

From the Board of Directors

Thousand Smiles Foundation is able to provide long term care for underprivileged children afflicted with cranio-maxillofacial and dental deformities on a charitable basis because of kind donations from concerned individuals and volunteer labor from highly qualified medical personnel.



Our work encompasses the many aspects of the dental health picture: prevention, orthodontics, restorative dentistry, maxillofacial reconstruction, as well as speech and hearing therapies. Our donors and volunteers change lives dramatically. Children who were literally unwanted outcasts in their communities are

restored to normal, healthy, respected individuals. Your participation can help bring happiness to a child.

You will be repaid with the satisfaction of a thousand smiles...

Thousand Smiles Foundation provides for underprivileged children free of charge:

- Craniofacial Reconstructions
- Cleft Lip & Palate Surgery
- Craniofacial Orthodontic Care
- Dental Services including Restorations & Extractions
- Minor Orthodontic Care & Appliances
- Dental Hygiene Education
- Audio & Speech Assistance
- Ear, Nose & Throat Clinic



Making a difference in the lives of children!



Our donations support the dental and medical treatment of children



Thousand Smiles is a SmileTrain Partner, is also supported by Pierre Fauchard Foundation, and honored by the American Dental Association, International College of Dentists, and the Academy of Dentistry International

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THOUSAND SMILES FOUNDATION
FUNDACIÓN MIL SONRISAS

A Project of Rotary Districts 5340 & 4100

Since 1985



Making a Difference in the Lives of Children

The Problems

In Mexico, approximately one in every 650 newborns has a facial deformity. These deformities, cleft lips and palates, are the result of heredity, maternal nutrition, and environmental factors. In the United States, cleft lips are surgically closed when the child is 10-12 weeks old and palates are closed at 10-12 months of age. This is often impossible in Mexico and other countries because of economic conditions. As they grow, these children are subject to health problems. They are sometimes unable to eat, talk, hear or even breathe normally because of ENT problems caused by the deformities.

Thousand Smiles Milestones

In 1985, with donations plus a grant from Rotary International, Thousand Smiles was conceived by a group of enthusiastic Rotarians. The Red Cross Hospital in Ensenada was renovated; equipment and supplies were purchased. Maxillofacial surgeries were provided. The project moved to a remodeled warehouse in 1999 to continue the general dentistry clinic. Our new dental clinic provides modern facilities for our volunteers' use.



In 1995, an Ear, Nose and Throat Clinic was added to treat the ear infections and hearing loss problems that the majority of these children experience. Between 40 and 80 ear tube surgeries are performed each year in order to protect and restore hearing.



Before

Surgical Team

Thousand Smiles provides free surgery for cleft lip/palate deformities, craniofacial repairs, ear surgery and dental services for needy children. Surgeons perform an average of fifteen surgeries, many with multiple procedures at each clinic. Surgery screening and ENT clinics are held on Friday before the surgeries are scheduled for Saturday.



Cleft palate surgeries are now performed at the Hospital General de Ensenada. Our new dentistry facility houses general dentistry, audiology, speech therapy and nutritional counselling. Now, with the help of dedicated volunteer staff from both Mexico and the United States, these problems are addressed with thorough, comprehensive dental and surgical treatment.

Dental Team

Usually 80 to 100 dental patients are given dental care over each two-day effort. Our general dentistry clinic pro-

vides orthodontic appliances and prosthetics. Dental hygienists teach families proper brushing and hygiene techniques; often giving children their first tooth brush. The patients and their families are also given lunch donated by many Rotary Clubs and other volunteers.

Volunteers

Volunteers return to Ensenada each February, May, August and November to conduct Thousand Smiles Clinics. Surgeons, dentists, anesthesiologists, hygienists, nurses, lab techs, audiology and speech therapists, as well as many lay Rotary members and other dedicated people volunteer from both sides of the U.S./Mexican border. At recent clinics visiting professionals from the U.S., Mexico, and other countries donated their efforts.



After

Make A Difference

Professional services, medical supplies, administration and food are provided by Mexican and United States Rotarians as well as donations of concerned citizens and corporations. Personal expenses for food, travel and lodging are assumed by all volunteers. Thousand Smiles has an ongoing need for equipment, supplies and assistance. With more volunteers, additional surgeries can be provided for disadvantaged children.

***You can make a difference
in the life of a child!***