Providing a Fighting Chance

Walking down the street, he heard a man call out, “tio, tio.” Dr. McCarthy is fondly referred to as “tio” (meaning “uncle”) by his M.O.S.T. patients.

“As I turned to see who was shouting, a young fellow ran up and I recognized him from years ago,” says Dr. McCarthy. “When he was about 11 years old, I repaired his ear. Today, he is in his 20s, an engineering student and on his way to fulfilling his dreams.”

During the Tehuacan trip, Dr. McCarthy and 44 other M.O.S.T. volunteers worked together to perform more than 120 surgeries. Collectively, their efforts helped uplift the spirits and self-esteem of many children, like Dr. McCarthy’s former patient, who are on the brink of realizing their full potential.

$500,000 Price Challenge Grant

The Price Challenge Grant was recently awarded to M.O.S.T. to help raise funds for the Mary Ann Rumsey Endowment. The grant will match, dollar for dollar, all gifts made to M.O.S.T. through Dec. 31, 2014.

Named in memory of Mary Ann Rumsey, beloved wife of Scripps Mercy surgeon Eugene Rumsey, MD, the endowment will support an annual M.O.S.T. outreach mission to provide transformational surgeries in the heart of Mexico. It honors the long-standing support and dedication of the Rumsey family and is a lovely reflection of Mary Ann’s wish to help the less fortunate.

Help Us Meet the Challenge

Your gift will have twice the impact and will enable M.O.S.T. to raise $1 million by the end of this year – reaching half of the $2 million fundraising goal for the Mary Ann Rumsey Endowment. For more information, contact Heather Mason at 619-686-3558 or mason.heather@scrippshealth.org.

Upcoming M.O.S.T. Trips

October 2014, Irapuato, Guanajuato, Mexico

April 2015, Playa del Carmen, Quintana Roo, Mexico
Transformations in Tehuacan

For first-time M.O.S.T. volunteer Chuck Pretto, civic service is a part of his identity. He has been a member of the esteemed San Diego Rotary Club for 21 years and served as its president from 2013-2014. Continuing his passion for helping others, he joined M.O.S.T. during its outreach trip to Tehuacan, Puebla, Mexico, in March 2014.

“San Diego Rotary has supported M.O.S.T. outreach missions for more than 20 years,” says Chuck. “After hearing about the incredible transformations performed by M.O.S.T., it was an honor to be a part of the magical experience.”

During the screening clinic, Chuck assisted plastic surgeon Tom Vecchione, MD, with scheduling. He recalls a patient whose circumstances tugged at his heart — a young girl with a severe double cleft lip under both nostrils.

“She came to the clinic smiling and was so happy before surgery,” says Chuck. “I can’t imagine how much her joyful spirit will soar after this life-changing event.”

Helping track each patient, Chuck served as the surgery coordinator throughout the week.

“It was an honor to hold such a hands-on position,” Chuck says. “I spent time with every patient before surgery and I wasn’t prepared for the emotional connection I would make with each one.”

Chuck now views M.O.S.T. from a new perspective. Having supported the team for decades through his involvement with San Diego Rotary, he now has a greater empathy for the families who have been touched by M.O.S.T. — and even more so for those who are not so lucky.

“It is one of the most moving experiences I’ve ever had,” says Chuck. “Unfortunately, we couldn’t help everyone. And even if the Rotary doubled its support, it wouldn’t be enough. There are so many children in need of care.”

As a surgical technician at Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, Nuvia Carrillo has a heart for helping others through health care. Hearing about the impact of M.O.S.T. from colleague and volunteer Ralph Flores, she knew she had to get involved.

Joining the M.O.S.T. trip to Tehuacan, Puebla, Mexico, in March 2014, Nuvia was in awe of the physical transformations she witnessed.

“The cleft lip and palate reconstructions were the most dramatic,” says Nuvia.

Assisting plastic surgeon Larry McCarthy, MD, she was touched by a young patient who had returned for surgery to continue construction on his missing ear.

“During surgery, Dr. McCarthy was truly an artist — sculpting cartilage to look like an ear,” recalls Nuvia. “The boy was so excited, because for the first time, he was going to be able to wear a pair of sunglasses.”

Grateful for the opportunity to give back, Nuvia plans to continue her involvement with M.O.S.T. and encourages others to support the team.
Thank You to Our Supporters

Merry Outreach Surgical Team (M.O.S.T.) is made possible thanks to gifts, large and small. We are grateful for the generosity and support from the following individuals and organizations for their generosity. If errors or omissions exist, please call Kathryn Guevara, M.O.S.T. coordinator, at 619-868-3633. All gifts were given between July 1, 2013, and June 30, 2014.

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Remembering Dr. Mike Peters

As a Scripps Mercy Hospital plastic surgeon, Mike Peters, MD, cared for San Diego patients for more than three decades. Dedicated to serving others, he also contributed his skills and expertise to M.O.S.T. During his 12 years on the team, he selflessly donated his time and talents, helping transform the lives of countless children and families.

“Dr. Peters was one of the most innovative and clever plastic surgeons I’ve worked with,” recalls Tom Vecchione, MD. “He had the quickest wit on the team and there was always warm laughter in a group when Mike was holding court.”

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our dear friend Dr. Peters and thankful for his significant contribution to the success of M.O.S.T. We extend our deepest sympathies to his family and friends.

Changing Lives in Merida

In October 2013, M.O.S.T. volunteers traveled to Merida, Yucatan, Mexico, to provide complimentary reconstructive surgeries to children in need.

During the weeklong outreach mission, the volunteer team of surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses, operating room technicians, pharmacists, orthoptists and others – 61 in all – changed 320 lives forever. From dawn to dusk each day, they operated to correct cleft lips and palates, missing ears, burn scars, crossed eyes, and extra fingers and toes. More than 90 children also received glasses, thanks to the M.O.S.T. eyeglasses program.

In addition to the gift of life-changing care, surgical patients each received complimentary backpacks thanks to a group of volunteers led by Millie Creager, Susan McMillin and Tamara Zehentbauer. Filled with a new outfit, a small toy and a few toiletry items, the backpacks provided comfort and a joyful distraction for patients as they left the surgical suite.

Ways to Give

The best way to get involved and help M.O.S.T. continue to improve children’s lives is through financial support. All gifts, no matter the size, will make a difference in our effort to care for 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 scripps.org/mercymost.
Save the Date: 4th Annual M.O.S.T. Mariachi Festival

Join us at the 4th Annual M.O.S.T. Mariachi Festival on Saturday, Oct. 4, 2014. The event will be held from 5:30 – 9 p.m., at the Market Creek Events and Venues at the Joe & Vi Jacobs Center. Enjoy a festive evening, including Mexican cuisine, live mariachi and folkloric dancers, a silent auction and an opportunity to fund a life-changing surgery for patients in need.

For more information about the event, sponsorship or auction items, please contact Denise Mallari, special events coordinator, at 858-678-7174, mallari.jodenise@scrippshealth.org; or visit scripps.org/mostfestival.

The Holls Give 20 Years of Hope and Healing

After more than 20 years of service as a post-operative nurse and anesthesiologist with M.O.S.T., Peggy and John Holl, MD, have retired from the team.

Through the years, they have been touched by the dedication of M.O.S.T.’s volunteers, the fortitude of its patients and the impact of the outreach missions.

“We’d often have patients travel hundreds of miles in need of care,” says Dr. Holl. “They would be waiting for us when we got off the bus, eager for a chance at a new life.”

Although they will no longer be standing side by side with the team during outreach missions, the Holls continue to provide philanthropic support to further the mission of M.O.S.T.

As members of the M.O.S.T. family, Peggy and Dr. Holl are committed to helping the team spread hope and goodwill for many years to come.

The Mission of M.O.S.T.

The far-reaching impact of our program would not be possible without your philanthropic support. Thanks to your generosity, Mercy Outreach Surgical Team (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
• provide an opportunity for team volunteers to experience the spiritual rewards of service

Whether it is $100 for a pair of eyeglasses, $350 to support one child’s surgery, 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 Kathryn Guevara, M.O.S.T. coordinator, at 619-721-7313 or guevara.kathryn@scrippshealth.org.
Message from the President, Kent Diveley

During the past year, I have had the honor of serving as president of M.O.S.T. This role has opened my eyes to the complexity of our missions, the efficiency of our team, the generosity of donors, and the overwhelming need for our services.

Funded entirely through the kindness of others, we operate with minimal overhead expenses — nearly every dollar going directly to patient care.

Our volunteers are the backbone of our operation, taking time away from their work and families to travel to the heart of Mexico. Our surgeons, anesthesiologists, nurses and others donate their talents to provide life-changing surgeries.

Although we serve hundreds of patients each year, unfortunately, we often encounter far more children than we can help.

As we look to the future, we need your ongoing support. Please help us further the mission of M.O.S.T. and provide care to more patients than ever before. With a gift of $350, you will fund a surgery that only takes a few hours to complete, but the impact will last a lifetime. And thanks to the $500,000 Price Challenge Grant, your donation will be matched. To learn how you can contribute to M.O.S.T. medical missions, please call 619-721-7313 or visit scripps.org/mercymost.

Stay Connected with M.O.S.T.

Join our Scripps Health Foundation e-news list to receive the latest updates about 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 scripps.org/emails.