

# 2019

## Annual Report



**40**  
YEARS



# *Celebrating 40 Years!*

## **MISSION**

We are an international, nonprofit organization dedicated to helping underserved children around the world secure the medical care they desperately need to live more fulfilling lives.

## **PROGRAMS**

Over the past 40 years, we have provided an array of unique programs and services. Championed by our amazing volunteers, healthcare providers, families, donors, and communities, we have helped 301,765 underserved children around the world secure urgently needed medical care that is otherwise unobtainable.

Since 1979, our programs have included International Inbound; Medical Teams Abroad – Surgical; Medical Teams Abroad – Non-Surgical; Special Projects in the US and Internationally; International Medical Assistance Program (IMAP); and Local/Domestic Programs and Services.

In 2020, many of our programs have been placed on hold. We are continuing IMAP, supporting Special Projects, expanding Local/Domestic Programs and Services, and exploring new and innovative ways to help children access medical care by linking to multiple technological resources. This year will be a challenging one, but our commitment to healing children has never been stronger as we reimagine how we can reach vulnerable children here and around the world.



## A Message from Our President

***Dear Friends,***

***40 years is an amazing milestone!***

What began with one woman seeking healthcare for a child from Guatemala in 1979 has rippled into a vibrant, active organization with 15 chapters across the US supporting 19 states. We are proud to present our 2019 Annual Report celebrating 40 years of healing children around the world. As one of the oldest and largest non-governmental, humanitarian, volunteer driven charities in the nation, our impact is huge! As of the end of 2019, we have helped to heal an impressive number of 301,765 children.



2019 represents a year of hope and healing. Our volunteers led 21 surgical and 11 non-surgical medical teams abroad to 10 countries, 19 countries when we include our International Special Projects. We brought children to the US for lifesaving surgeries from 11 countries. Our local/domestic programs reached out to underserved children by providing camp scholarships, specialized equipment, and donated medical care.

As our journey continues, we remain flexible and responsive in these challenging times. I hope you will join us and stay connected through your local chapters, our website, and social media. Together, we are changing the world for its children.

Sincerely yours,

*Ann Anderst, President*

Healing the Children Board of Directors

## *With Appreciation to our Volunteers*

The work of Healing the Children would not be possible without the heart, talent, commitment, and dedication of our volunteers. Every year, an average of 1,000 healthcare professionals and support volunteers facilitate our mission of healing.



As we witness the worldwide tragedy of the COVID-19 pandemic unfold, we know our volunteers are in the trenches working in local health care facilities, hospitals, surgical centers, dental and optometry offices, schools, and community centers to meet a myriad of health care needs. Thank you all so much!

## Worldwide Impact: 1979 – 2019



**301,765** Children healed



### Unique programs children served

- International Inbound Children 7,498
- Domestic & Local Programs & Services 19,159
- Medical Teams Abroad: Surgical & Non-Surgical 210,693
- Special Projects: International & Domestic 64,176
- International Medical Assistance Program 239



**1,000's** of volunteers annually



**\$770 million** in donated supplies, equipment & services



**100+** countries worldwide



**15** chapters representing **19** states



**\$1** donated leverages **\$12** in medical services





# 2019 Program Results

 **11,337** Children healed

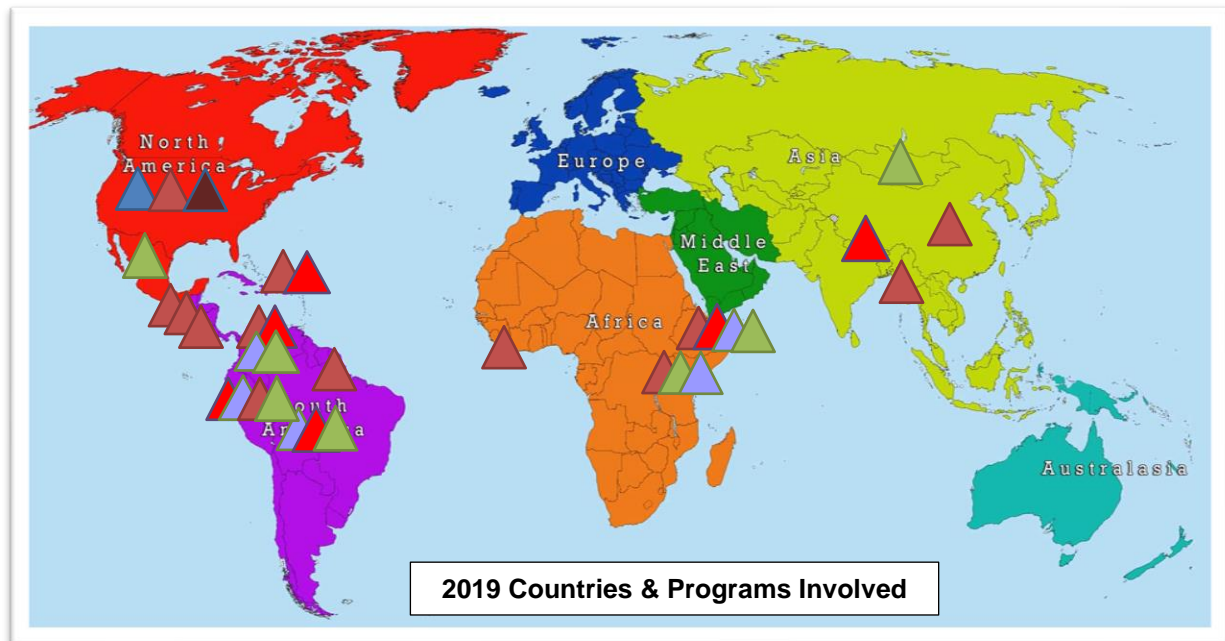
Our unique programs  children served

	<b>BASED IN THE US</b>	
		International Inbound Program <span style="float: right;">20</span>
		Domestic Programs & Services <span style="float: right;">124</span>
		Special Projects: Domestic <span style="float: right;">1,525</span>
	<b>BASED INTERNATIONALLY</b>	
		Medical Teams Abroad: 21 Surgical <span style="float: right;">3,422</span>
	Medical Teams Abroad: 11 Non-Surgical <span style="float: right;">2,365</span>	
	Special Projects: International & IMAP <span style="float: right;">3,881</span>	

 **19** different countries

Bolivia, China, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Liberia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Peru, Trinidad, Uganda, and United States

 **\$15** million in medical services and supplies



# Financial Report

## 2018 Consolidated Financials

2018

• <b>Total Assets</b> <i>(cash and cash equivalents)</i>	<b>2,246,351</b>
• <b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>150,371</b>
• <b>Net Assets</b> <i>(cash and cash equivalents)</i>	<b>2,095,980</b>
• <b>Total Revenues</b> <i>(includes in-kind contributions)</i>	<b>18,937,794</b>
• <b>Total Expenses</b> <i>(includes in-kind contributions)</i>	<b>18,825,809</b>
• <b>Increase/(Decrease) in Net Assets</b>	<b>111,985</b>
• <b>% Non-Program Overhead</b>	<b>less than 1%</b>

*Over the past 40 years, HTC has provided medical assistance to 301,765 children all around the world and delivered over \$770 million of medical services and supplies for children from over 100 countries.*



*Healing the Children Greater Philadelphia Chapter Director Desi Ferrell with a child in her arms*

One of Desi's favorite stories is of a little girl at the Black Lion Hospital, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Desi was standing alone in the hospital hallway when a little girl came up and put her hand in Desi's hand. The child's hand was very cold. Desi looked down and the little girl had a tracheostomy in her neck. Desi asked about it and found other children at the hospital had this too. Desi and her volunteers were inspired by these children and started a program at the hospital to help children like this little girl. Desi became known as their White Lioness. *One of many remarkable ways we help to heal children.*

# Memories...

## Lora

*By Jeff Degner, Chapter Director, Healing the Children Illinois/Indiana and HTC Vice President*

**Lying limply across her grandmother's lap,** the child resembled little more than a rag doll, so still and listless it was hard to tell she was even breathing. Her name was Lora. She was five.

**To get her to the rural Nicaraguan hospital,** her *nieta* had first carried Lora four miles, passing through a swamp where she tenderly held her overhead, keeping her high and dry. Then they traveled for a while on horseback, took a long bus ride, and finally walked two more miles from the bus station to the hospital. There, the grandmother hoped that a group of Americans could save the life of the fragile girl she had carried so far.

**I was a part of that group,** acting as translator, photographer, and errand-runner. The rest of the members were doctors and nurses who had donated eight days of their time to come to Nicaragua and help as many needy young people as they could. We were doing so under the auspices of the Wisconsin Chapter of the all-volunteer organization called Healing the Children. Word of our impending arrival had been circulating around the Nicaraguan countryside for weeks; several intrepid souls, all seeking some type of medical aid, were even waiting for us in the lobby of our airport hotel.

**The next day** we set up our clinic in a rambling, one-story hospital outside the town of Rivas. Stray dogs occasionally trotted down the open-air corridors. Hospital laundry hung out to dry in the branches of nearby trees. In the waiting room, which consisted of nothing more than rows of bare, metal, folding chairs, sat dozens and dozens of people. Some, like Lora's grandmother, had journeyed for hours, even days, remaining quiet and patient until their turn to be seen by the American doctors. I would frequently pass through this congested waiting area. Every time, I would find myself the focus of all those pairs of dark brown eyes, each one filled with one word: hope.



**The U.S. medical team** brought with them much of their own equipment to Nicaragua. Nevertheless, they also utilized many local items, trying to ignore the rusty scalpels, the stained, sterile gowns and the scorpion eggs found in a surgical cabinet. Potential cases were examined carefully. Some children were promptly scheduled for surgery in the next few days and sent off to wait some more in overcrowded wards without air conditioning. There were no complaints. Others, the most difficult cases, could only be helped back in the United States and thus were put on a different list. Tragically, there were also those who could never be helped. Nicaraguan doctors and nurses worked right alongside the Americans, both as pupils and as able assistants. By the end of the mission, more than 300 children had been seen and 45 different surgeries performed.

**Many of the operations** involved facial plastic surgery: removal of tumors, repair of cleft lips and palates. One Nicaraguan mother was frightened by the bandages which wrapped the face of her young son after he was released to her. She was reassured that once the bandages were removed, he would be the most handsome boy in all the town. Other operations were orthopedic in nature, like that of a youngster who underwent a double-club-foot procedure. It would allow him to walk normally and to wear shoes for the first time. He left the hospital with a huge entourage of happy relatives surrounding him.

**One evening**, a dinner in a nearby town was held in our honor. Tables were set up in the backyard of a modest home. Music was provided by some dubious but enthusiastic musicians; food was prepared by neighbors and folks came from all over the village to join in the festivities. The overall feeling was one of unity, and the highlight of the night was watching a young woman dance. This pretty girl, a few years earlier, had herself been helped by some of the same American medical people who were now watching her perform. Back then she had been weak and frail. And now she was dancing!

**When Lora and her grandmother** finally made it to the clinic it was obvious that the child was gravely ill. She was examined almost immediately. Tests proved that she had critical heart problems, and, without help, would probably die within a month. Quickly, phone calls were placed to the States to find a heart surgeon and hospital who could accept her on such short notice. Arrangements were then made for her visa and passport, while a hosting family was lined up and Lora's airline reservations were made. By the time, the team was ready to return to America, miraculously, Lora was able to go with them.







**Nine months later**, I flew to Nicaragua again, this time simply as an escort for two returning children. One of them was Lora, now an energetic, playful, and healthy girl, not the sick, listless, and barely breathing child of the past. Her grandmother once again had traveled for hours to meet us. She picked that little girl up in her arms and smothered her with kisses and hugged and hugged her. Then I watched this stoical woman's eyes slowly brim over with tears of joy and relief.

**In thinking about the Healing the Children medical team** that I had been a part of those many months before, I recalled that, back then, I wanted to somehow instantly become a physician myself and cure all of the sick and injured children I met. But this narrative is not about what I saw, or what I did not do. It is about a marvelous yet unassuming group of people: doctors, nurses, mothers and

fathers, Nicaraguans, and Americans. All were joined under a common heroic goal. In far-off Nicaragua, they saw – and they did.

*P.S. In the years since I wrote this, I have been back to Nicaragua and have seen Lora on several occasions. She is now a healthy and happy young lady!*

## Amran

### **Amran is on the cover of our 2019 Annual Report**



Amran is from Ethiopia and came to the US in 2019 for critically needed heart surgery. She was a sick little girl awaiting surgery on the left, yet it is hard to see this now in her photo on the right.

The volunteer team with Healing the Children Kentucky, provided a circle of care for this little girl who had many sets backs and struggles before the surgery could be performed and her health restored.



In June of 2020, Amran was cleared to return home, however she awaits the ability to travel internationally due to the impact of COVID-19. We remain hopeful she will be able to go home very soon and while she waits her host family and friends are enjoying her beautiful smile.

*Amran's story is shared by Debi McDonald, Chapter Director, Healing the Children Kentucky*

## Daisy



**Meet *Daisis*** who was assisted by the Illinois/Indiana Chapter. Daisis is from a poor family in Nicaragua. We called her "Daisy." After plastic surgery here in Illinois removed the upper lip tumor she was born with, Daisy has become just as pretty as the flower we named her after! Though most Healing the Children cases are far less dramatic, helping to affect any vital, medical improvement in a needy child is more than dramatic. *This is life changing - and has certainly changed the world for Daisy!*

*Submitted by Jeff Degner, Chapter Director, Healing the Children Illinois/Indiana*

## Jonas



***Jonas from the Dominican Republic*** came to the Rocky Mountain Chapter in 2015. His esophagus was completely closed off because of a household accident when he drank Drain-O as a 1-year old. He was able to receive surgery at age 4 1/2 to reconstruct his scarred esophagus which allowed him to eat and drink like a normal child. He is now 9 years old and thriving! This photo was taken when he drank for the first time. We gave him lots of options of drinks and sauces to try. *He favored Apple juice.*

*Shared by Dr. Ryan and Ann Brown, Chapter Directors, Healing the Children Rocky Mountains*



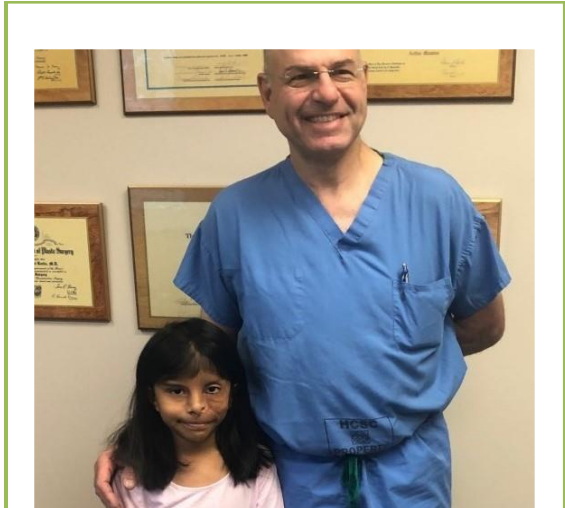
# Mariana



**Mariana from Peru**, has come to the US through the New Jersey Chapter four times for facial reconstructive surgery. At age two this severe condition known as hairy nevus covered the left side of her face.



During Mariana's first three visits she was hosted by Sister Immaculata Arvone and the entire Sisters of Charity Mallinckrodt Covent in Mendham, NJ.



A patient of Dr. Hakan Kutlu since 2014, Mariana underwent surgery at Saint Clare's Hospital in Denville.



HTCNJ is grateful to Morristown Medical Center, Saint Clare's, Dr. Kutlu, both host families, and everyone who has stuck with the case and remained committed to helping Mariana.

Karen Mackie, HTCNJ Director

*Mariana's special story is shared by Karen Mackie, Chapter Director, Healing the Children New Jersey*

## Changing the world...one child at a time

## Carmen and Lupita



**Meet Carmen and Lupita.** They are conjoined twins. Each girl has a unique personality. They will forever be connected to our town of New Milford, Connecticut and to their Healing the Children Northeast family. They were born in 2000 in Veracruz, Mexico. They, along with their parents and older sister, came to the U.S. seeking help for the twins. Surgery to separate them was not possible.



**These two remarkable young ladies** are now 20 years old, and in college hoping to become double majored in Agricultural Business and Animal Science. Although they have outgrown our program, Healing the Children Northeast will always remain close with them.



**Anthony came to the HTC Inland NW Chapter** from St. Kitts and received a neck and spine fusion through Shriners Hospital in Spokane. He lived with Jim and ShirI Lewis for 16 months during his recovery. Today, Anthony lives in NYC with his father and is now 36 years old.

## Anthony

*Carmen and Lupita's story was submitted by Missy Law, Administrator, Healing the Children Northeast Chapter.*

*Anthony's story was submitted by Jim and ShirI Lewis, Chapter Directors, Healing the Children Inland Northwest*



## Sofia



Sofia's heart repaired



Vanessa, Sofia, & Mom



Celebrating!

*Story by Vanessa, Host Mom to Sofia, Healing the Children Southwest (New Mexico) Chapter*

**At nearly 3 years old, Sofia** left her small village in El Salvador, and flew into Albuquerque NM for a life-saving heart operation. Not even two months later she returned home, leaving behind a newfound family and many adoring hearts. Sofia is now 4 years old, with a vibrant spirit and so full of joy. Thanks to the generosity of Healing the Children and their affiliates she has a limitless future.



## Andrea

**Andrea a 7-year-old** was born with cerebral palsy, Spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

Healing the Children, Florida has provided Andrea access to the multiple specialists she needs as well as access to the necessary lab work and imagining exams. Healing the Children's support has helped Andrea in avoiding frequent visits to the ER and hospitalization.

Because of Healing the Children Andrea now has consistent and comprehensive medical care to support her complex needs.

*Submitted by Arlene Rhodenbeck, Chapter Director  
Healing the Children Florida/Georgia*

# Josue



Kristin

I think this is the most difficult letter to write. I can't thank all you did for me. These last two years have been very happy for me.

In my situation it's very difficult to find a good person, someone who will listen and always be supportive. Kristin thank for always being good to me, for treating me like one of the family. I spent many happy times here.

You and your family did a lot for me, I thank for being who they are. Thank you for listening to me, the truth was the first time I gave my opinion about something or talk about my thoughts.

Thank you for changing my life.

*A special story by Kristin Mathews, Chapter Director, Healing the Children Arizona*

**Josue, from Honduras**, came to AZ at age 17 after having multiple failed surgeries to fix his broken leg. He was tired of the pain and was ready for an amputation and prosthetic so he could walk again. He had been on crutches for years.

I have never met a braver and more determined young man. He breezed through his surgery, recovery, and prosthetic fittings. He hiked mountains and learned to ski; he had a smile on his face each and every day. I love him as a son and am so proud of the progress he has made.

Josue graduates this year with a degree in Engineering from his school in Honduras and plans on continuing his education here in the United States.

# Our 2020 Leadership



## Board of Directors

### OFFICERS

Ann Anderst, President  
Jeff Degner, Vice President  
Ann Brown, Secretary  
Steve Moore, Treasurer

### MEMBERS

Ann Brown, Chapter Director  
Jeff Degner, Chapter Director  
Dr. Francis Gardner, Member at Large  
Shirl Lewis, Chapter Director  
Kristin Mathews, Chapter Director  
Steve Nargiso, Board Representative  
Dr. Evan Ransom, Chapter Director  
Helen Salan, Chapter Director

Dr. Jennifer D'Amico, Chapter Director  
Desma Ferrell, Chapter Director  
Barbara Hernandez, Chapter Director  
Karen Mackie, Chapter Director  
Debi McDonald, Chapter Director  
Dr. Marshall Partington, Chapter Director  
Arlene Rhodenbeck, Chapter Director  
Peggy Wydeven, Chapter Director

## Executive Board

Rhonda Anderson  
Carol Borneman  
Jeff Degner  
Dr. Francis Gardner

Ann Anderst  
Ann Brown  
Steve Diamond  
Steve Moore

## Thank You to Our Retiring 2019 HTC Colleagues

Jason Kirkham, Executive Board  
Melissa Freeman, HTC SW Chapter Director

## How You Can Get Involved

Here are a few ways you can help:



**Like Us on Facebook** @ [www.facebook.com/HealingtheChildrenNational](https://www.facebook.com/HealingtheChildrenNational)



**Donate**

Your donation provides children with the gift of health, so precious and priceless. Visit [www.healingthechildren.org/donate](https://www.healingthechildren.org/donate) to make a donation. Feel free to donate to a specific chapter or to HTC National Office, which benefits all chapters. As a volunteer-based organization, 98% of every dollar is spent directly to help our children!



**Volunteer with Our Programs**

Visit [www.healingthechildren.org](https://www.healingthechildren.org) to find the chapter that is closest to you. Just contact that chapter to learn of specific needs and opportunities in your area. Whether you are a doctor and want to participate on a medical trip or be a host family to a child, or help become an administrator for our programs, there are many volunteer opportunities for each chapter. This year, we are especially seeking help with medical supplies, equipment, and PPE for our medical communities.



**Volunteer with the National Office**

Committed individuals who may not live near our regional chapters and those without medical backgrounds can apply for a range of short-term and longer-term volunteer opportunities with our national office. Marketing, fund-raising, and other administrative roles are open within the national organization. Join us to help children from around the world who need our collective help with difficult medical needs.



**Start a Chapter in Your Area**

If you live in an area that is lacking a voice for children in need, we would love to work with and help you establish a new HTC chapter. You do not need a medical background, just the ability to attract medical resources in your city or state, some organizational or non-profit experiences and most importantly, a genuine desire to help heal children who are counting on you. Please contact us at [www.healingthechildren.org](https://www.healingthechildren.org) and we will discuss the process to establish a chapter in your area.



## Contact Us

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## Our Chapters

### ARIZONA

Kristin Mathews

### NEW JERSEY

Karen Mackie

### FLORIDA/GEORGIA

Arlene Rhodenbeck

### NORTHEAST

Steve Nargiso

### GREATER PHILADELPHIA

Desi Ferrell

### NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Dr. Evan Ransom

### ILLINOIS/INDIANA

Jeff Degner

### ROCKY MOUNTAINS

Dr. Ryan and Ann Brown

### INLAND NORTHWEST

Shirl and Jim Lewis

### SEATTLE

Dr. Marshall Partington

### KENTUCKY

Debi McDonald

### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Dr. Jennifer D'Amico

### MICHIGAN/OHIO

Helen Salan

### SOUTHWEST (NEW MEXICO)

Barbara Hernandez

### WISCONSIN

Peggy Wydeven

# 2019

## Annual Report



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[www.healingthechildren.org](http://www.healingthechildren.org)