

NEW BEGINNINGS

By Dawn Deakin, Executive Director of SpineHope

When I first joined SpineHope in 2015, I was inspired by the mission, the number of children served and the volunteers dedicated to changing children's lives in under-resourced countries. Oftentimes, we forget how fortunate we are in the United States to have the ability to obtain health insurance, gain access to basic needs like water and electricity, and have programs that support indigent families and children in need of medical care. It moves me the number of kind and generous individuals living among us who are ready to step up and help those less fortunate in other nations.

On a personal note, I, like some of the children we provide treatment to, have scoliosis. My case is very mild. Other than a twinge of pain from time to time in my lower back and occasional soreness, I have not needed to seek medical attention and have found ways to manage it. However, I can understand and sympathize with the struggles physically, mentally and emotionally children with worse spinal deformities and spine conditions must go through. I have seen the anguish in their eyes. I have seen the concern in their families' faces. I have sensed their depressed spirits. It breaks my heart to know that some of these children who would love to have normal childhoods with the ability to run, skip, jump and play without pain, being teased or feeling self-conscious about how they look cannot...either because they physically are unable or because they suffer psychologically from body issues. I love to dance...other than helping children, it is my passion. The thought of not being able to express myself through dance or having to do so in pain, discomfort or worried about what others might think, is almost unimaginable. Children should be able to express themselves in healthy ways and should feel comfortable in their own skins.



Our volunteers do make an impact. Our sponsors do make a difference. Our mission does change lives.

All too often I am seeing children (especially teens) suffering from severe spinal deformities being crippled by intense pain and really low self-esteem. But there is hope...and I have personally witnessed hope become new beginnings. I have had the great fortune of seeing the transformation of several children in the last two years. Through SpineHope Global Outreach and U.S. Hub Programs, our children have gone from hopeless, scared and timid caterpillars tucked in their restrictive cocoons...to blossoming butterflies who are finally able to spread their wings and truly enjoy not just the greater world around them and activities they could not previously participate in, but also their own bodies. The surgery and treatment we are able to provide these children are remarkable. But so are the after effects. I have seen pain get reduced, confidence boost, bodies change and happiness sparkle from the inside out.

Thank you to all who have supported our programs and precious children thus far. We are honored to serve and look forward to expanding our reach in the future. Together, we can help other children in need get their own new beginnings!

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Kendra Scott Gives Back Party
June 22, 2017 6-8 PM
1400 South Congress Ave. Ste. A170
Austin, TX 78704

Costa Rica Medical Mission Trip
February 24 - March 4, 2018

Miss Suharshi, 6 months after surgery and 5 inches taller.





A VOLUNTEER STORY

Emily Kegans and Wesley Varghese are Neuromonitoring Techs at SentryNeuro in Houston, Texas

Emily Kegans and Wes Varghese recently volunteered for the 2017 Costa Rica Medical Mission Trip. This was their first SpineHope mission trip and hopefully not their last! We would like to share their experience and some of their thoughts during and after the mission.

After day one, which was a full day of clinic comprised of evaluating and selecting candidates for surgery for the coming week, Wes' initial thoughts were: "When I first saw a few of the kids and they are the same ages as the kids I've got at home, it makes you realize how blessed we are and how much of a change we actually are going to make in these kids' lives. So it was personally touching for me to see those kids." Emily added, "It was a rewarding experience that we don't necessarily get in our day-to-day jobs, so we are ready to help these kids out. We are excited to get to the OR!"

Following the conclusion of the volunteer experience, Wes was asked what his final thoughts were. "The opportunity we had to change lives is amazing. From the precious children who receive the medical care to the parents and family of those children with renewed hope, we had a front line

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–Wesley



HELP US REACH OUR GOAL

\$5,000

TO HELP SUPPORT JOSTIN:

MAKE A DONATION BY CHECK:
Addressed to "SpineHope"
(P.O. Box 684261, Austin, TX 78768)

MAKE A DONATION BY CREDIT CARD:
http://bit.ly/SpineHope_Jostin

Donations are tax deductible.

experience that often gets lost in today's cumbersome medical bureaucracy. SpineHope stripped away the red tape to open a road to what medicine was meant to do...help and heal. Thank you for the opportunity to be part of the team." When asked if he would want to participate in future SpineHope medical mission trips, Wes said, "Absolutely."

We appreciate their participation and hope this encourages others to consider volunteering for future trips!

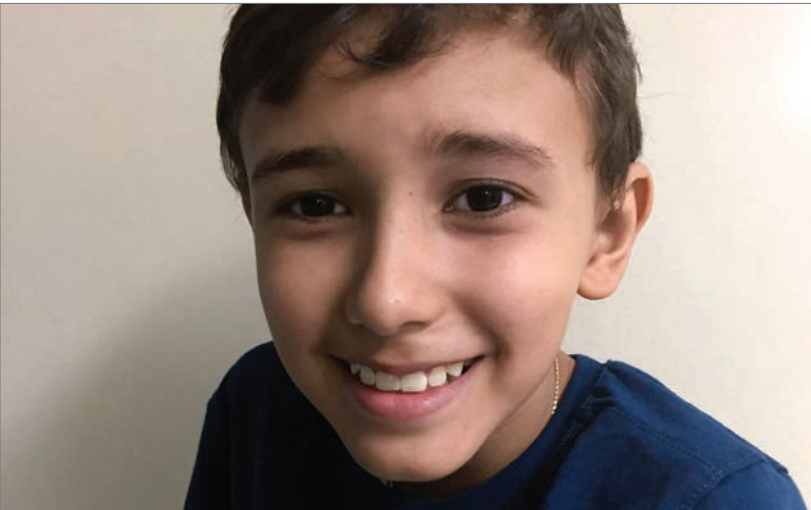
It was a rewarding experience that we don't necessarily get in our day-to-day jobs, so we are ready to help these kids out.

–Emily

BRING JOSTIN TO AUSTIN

U.S. HUB PROGRAM STORY OF HOPE

We would like to introduce our next SpineHope U.S. Hub Program patient, Jostin Torrentes Oviedo, a very courageous 11 year old boy from Costa Rica. Our surgeons have selected Jostin due to the severity of his kyphoscoliosis. His spine anatomy is extremely abnormal and he is in need of complex spine surgery. But, there is more to his story that we would like to share...



At the age of only 7 years old, Jostin was admitted to the National Children's Hospital in Costa Rica with considerable pain in the middle of his back, weakness in limbs, balance issues and coordination problems. His loving parents had no idea what was wrong with their precious son or why he was in so much pain. Fears beyond their imagination came true when the doctors told them he had cancer. Little Jostin was diagnosed with a rare spinal cord and thoracic tumor.

Despite financial pressures, his parents were determined to get their son the care he needed. In 2013, Jostin underwent his first surgery where a complete spinal decompression was performed. Soon after his recovery, he began an intense first round of chemotherapy which ended in July 2014. At the end of the chemotherapy, the tumor still was present but had reduced considerably in size. In September 2014, Jostin underwent a second surgery. Once he recovered, he started a second round of chemotherapy and radiation treatment. Thankfully, he does not need any more radical cancer treatment at this time.

In addition to cancer, Jostin's body is battling several conditions at this time. He has significant skin issues caused by his radiation treatment, scar tissue along his spinal column, numbness in his extremities, weakness in his arms and severe kyphoscoliosis which causes him a significant amount of pain. The severity of his kyphoscoliosis makes it impossible to stand or sit for long periods of time. He struggles to sleep and is self-conscious about the way his body looks. The kyphoscoliosis continues to worsen and is now collapsing his lung and causing him breathing difficulties.

Jostin is in urgent need of complex spine surgery. Pediatric spine surgeon, Dr. Ryan Murdock, from Central Texas Pediatric Orthopedics and SpineHope's Assistant Medical Director, has elected to perform his delicate and complicated surgery. As part of the SpineHope U.S. Hub Program, our goal is to bring him to Austin, Texas for surgery on May 15, 2017 at Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas. He will need to arrive two weeks prior to the surgery for traction and testing with a post-surgery recovery of four weeks.

Jostin's journey has been a difficult one, not just for Jostin but for his entire family. Due to the daily care Jostin needs, his Father was forced to quit his job to be a stay at home Dad, with only his Mother able to provide for the family. Due to the costs and hardships involved, it has been a struggle for the family to find a way to get him treatment. We would like to help him and ask for individuals moved by his story to consider donating to his cause. We are trying to raise a minimum of \$5,000 to help support his travel, lodging, food and medical costs for the spine surgery.

Jostin is a strong boy who, despite the pain and inability to have a healthy childhood, continues to fight. He wants to have the chance at a normal childhood. He dreams of playing ball with his older brother, being able to ride a bicycle and simply having the ability to breathe normally. He would like to go to the pool and feel confident enough to take his shirt off. In spite of all his surgeries, cancer treatments and pain, Jostin has never been held back in school. He loves school and studies very hard. He remains determined to be a successful student so that he can one day achieve his ultimate dream, to become an astronaut and travel towards the stars.

Jostin would like to tell other kids going through similar health struggles to be strong, stay together as a family and continue to have faith. Through it all, this young man is grateful for the support he has received and remains a boy with the gentlest of spirits and the heart of a warrior.

Please consider sponsoring Jostin!





EDUCATION PROGRAM

As we continue to build our Education Program, we look for partners to help us find ways to deliver education and advanced training to surgeons, physicians, hospital staff and medical students in the countries we establish global outreach programs in. As a prime example, we recently worked with UNIBE (Universidad de Iberoamerica) and the Hospital Nacional de Niños to arrange a special education dinner event on February 28, 2017. During this event, our SpineHope volunteer surgeons (Dr. Matthew Geck, Dr. Ryan Murdock, Dr. Alec Stall and Dr. Todd Ritzman), spoke to a group of local Costa Rican

surgeons, physicians, medical staff and UNIBE students. Instead of speaking on topics chosen by the surgeons, we worked with Costa Rican surgeon, Dr. Max Mendez, to determine the local need and what information/topics would be the most helpful to attendees. The event was well attended, well received and we look forward to expanding this program in 2018.

We would like to extend a special THANK YOU to UNIBE and Dr. Christian Blanco for hosting and sponsoring this event!

U.S. HUB PROGRAM

ESTEFANY'S STORY

Miss Estefany Patricia Santos Rosales, a sweet 17 year old from Guatemala, loves to dance. But her rare spinal deformity (severe congenital kyphoscoliosis), was causing her considerable pain, putting pressure on her spinal cord and lungs, and was having a negative impact on her self-esteem.

When she was young, Estefany showed no signs of discomfort or pain. Her normal childhood was interrupted in June 2012 when her family noticed a bulge forming in her back. Concerned, they took her to the local hospital where she was diagnosed with scoliosis. They visited over a dozen doctors in Guatemala who conducted tests, X-rays and CT scans, but no one was able to find a solution to her condition.

Over the next four years, Estefany's condition worsened, and for 18 months her pain intensified to the point that she had difficulty sleeping and could not sit or stand for long periods of time. If she were to remain untreated, this musculoskeletal disorder could continue to progress at a rapid rate leading to possible neurological deterioration, breathing problems, pulmonary hypertension and/or paralysis.

Discouraged, Estefany's family felt helpless that they could not find a solution in Guatemala and did not have the financial resources necessary to travel to specialists abroad. They did their best to keep her from falling into depression, but it was becoming tougher for her to cope with the fact that she could not do what other teens could.

Thankfully, she reached out to SpineHope and was accepted into the U.S. Hub Program. On October 11, 2016, Estefany



received her critical spine surgery. She is now able to dance without pain, live a normal life and pursue her dream of becoming a spine specialist, with the goal of helping children with similar conditions in Guatemala who cannot afford treatment!

Her family is grateful to all that made this possible, including: Dr. Matthew Geck of Seton Spine and Scoliosis Center, Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, ALG Comprehensive Immigration, ARA Austin Radiological Association, Bee Caves Pediatrics, Capital Anesthesia Association, Austin Children's Chest Association, Medtronic Inc., NuVasive, Inc., Pediatric Critical Care Associates, Pediatric Specialty Services, Ronald McDonald House, 'Specially for Children, Children's Hospital Subspecialists of Central Texas, Seton Children's Ear Nose & Throat Center, and Seton UT/Southwestern University Physicians Group.

Also, a special thank you to her sponsor, SentryNeuro, who graciously sponsored the costs of travel, lodging, food, medication and other expenses for Estefany and her Mother, Patricia.

Thank you to our 2017 Costa Rica mission trip volunteers!
Without you, this medical mission would not have been possible:

- **BRANDON BLACK**, Equipment and Implant Representative, Medtronic Spine USA
- **MATTHEW GECK**, MD, Spine Surgeon, Seton Spine and Scoliosis Center
- **WYNN BRIDGES GORDY**, Neuromonitoring Tech, NuVasive, Inc.
- **JORGE GUERRERO**, MD, Anesthesiologist and OR Translator, Children's Hospital of San Antonio
- **CURTIS JACKSON**, Equipment and Implant Representative, Medtronic Spine USA
- **EMILY KEGANS**, Neuromonitoring Tech, SentryNeuro
- **KIM KING**, Onsite Coordinator and Translator, Rackspace
- **RYAN MURDOCK**, MD, Lead Spine Surgeon, Central Texas Pediatric Orthopedics
- **TODD RITZMAN**, MD, Spine Surgeon, Akron Children's Hospital
- **LT. MARICELA SOBERANES**, DNP, CRNA and Translator, in the U.S. Navy
- **ALEC STALL**, MD, Spine Surgeon, Children's Hospital of San Antonio
- **WES VARGHESE**, Neuromonitoring Tech, SentryNeuro



ETHIOPIA – Regrettably, due to increased protests, security concerns and U.S. State Department warnings, we had to postpone our January 2017 mission trip to Ethiopia. We are currently working on rescheduling for the fall or winter of 2017.



GLOBAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS

COSTA RICA – Our 2017 Costa Rica Medical Mission Trip (February 25–March 4, 2017) was a success! Our efforts changed the lives of 11 Costa Rican children. We took a team of 12 amazing volunteers and worked alongside local spine surgeons (Dr. Jorge Alpizar and Dr. Max Mendez), residents in training, medical staff, and volunteers at the Hospital Nacional de Niños in San Jose.

In addition to the surgeries performed, we:

- Evaluated 26 children during two days of clinic (pre-op, future candidate-screening and post-op/annual follow-up);
- Held a special education event, hosted and sponsored by UNIBE (Universidad de Iberoamerica) at the Park Inn Hotel, consisting of presentations from all four of our volunteer surgeons, that provided several local surgeons, physicians, students and medical staff information on state-of-the-

art techniques and treatment options for complex spine conditions;

- Had our global outreach program picked up by the well-respected newspaper, La Nacion; and
- Were given a live segment on one of the top television news programs on local channel 6 (Vivo). Our volunteer anesthesiologist, Dr. Jorge Guerrero from San Antonio, was interviewed along with Dr. Christian Blanco from UNIBE. We were grateful for the opportunity to share our work and mission with over 500,000 viewers.

We look forward to our 2018 Costa Rica Medical Mission Trip scheduled for February 24 – March 4, 2018.

To make a donation for next year's trip, visit:
http://bit.ly/SpineHope_CostaRica2018



NEW PREMIER SPONSOR

SpineHope is proud to announce Medtronic Spine USA as a Premier Sponsor.

Medtronic Spine USA is committed to improving peoples' lives through innovative medical technology, services and solutions. Their mission, "To contribute to human welfare by application of biomedical engineering in the research, design, manufacture, and sale of instruments or appliances that alleviate pain, restore health, and extend life", speaks to who they are as a company and catalyst of change. Medtronic's philanthropic efforts have the goals of expanding healthcare access to underserved populations around the globe and making the world a healthier place.

In identifying shared values, Medtronic has expressed their belief in the SpineHope mission, efforts and results produced thus far as well as the future expansion goals of the nonprofit. For several years, Medtronic has showcased their support by way of sponsorships, product donations and participation by their dedicated representatives who have donated their time and expertise to SpineHope medical mission trips. The collaborative efforts have helped hundreds of children and the number continues to grow.

With opportunities arising to build global outreach programs in other countries, there is a growing need to identify long term sponsors. Medtronic has decided that they would like to play an even larger role in expansion efforts and has agreed to become a long term programs sponsor.

SpineHope appreciates Medtronic's generosity, participation and support and looks forward to working together to raise mission awareness in the U.S. and abroad, expand our reach to other under-resourced areas and to make hope a reality for even more children on an annual basis.



Medtronic

Further, Together



2016 FALL WINE SPECTACULAR BENEFIT

SpineHope would like to thank Long Island Spine Specialists, P.C. (LISS) and their Executive Director, Mae Caime, for hosting the "Fall Wine Spectacular Benefit" in New York on September 23, 2016. This event was organized to support SpineHope's future medical mission trip to Ethiopia, the Lelt Foundation and Ethiopian children in need! We would like to thank all who attended and made donations during this uplifting event!

Specifically, we would like to express our appreciation to the evening's Diamond Sponsors (LISS, Medtronic Spine USA and Neuro Protective Solutions) and Gold Sponsors (DJO Global, Fusion Solutions, Huntington Hospital, Stand Up MRI, Scalamandre & Sons, Inc., Suffolk Anesthesia Associates and Zwanger-Pesiri Radiology Group, LLP). We cannot continue to do the work we do without your support. One more special thank you to Marilyn Alvira and all those who volunteered to make this event such a success!



VOLUNTEER OR DONATE TODAY

Our mission and operations are driven by dedicated volunteers and the generous donations we receive. We need your support to help us correct spinal deformities, alleviate pain, prevent paralysis when possible, and improve the quality of life for underprivileged children around the world.

If you or someone you know would like to help, please contact us at:
spineoutreach@gmail.com

Tax-deductible donations can be made securely on our website or by mailing a check to:
SpineHope
P.O. Box 684261
Austin, TX 78768

www.SpineHope.org | (682) 463-9082

Thank you for helping us turn our mission into a reality. We are grateful for your support!

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ABOUT SPINEHOPE

SpineHope is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization that is dedicated to providing advanced medical treatment to impoverished children around the world. We assemble volunteer teams of medical professionals to address pediatric spinal deformities and other complex spine, orthopedic and neurological conditions. SpineHope offers both direct services to patients as well as education and support to surgeons, physicians and medical staff worldwide.

Our Programs

GLOBAL OUTREACH PROGRAMS: We work collaboratively with hospitals, organizations and corporations abroad to establish sites for medical mission trips. During missions, volunteer surgeons operate on 8-15 children and see 20+ children in clinic.

U.S. HUB PROGRAM: We have partnered with several healthcare organizations in Austin to bring children with severe spinal conditions to Austin, Texas for surgery and treatment. Children come for 4-6 weeks for surgery and recovery.

EDUCATION PROGRAM: In our Global Outreach sites and during our medical mission trips, our volunteer surgeons conduct training with local surgeons and hold educational conferences to provide hospital staff education on advanced techniques and safety protocols.



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THANK YOU

TO OUR GENEROUS 2016-2017 SPONSORS

PREMIER

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Further, Together

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