giving back are priceless.”

The rewards and care that M.O.S.T. provides are life-changing for both our patients and our volunteers.

“Many of the children we see are socially shunned as a result of their physical conditions. Both the child and their families encounter tremendous taunting and ridicule. So, when we do one cleft palate repair, it affects not only the child, but also the entire family,” he says.

“In Pachuca, we didn’t just help 210 patients, we changed the lives of more than 1,000 people. The care we provide has a huge ripple effect,” says M.O.S.T. volunteer Brent Fox.

This far-reaching impact is what motivates Brent to continue to volunteer and make regular financial contributions to the mission of M.O.S.T.

“Although I don’t have a lot to give, I make a donation to M.O.S.T. each paycheck,” he says. “Every gift matters and I know, firsthand, that the money goes directly toward patient care.”

Upcoming M.O.S.T. Trips

June 10-11, 2011, *Tijuana*

September 9-10, 2011, *Tijuana*

October 23-29, 2011, *Aguaascalientes*

Saving Face

M.O.S.T. restores self-confidence to those who have been pushed into the shadows



Tom Vecchione, MD, M.O.S.T. volunteer plastic surgeon, comforts a young patient who sought the help of M.O.S.T. to remove a large hairy nevus, or brown birthmark, that covered the right side of her face. Our surgeons performed the first of many surgeries to remove the growth.

Each year, M.O.S.T. physicians, nurses, pharmacists, interpreters and others bring hope to children in some of the poorest regions of Mexico. As they calm anxious patients and rejoice with grateful parents, our volunteers continue to be moved by the resilience and resolve of those who travel great distances to seek help from M.O.S.T.

Tom Vecchione, MD, a longtime M.O.S.T. volunteer plastic surgeon, recalls a mother from the October 2010 Pachuca trip who was desperate to receive care for her daughter. The beautiful, dark-eyed, 8-year-old girl was born with a large hairy nevus, or brown birthmark, that covered the right side of her forehead, eyebrow, and eyelid, and extended to

her cheek. The nevus was dark, corrugated in texture and covered with a generous growth of long, thick, jet-black hair. The girl had reached the age at which children were starting to exclude her from activities because of the birthmark on her face. With diminishing self-confidence, the child began withdrawing from social events. Her mother was concerned for her daughter and the affects the condition might have on her long-term development.

While evaluating the child's nevus, Dr. Vecchione concluded that removal of the lesion would require approximately four surgeries during a two- or three-year period. The nevus would need to be removed and skin grafted in sections. Each surgery would require extensive post-operative wound and skin care.

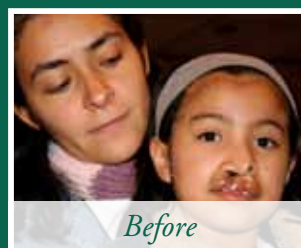
As Dr. Vecchione began to explain that M.O.S.T. is only able to conduct two weeklong surgical missions per year, in different areas throughout Mexico, the mother looked down. And then, with great determination, she lifted her head and said no distance was too great. She would follow M.O.S.T. anywhere to get treatment for her child.

"The determination and seriousness of her tone clearly expressed how important it was for this mother to find help for her daughter. Other organizations had turned her away, given the complexity of the care need. M.O.S.T. was her last hope," recalls Dr. Vecchione. "It is exactly this spirit that motivates us all to provide the best care for these children and treat them as if they were our own."

M.O.S.T. was able to perform the first surgery, removing a large section of the nevus from the girl's forehead and applying skin grafting. Our surgeons also worked with the Mexican social services agency, Desarrollo Integral de La Familia (D.I.F.), to coordinate local post-operative care. D.I.F. will also provide notification to the mother and child regarding future M.O.S.T. missions and may assist with transportation for ongoing surgical care.

Making a Difference

Thanks to your support, M.O.S.T. provides life-changing surgeries to correct cleft lips, cleft palettes, burn scars, crossed eyes and a variety of other conditions to children in need.



Thank You to Our Supporters

M.O.S.T. wishes to thank the following individuals and organizations for their generosity. *If errors or omissions exist, please call Sister JoCeal Young, M.O.S.T. coordinator, at 619-721-7313. All gifts were given between November 1, 2010, and March 31, 2011.*

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Ensuring a Lasting Legacy

Charitable gift annuity helps support the longevity of M.O.S.T.



M.O.S.T. cofounder and volunteer Pat Robinson, RN, has been caring for patients since the program first began in 1988. She recently made a charitable gift annuity to ensure the M.O.S.T. mission continues well into the future.

Guided by a big heart and a spirit of giving, Pat Robinson, RN, co-founded M.O.S.T. nearly 22 years ago when she was working as an operating room nurse at Scripps Mercy Hospital.

Funded entirely through philanthropy, M.O.S.T. has since grown into an international program that provides needed medical care to thousands of children and adults. Through the generous outpouring of community support during the past two decades, the program and its volunteers have profoundly changed the lives of more than 9,000 patients.

“It’s overwhelming how many children we’ve helped,” says Pat. “We just never thought we would have such a far-reaching effect.”

To continue this legacy, Pat recently made a charitable gift annuity to benefit M.O.S.T.

A charitable gift annuity not only supports the future of M.O.S.T., it also benefits Pat’s future. In return for her gift, Scripps will pay Pat an annual income for life. She will also earn an immediate charitable income tax deduction.

Gift annuities can be funded with cash, securities or real estate, and the annuity rate is determined by age. The older you are, the higher your rate.

“M.O.S.T. has touched so many lives, and there is still work to do,” says M.O.S.T. cofounder Pat Robinson. “I hope my gift will inspire others to support the program and the care that it provides to those in greatest need.”

Ways to Give

During the current economic climate, philanthropy is more important than ever to the mission of M.O.S.T. Even in the best of times, disadvantaged children need quality health care. But, in the worst of times, this need becomes even stronger and your gifts have an even greater impact.

The best way to get involved and help our team continue to improve children’s lives is through financial support. All gifts, no matter the size, will provide hope and healing to those in greatest need.

There are many ways to give, including:

- annual cash donations
- tribute gifts to honor someone special
- appreciated stocks and bonds
- gifts of real estate
- estate gifts, including charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts
- contributions made through payroll deduction

For more information, please call 619-721-7313 or visit www.scripps.org/mercymost.

