



Mercy Outreach Surgical Team

Making miracles Happen



All gifts have
a direct impact
on the lives of
those in need!

\$15,000
covers
medications
for a trip

\$3,500 funds
surgery for
ten children

\$500
sponsors
one team
member

\$100 provides
an eye exam and
eyeglasses for
one child

Boosting a Six-year Old's Spirits

Living in the indigenous community of Poblado Miguel Aleman, six-year-old Miguelito (Miguel) Cruz often visited the community center. Although shy, likely due to his crossed eyes, he was always cheerful and smiling. Thanks to compassionate community leaders and volunteers, coupled with M.O.S.T.'s surgeons' expertise, Miguel's spirit and outlook now shines brighter.

Miguel's mother, who raises four children on her own, was contacted by a local social worker when she heard M.O.S.T. was coming to the nearby city of Hermosillo. Local service volunteers from Ayudarnos Unos a Otros drove Miguel and his mother, who lacked transportation, to the M.O.S.T. clinic more than 40 minutes away, to ensure he would be considered for surgery.

"There is no way Miguelito could have had this surgery without M.O.S.T. The possibilities were nonexistent and they made it happen," says Miguel's social worker, Annaeli Franco. "It really makes me believe that there are people out there trying to make this world better and it challenges me to do the same. Thank you M.O.S.T. for what you do. It's really honorable."

*"I look good and
now I see better,"
beams Miguel.*



Before and after: Six-year-old Miguelito (Miguel) Cruz receives life-changing surgery in May 2019, to correct his crossed eyes.

Miguel was among one of the 102 eye patients who received transformational surgery during M.O.S.T.'s three-day mission to Hermosillo.

Miguel's mother couldn't agree more. "It was life-changing. Before the surgery kids used to make fun of him because of his eyes, but now they can't," she said. "The surgery really helped Miguelito's self-esteem. He wasn't as happy as he is right now."

Volunteers in Action

Making a Big Impact with Simple Basics

Olga Romo's first M.O.S.T. mission in 2009, in Tehuacan, Puebla, Mexico, was an eye-opening experience. As she helped schedule and register patients for surgery, she witnessed life-changing transformations. She also recognized the patients' needs for simple basics, like socks and underwear.

"As I helped children change into their surgery gowns, there were so many who did not have socks and underwear — something so basic that we take for granted," recalls Olga. "I decided, right then, that if I ever returned, I would bring some for the children."

Olga stayed true to her commitment. Ten years and ten M.O.S.T. missions later, she continues to bring a large suitcase completely stuffed with socks, underwear, headbands and slippers donated from friends, family and coworkers, who support her efforts.

Olga recalls a patient she will never forget — a little girl who was thrilled to get underwear with pictures of the "Frozen" princesses. "She was so excited, she put them on under her gown right away. Then she opened the back of her gown and proudly walked up and down the hallway so everyone could see her new underwear," says Olga. "These gifts may seem small, but they are huge in the eyes of the patients we serve and I am grateful to be able to add to their M.O.S.T. experience."



For ten years, M.O.S.T. volunteer Olga Romo has provided needed socks and underwear to M.O.S.T. patients as they prepare for surgery.



"The children are often unsure and crying as we help dress and prepare them for surgery," Olga says. "The gifts we provide help distract them and ease their anxieties."

M.O.S.T. Miracles in Mexico

MoreLiA 2018

In October 2018, M.O.S.T. visited Morelia, in the Mexican state of Michoacan. It was the seventh week-long clinic in the city since the first M.O.S.T. trip there, in 1995.

Working in partnership with local hospitals and Rotary volunteers, the M.O.S.T. team of 48 doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other volunteers provided care to more than 165 patients. Several prior M.O.S.T. patients have become volunteers and were there to show gratitude and provide assistance, as well.

During this mission, the team performed various plastic surgeries, urological and general surgeries to correct cleft lips and palates, crossed eyes, burn scars, extra fingers and toes, and other medical conditions. The team was also able to treat many returning M.O.S.T. patients, who needed follow-up plastic surgeries.

HerMosiLlo 2019

In May 2019, M.O.S.T. traveled to Hermosillo, the 16th largest city in Mexico, that is centrally located in the northwestern Mexican state of Sonora. It was the first visit to the city and the need was overwhelming. In the first week that the advertisement for the M.O.S.T. clinic was posted, more than 500 applied.

The three-day schedule was tight and required the efficiency, precision, and teamwork, for which M.O.S.T. is known. With a team of 31 doctors, nurses, pharmacists and other volunteers, M.O.S.T. arrived at the clinic in Hermosillo at 11 a.m. on May 2 and were conducting clinic screenings and setting up the operating room suite an hour later.

The short mission was filled with many miracles. From dawn to dusk, M.O.S.T. worked tirelessly to care for as many patients as resources would allow. Together, with the extraordinary organizational and logistical support that the local Beltrones Foundation provided, the team performed a staggering 102 corrective eye surgeries and distributed 50 sets of eyeglasses.

Unfortunately, not everyone who traveled to the clinic could be seen. Although M.O.S.T. helped to provide greater vision, confidence and outlooks for many of the young patients, the team had to turn many away. M.O.S.T. hopes to return to Hermosillo in the future to provide corrective care to those who didn't receive it.





Learn more about upcoming trips or how you can volunteer at scripps.org/mercymost.

sAn CrisTobAL de LAS CAsAs 2019

In October 2019, a group of 60 M.O.S.T. volunteers went to San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico. It was the second week-long clinic in the city and the team performed 262 surgeries to correct cleft lips and palates, crossed eyes, burn scars, remove extra fingers and toes, and provide surgery for children with hernias. They also provided eyeglasses for 40 patients.

Many of the patients were indigenous — traveling from the local mountains — and spoke the native languages of Tzotzil. To overcome communication challenges, local volunteers generously offered their time to help translate the five different dialects of the region. Local Rotarians also greatly assisted in the efforts.

UPCoMing 2020 TriPs:

March - Location to be determined
May - Hermosillo, Sonora
August - Ensenada, Baja California
October - Location to be determined

Even a
small gift can
make a huge
impact in
the lives of
children.

How to Help

Mercy outreach surgical
Team is funded entirely
through philanthropy.

Transforming Futures through Corrective Care



Born with a cleft palate, two-year-old Veronica endured a life of heartache and rejection. Her father abandoned their family after her birth, leaving Veronica's mother to raise five children on her own, in the mountains near the Mexican state of Tabasco. But, thanks to M.O.S.T., her supportive family and a twist of fate, Veronica's future is destined to be brighter.

Ahead of M.O.S.T.'s October 2019 mission to San Cristobal de las Casas, Chiapas, Mexico, news was spreading about the opportunity to receive transformational surgical care for children in need. Thankfully, Veronica's uncle heard about M.O.S.T. through a coworker and accompanied the child and her mother as they traveled more than 10 hours from their indigenous village for the chance to be selected for life-changing surgery. The first two hours of their journey was by foot to the nearest bus station.

Veronica was evaluated by M.O.S.T. plastic surgeon, Dr. Brian Mailey, and selected as a patient. If Veronica did not receive surgery to correct her cleft palate during the M.O.S.T. mission, her family would not have another opportunity to seek help for the child. It was now or likely, never.

Thanks to M.O.S.T., Veronica's cleft palate was corrected and she recovered well from surgery. But, the compassion and generosity of our M.O.S.T. volunteers did not stop there. Veronica's family had been so determined not to miss this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity that they spent all of their money traveling to the clinic and had no funds to make the 10-hour trip home. Upon hearing of their situation, M.O.S.T. volunteers pooled together donations to fund the family's return trip.

None of this could happen without the doctors, nurses, and support staff who volunteer their time, and the generous donors who make these miracles possible.
donate online at scripps.org/mercymost or call 619-686-3836.



M.O.S.T. Mariachi Festival 2019



Drawing a crowd of 450, the festival raised \$225,000 for the Mercy Outreach Surgical Team on Saturday, June 1, 2019, at Humphreys Concerts by the Bay.

The event featured a performance by the Grammy Award-winning ensemble Mariachi Los Camperos and celebrated the work M.O.S.T. volunteers have done for over 30 years.

More than \$50,000 was raised through the live auction, which included a Lake Tahoe vacation package, two carne asada fiestas for 50 people and a getaway to Whitefish Montana.

Harry O'Halloran, MD, pediatric ophthalmologist was honored for making 33 trips with M.O.S.T., during which he provided nearly 4,000 eye surgeries.

M.O.S.T. and Scripps Mercy Hospital Foundation look forward to having your support next year at the 9th Annual M.O.S.T. Mariachi Festival on June 6, 2020!



Scripps Mercy Hospital Foundation

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San Diego, CA 92103

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SAVE THE DATE

M.O.S.T. MARIACHI FESTIVAL

EvEnT
iS ExPEcTEd
TO SEll OuT.
rEServe
yOur TABle
TOday!

Don't miss the **9th Annual M.o.s.T. Mariachi Festival**, benefiting the Mercy Outreach Surgical Team.

For more information about the event and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Carina Burns at 619-686-3559.

sATUrDAy, JUNE 6, 2020 | 6-10 P.M.

Purchase your tickets online today! www.scripps.org/MOSTmariachi

Your generous gifts have helped:



M.O.S.T. perform
nearly 300
surgeries per trip



More than
700 children
receive
eyeglasses



change the lives
of nearly
14,000 children

To learn more about the many ways to support M.O.S.T. and the impact your gift will make, please visit scripps.org/mercymost