Something to Smile About
How your support transforms the lives of children in rural Nicaragua

If you are a parent, you know that feeling of helplessness when your child is sick. For mothers in rural Nicaragua who are faced with economic struggles and a lack of available medical help, that feeling is compounded a hundred-fold.

Jose’s mother knew that feeling the day her son was born with a cleft lip. Local doctors couldn’t help her – the surgery required was beyond their abilities. Then one day she heard about a free surgical clinic being held in a nearby city. She left immediately, traveling on foot for three days – but arrived one day too late. Potential patients had already been evaluated, scheduled for surgery and Esperança’s volunteer surgeon, Dr. Retson, was already at work.

Hopes dashed, she started to leave when Dr. Retson stepped in with a message that brought tears to a mother’s eyes.

“We always have time for one more.”

On the same trip, Dr. Retson met a grandmother named Veronica and her grandchild, both who had cleft lips. Veronica sought medical care only for the child, but both received surgery and both of their lives were transformed.

Veronica and her grandchild exuberate confidence thanks to your support and Dr. Retson and Esperança’s volunteer surgical team.

On average, Esperança’s surgeons complete 30–40 surgeries over a mere five days,

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Adventures of Ray Sachs and Mark Austerlitz
How you and our volunteer surgeons are giving new hope to the people of Peru

Ray Sachs and Mark Austerlitz are not just orthopedic surgeons, bridge players, and fundraisers; they are visionaries!

“Orthopedic missions to the developing world are uncommon because orthopedic equipment is so expensive. Equipping a team of volunteer orthopedic surgeons requires a great deal of money and a lot of complex transport,” according to Dr. Ray Sachs.

To make the most of an upcoming surgical mission trip to Abancay, Peru, Drs. Sachs and Austerlitz will need a fluoroscopy (x-ray) machine shipped and delivered to a village more than 8,000 feet in elevation. The delivery requires an oceanic voyage and a 15-hour drive across mountainous terrain.

Thanks to Mimie Anderson’s generous donation, a portable fluoroscopy machine was purchased for the Abancay Hospital, allowing Esperança’s volunteer surgeons and local doctors to perform more complex procedures.

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This October, Drs. Sachs’ and Austerlitz will arrive in Abancay, and your support will ensure that this life-changing machine is installed and ready to go when they arrive. In addition to using the new equipment to assist in their work, both doctors plan on sharing their knowledge and training the hospital’s resident doctors on how to use the fluoroscopy machine. Its presence will greatly enhance the outcomes for patients like Cinthya – allowing local doctors to view her joints more closely and truly understand the abnormalities she must overcome.

“I joined Ray Sachs on my first orthopedic mission to Abancay, Peru last fall,” says Dr. Mark Austerlitz. “The impact the experience has made on my life has been immeasurable. Because of my experience with Esperança, I have become an enthusiastic supporter and fully expect to continue making these missions annually.”

You can see how you helped transform Cinthya’s life last fall through the work of our volunteer surgical team, by visiting Esperança’s YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/esperanca1970

Dr. Mark Austerlitz was the keynote speaker at our 2017 Hope Breakfast in March.
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often working well into the night only to wake up and begin again. Typically, seeing healing in its initial phase is the only reward for these men and women who pay for their travel and all of their other expenses and who take time away from lucrative careers in the United States.

But the following year after Dr. Retson repaired Veronica’s and the baby’s lip, he was able to see the long-term effects of his work. Veronica returned to the clinic and, free of social stigma, exuberated confidence. She volunteered that week, helping other mothers and grandmothers who were hoping beyond hope that their children’s futures could be made brighter.

In the spirit of Veronica, Esperança and our volunteer surgeons are committed to standing as partners with the communities we serve.

Many patients hear about Esperança’s approaching arrival through an announcement by a member of our indigenous partnering organization, who travels by way of the river to access the most isolated and impoverished communities. Potential patients are collected, and others hearing of the mission, travel for days in hope that they or their children will qualify for surgery. Their need is staggering. So they take a risk – foregoing days of low wages earned in the fields – for the reward of improved well-being.

Since 1970, through the support of friends like you, we have seen thousands of lives, just like Jose’s and Veronica’s, transformed.

Since 1970, through the support of friends like you, we have seen thousands of lives, just like Jose’s and Veronica’s, transformed. We know the work we do is having an impact, just as Dr. Retson saw with the return of Veronica, his former patient to the clinic to help others.

Today, we have the opportunity to extend a hand of support to more like baby Jose, Veronica and the lives of thousands of others who will benefit from Esperança’s surgical missions.
One Man’s Waste is Another Man’s Healing

Your support allows salvaged medical supplies to bring healing to Nicaragua

When you give of your time, talent or treasure, you want to know your generosity is making a difference. Bob and Edith have been financial champions for Esperança since 2007. They wanted to see firsthand how Esperança was impacting lives in communities around the world.

At the age of 87, Bob traveled with Esperança to Nicaragua. He visited Jinotega and the surrounding remote villages. He met doctors and their patients at the regional hospital. He participated, he advised, and he absorbed. What he saw inspired a tremendous donation that brings more safe, secure, reliable medical supplies to those that he met on his trip to Nicaragua.

Bob and Edith funded the building of a medical supply warehouse in Phoenix, Arizona so that Esperança can keep more medical supplies out of the landfill and repurpose medical supplies in perfect condition to outfit the medical facilities in Nicaragua when Esperança Volunteer Surgical teams are not there.

Esperança’s Medical Supply Donation program delivers cargo containers carrying your medical donations to under-resourced hospitals, clinics, and community health centers in Jinotega, Nicaragua – one of the most impoverished areas in Central America. Esperança’s new Medical Supply Warehouse has enhanced the onsite assessment process ensuring that every container delivered will meet specific needs of the recipient hospital or clinic, equipping the medical staff with life-saving tools to improve diagnosis, treatment, and care while sending more supplies than ever before.

In 2012, $765 billion worth of perfectly usable medical supplies were put in the trash. (National Academy of Medicine)

The cost to send one Shipment of Hope container of life-saving medical supplies is $11,500, yet the average value inside is a staggering $1,250,000!

Our new Medical Supply Warehouse allows us to send even more life-saving supplies to underserved communities throughout the world.

FROM MEDICAL TRASH TO LIFE-SAVING TREASURE

Faithful financial supporter Bob and his family at the dedication of our new medical supply warehouse. Bob and his late wife, Edith, funded the warehouse which allows Esperança to repurpose discarded medical supplies for use in Nicaragua.
It Takes A Village

We’re Empowering Women in Nicaragua to Break a Barrier of Poverty

Five years ago, in the remote community of Jinotega, Nicaragua, 23 single mothers and their families were struggling to survive. Then they had an idea – why not band together and create a farming cooperative? By sharing experience and work, they could raise enough livestock to feed them all! But livestock is expensive. Where would they find the animals to begin?

Enter Bob and Judy. In the summer of 2016, these longtime Esperança champions fulfilled a dream for these 23 women by providing them with a set of piglets and the funds to build a seven-pen structure and a storage room.

Today they have five sows; one boar; and this spring, their first litter of 17 piglets was born! With four more sows under their care, they will sell the pigs, eat the meat and breed them to create a sustainable economic and nutritional future for their families.

Phase one is complete! But there is more to do before this new business venture is stable. With your help, we can give these women the tools needed to sustain their cooperative for generations to come:

Phase two: Developing the infrastructure of the hog farm. The women need to improve the living conditions of the pigs and lay concrete in their pens to keep them dry. You can strengthen the economic future for these 23 women through a tax-deductible contribution.

Phase three: Expansion: Grow to become a pig processing facility and purchase land and materials to build a mill to sell ground pork.

This article was written in memory of Bob, a vanguard of Hope in the spirit of Father Tupper, Esperança’s founder. Bob will be remembered for his generosity across the world.

Interested in learning more and/or supporting the next phase of this project, or a project like this? Contact McKenzie Simmons, Development Director today at (602) 252-7772 ext. 101.
Esperança Tributes & Memorials

In Memory of James Fernando
Gordon Martens

In Memory of Urban “Bud” Fisher
Gertrude Dilly
Therese Fisher
Patricia J. Guilfoyle
Ruth Kutsche
Steve Nelis
William J. Scouler
Anne Tyer
Mary Beth Walen
Paula J. Williams

In Memory of Francis Barth Richards, Sr.
Barth Richards

In Memory of Paulette Robischon
Ernest R. Behrens

In Memory of Ray Tadeo
Tadeo Family

In Honor of Jessica Donnerstein
Vicki Peck

In Celebration of Michael and Marie Maledon
Mark Campbell
Don Loebl
Marilyn Maledon
Mitch Pierce
Kristin Segal

Would you like to honor a friend or family member for a birthday or other special occasion, or make a gift in memory of a loved one? Your gift to Esperança can be designated as a tribute to or in memory of someone special.

We attempt to ensure the accuracy of our donors’ names. If you note an error or omission, please contact Nicol Emerick at 602-252-7772 x107.

Tributes and Memorials from March 1, 2017 - May 31, 2017