



Mercy Outreach Surgical Team

Making miracles happen. Summer 2008

STANDING TALL

Patient Reunites with Volunteer Physician Who Made a Lasting Impression



Rosaura Mercado Velasco reunites with Bill McDade, M.D., the M.O.S.T. volunteer physician who provided her with life-changing care.

Mercy Outreach Surgical Team (M.O.S.T.) volunteer physicians often do not get to see how their patients flourish long after receiving corrective surgery, but Bill McDade, M.D., recently experienced this unique opportunity. In November 2007, Dr. McDade reunited with Rosaura Mercado Velasco, a M.O.S.T. patient he had performed surgery on nearly 12 years ago.

In 1995, Dr. McDade met 22-year-old Rosaura during a M.O.S.T. mission in Nochistlan, Zacatecas, Mexico. Rosaura had come to the team's weeklong clinic, tired and in pain due to her severely bowed legs.

Her condition was extreme and required specialized care that was far too complicated to be performed at the mobile clinic. M.O.S.T.

made arrangements for Rosaura to come to Scripps Mercy Hospital for intensive corrective surgery.

"It was one of the most complicated orthopedic surgeries I've done," says Dr. McDade. "Without surgery, it



Nearly 12 years ago, Rosaura Mercado Velasco sought help from M.O.S.T. to correct her severely bowed legs.

is very likely that Rosaura would have lost her ability to walk."

The upper and lower sections of both of Rosaura's legs were entirely reconstructed, resulting in the insertion of multiple metal rods and hardware. The first procedure on her right leg took nearly eight hours, followed by a six-hour surgery on her left leg a few weeks later. After recovery, Rosaura's newly constructed limbs enabled her to stand proud and walk without pain.

Dr. McDade remained in contact with his courageous patient. They were pen pals, exchanging letters throughout the years. In one of her recent letters, Rosaura mentioned she was experiencing some pain in one of her legs.

After receiving X-rays from a Mexican hospital, Dr. McDade, now retired, helped to coordinate a follow-up surgery at Scripps Mercy Hospital. M.O.S.T. volunteer physician Bill Davidson, M.D., who helped perform the original

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Upcoming M.O.S.T. Trips

June 6-7, 2008: Tijuana

Sept. 5-6, 2008: Tijuana

Oct. 26-Nov. 1, 2008: San Cristobel de las casas, Chiapas

Gifts with Great Rewards

Illustrating the diverse strengths and skill sets of M.O.S.T. volunteers, Alex and Jackie Rodarte have been involved with the program for nearly 15 years. From providing medical care to offering comfort and compassion, they support the medical missions in many different ways.

When they first got involved, Alex's skills as an anesthesiologist were a great fit for M.O.S.T. Jackie, however, was not sure how she could contribute since she did not have a medical background. She quickly learned that her talents would be just as valuable.

During her first trip, she and another M.O.S.T. volunteer, Anita Waldman, identified a need that was not being addressed.



Jackie Rodarte, affectionately known as the toy lady, helps calm the nerves of a young M.O.S.T. patient as she waits for surgery.

“After the children were processed and waiting to go into surgery, the parents and patients looked very tense. We wanted to ease that anxiety,” Jackie recalls.

To comfort the uneasy children, Anita and Jackie began bringing a gigantic suitcase of toys to share with the waiting patients. Soon, the women became known as the toy ladies.

“When you hand a crying child a toy that makes noises or has lights, it stops the tears and also eases the family,” Jackie says.

Jackie, her husband, and a bag of toys recently traveled to Tula, Mexico, in April 2008, for a weeklong medical mission. The trip was a great success, as the M.O.S.T. team performed more than 300 surgeries and provided needed medical care to children who might not have otherwise received it.



For nearly 15 years, Alex and Jackie Rodarte have been dedicated M.O.S.T. volunteers.

“Once you go on one of these trips, you want to go back because you see all the good you do,” says Alex. “You need to see just one child with a wide open cleft lip or palate, and after surgery you look at him and think, ‘Wow,’ as you give him back to his tearful and grateful mother.”

Jackie is also moved by the power of human touch and emotion that crosses language barriers during the M.O.S.T. trips.

“We’re not even speaking the same language, but I understand when they are worried or anxious,” she says. “The connection between me and the kids and their mothers always amazes me.”

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“Standing Tall”*

surgeries, performed a procedure to fix one of the metal rods that had loosened in Rosaura's right leg. Rosaura's surgery went very well and she is expected to have a full recovery.

Prior to the surgery, Dr. McDade met with Rosaura and her father for a tearful reunion.

“Her life has definitely improved for the better,” says Rosaura's grateful father Manuel.



Today, Rosaura is able to stand proud and walk without pain, thanks to reconstructive surgeries from M.O.S.T.

But Rosaura is not the only one who has been transformed.

“Being a part of M.O.S.T. has changed my life in so many positive ways,” says Dr. McDade, who had been an active M.O.S.T. volunteer until his retirement.

All in the Family

The Ting Sisters Volunteer, Side by Side

Growing up, Jennifer Ting, M.D., and Vivian Ting, M.D., learned important lessons about sisterhood – how to get along, the importance of sharing and how to help each other succeed. These lessons have been extremely beneficial in their work as M.O.S.T. volunteers.

Dr. Jennifer Ting is an anesthesiologist at Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego and Dr. Vivian Ting is a plastic surgeon from Northern California.

The sisters volunteered their medical expertise during a M.O.S.T. trip to Tijuana in February 2008. Joining a team of 28 physicians, nurses and volunteers, this was their second M.O.S.T. trip together.

During the trip, the team helped to create miraculous transformations, by repairing cleft lips and palates, and correcting small, misshapen ears and asymmetrical noses. Through the dedication of volunteers, like the Ting sisters, M.O.S.T. performed an astonishing 45 plastic surgeries in just two days.

“I am delighted to be involved with M.O.S.T. because it gives me an opportunity to give back to the world community and work with children who really benefit from my efforts,” says Dr. Vivian Ting. “I also enjoy the camaraderie of this special and committed group of health care professionals who are so very devoted to this cause.”

Although all of the patient results are impressive, the infant patients with cleft lips and palates are especially remarkable to the

Ting sisters. It is common for children with these medical conditions to be shunned by their community. The corrective surgeries provide them an opportunity to no longer be hidden in the background.

“The results can be dramatic,” says Dr. Jennifer Ting. “You just imagine what a difference it will make in their lives.”

While offering their time and talents, the Tings also benefited from the trip. They had the opportunity to work together while providing valuable medical care to M.O.S.T. patients and families.

“Going on the M.O.S.T. trips gives us a real appreciation for what we do and how it really makes a difference,” says Dr. Jennifer Ting. “We're always taken aback by how appreciative the families are, because we're just doing what we always do.”



As a M.O.S.T. volunteer on the February 2008 trip to Tijuana, Vivian Ting, M.D., helped the team perform 45 plastic surgeries in just two days.

The Mission of M.O.S.T.

Each year, hundreds of youngsters receive life-changing care from the volunteers of M.O.S.T. With philanthropic support, the team reaches out to underprivileged children and adults from other countries to provide critical medical and surgical care. From correcting cleft lips and cleft palates to treating burn scars and crossed eyes, M.O.S.T. offers a brighter future to those in greatest need.

Our mission is 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.

From a gift of \$150 to support surgery for one child to \$10,000 to sponsor a two-day mission, and \$100,000 to sponsor a weeklong mission, you can make a difference.

To learn more about M.O.S.T. and how you can make a gift to support its medical missions, please call **619-686-3633** or visit www.scripps.org/mercy.



Judy Hames comforts a patient during a M.O.S.T. mission.

Honoring a Legacy

As one of the co-founders and a cherished member of the team, Judy Hames will be fondly remembered by M.O.S.T. To honor her legacy and dedication to M.O.S.T., a special bench in the peaceful library garden at Scripps Mercy Hospital was recently dedicated in memory of Judy.

Committed to helping others, Judy helped transform M.O.S.T. from an idea to reality. Today, it is an international program that provides needed medical care to hundreds of children, thanks to Judy's efforts.

"Judy was always right in there working with the team, every chance she could," recalls Pat Robinson, M.O.S.T. coordinator. "As her health problems began to interfere, she scheduled her surgeries around her trips to Mexico. I am not sure her orthopedic surgeon was always in agreement, but Judy had the final say."

Although Judy passed away in 2004, her spirit lives on in the M.O.S.T. missions and the lives of those she touched in so many ways.

Making Miracles

Local Program Sponsors Cosmetic Surgery for 52 Children

For nearly 10 years, La Jolla cosmetic surgeon Dennis Bucko, M.D., has helped brighten the smiles of many children as a M.O.S.T. volunteer and supporter.



Dennis Bucko, M.D. (center), sponsors cleft palate surgeries for 52 M.O.S.T. patients through his Making Miracles program.

In addition to joining the team's medical outreach trips each year, Dr. Bucko developed a program, Making Miracles, which sponsored one M.O.S.T. cleft palate surgery for every surgical case he performed from Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2007, at his cosmetic surgical center. Through Making Miracles, Dr. Bucko sponsored surgeries for 52 children and donated a portion of his surgical fees to M.O.S.T.

"I know there is a great need in Mexico," says Dr. Bucko. "The M.O.S.T. doctors donate their time and pay their own way, but it is still very expensive, and I knew that providing financial support would be helpful as well."



After 12 years of service and 19 M.O.S.T. missions in Mexico, volunteer pharmacist George Olijnyk is retiring from the team.

Dedicated Volunteer Retires from M.O.S.T.

Since volunteering for his first M.O.S.T. trip in October 1996, pharmacist George Olijnyk has participated in 19 M.O.S.T. missions in Mexico, as well as numerous Mercy Day programs at Scripps Mercy Hospital. After 12 years of serving as a dedicated M.O.S.T. volunteer, George is retiring from the team.

As a pharmacist, George was actively involved in packing and preparing for the M.O.S.T. trips to ensure the team had a full supply of medications. He was always conscious of his patients' safety and their need for critical medications and antibiotics. His concern and attention was also focused on team members who became ill during trips, as he was available, day or night, to offer a quick remedy.

M.O.S.T. is grateful for all the years of service George generously gave to support the mission of the program. He will be greatly missed and we wish him well in his new adventures.

Message from M.O.S.T. President



M.O.S.T. President George Ochoa comforts a young patient who is nervous about her surgery.

The success of M.O.S.T. is due to the generous support we receive from the community – from monetary contributions to gifts of time, services and compassion provided by our volunteers. Together, these gifts enable us to make profound changes in the lives of many children.

Philanthropy is the heart of our organization. Without the generosity of our donors and volunteers, we simply could

not do what we do. For just \$150, we can repair a child's cleft lip or palate, correct crossed eyes or perform other life-changing surgeries. When you consider the overall costs of sending a volunteer team to Mexico to perform surgery, with hotel, airfare and the costs of all our supplies, it is quite impressive that \$150 is all it takes to offer a child change and hope.

You, too, can make a difference. You don't need to be a millionaire or medical specialist ... all you need is the spirit of giving. From making a gift to volunteering your time and talents, your contribution will make an impact.

To learn more about M.O.S.T. and how you can support its medical missions, call **619-686-3633** or visit **www.scripps.org/mercymost**.

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