



Global Outreach

Ukraine

It is with great pleasure that SpineHope announces a new global outreach effort in Ukraine. In collaboration with host surgeon, Dr. Igor Kurilets (International Neurosurgery Center in Kiev), and the nonprofit, Razom for Ukraine, we will be working together to build a pediatric spine program for Ukrainian children suffering from severe spinal deformities and other complex spine conditions. In addition to providing charity spine surgery and post-op care to children in need, this program will offer training and education to surgeons, medical staff, and medical students in the region on advanced surgical techniques and spine safety protocols.

Our inaugural surgical trip will take place the second week in October 2019 at the Stryi Central District Hospital. SpineHope volunteers and staff for the upcoming trip will be:

- Dr. Matthew Geck, Spine Surgeon
- Dr. Luke Tomycz, Neurosurgeon
- Dr. Jorge Guerrero, Anesthesiologist
- Brandon Black, Medtronic Implant/Product Representative
- Bridges Gordy, NuVasive Neuromonitoring Tech
- Kimberley King, Co-Onsite Coordinator
- Anya Siryk, Co-Onsite Coordinator/Translator
- Dawn Deakin, Team Leader/SpineHope Representative

A special thank you to Medtronic, who will be donating implants and product for this trip, as well as NuVasive, for donating neuromonitoring services. We are deeply appreciative of the volunteers who are donating their time and resources to join the SpineHope team as well as the host hospital team, all dedicated to launching a sustainable program that will benefit Ukrainian children for years to come.

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Upcoming events

Ukraine Surgical Trip
October 7-13, 2019

Ecuador Surgical Trip
November 2-9, 2019

2020 WALK TALL Austin Benefit

April 30, 2020 (6:30–9 PM)
77 Degrees (Domain)
11500 Rock Rose Ave.
Austin, TX 78758



Ecuador

Our inaugural surgical trip to Quito, Ecuador that was postponed from earlier this year, is now scheduled for November 2 – 9, 2019 at the Hospital de los Valles. We look forward to this new chapter and are excited about collaborating to build a sustainable spine program in Ecuador.

U.S. Hub Program



Patient Update: Yolanda

On April 29, 2019, Yolanda Adams (from the Republic of Guyana in South America) was the recipient of charity, corrective spine surgery in Austin, Texas. Having spent only three days in the hospital and now three inches taller with a “straight” body, Yolanda is all smiles and dancing with joy because of her life-changing gift! Since returning to Guyana, she has resumed her studies and has been celebrating with friends and family.

Yolanda and her family would like to thank everyone who made this journey and spine surgery possible for her:

- The Caribbean Children Foundation (Sponsor)
- Jessy Faulkner and David Shackelford (Immigration Team)
- Dell Children’s Medical Center of Central Texas, member of Ascension (Surgical and Hospital Care)
- Dr. Matthew Geck, Seton Spine and Scoliosis Center (Spine Surgeon)
- Dr. Timothy George, DCMC (Neurosurgeon)
- Dr. Nick Lee, U.S. Anesthesia Partners (Anesthesiologist)
- Dr. Elena Ruiz, Bee Caves Pediatrics (Pediatrician)
- Whitney Scurlock and Medtronic (Implant and Product Donor)
- Wynn Gordy and NuVasive (Neuromonitoring Tech)
- ARA (Imaging)

Patient Spotlight: Samantha

“My life underwent a major change last year. I had a spinal operation that has since changed my appearance and improved my confidence after fixing my worst insecurity. It is all thanks to the SpineHope team that my life has taken a turn for the better. I recall that when my pain was worsening and the curve of my spine increased, my mom entertained the thought of surgery and I was appalled by the very idea due to my fears. Now I find I can hardly imagine a life without that surgery.

I have had a remarkable time since my return to Guyana. I have started an array of activities as I find myself with the inner strength to go out of my comfort zone as my worst fears have disappeared. I have restarted with the Red Cross youth group, joined the Presidents’ youth award for the Republic of Guyana and have started to learn ballroom dancing. My life feels as though now filled with limitless possibilities. So, if asked in only a few words to describe my life since I was given the chance of a brighter future, I would have to say relieved, peaceful and overjoyed. I am sincerely thankful for all who have contributed to my new life as I have been gifted a present so special it can never truly be repaid and I hope and pray that everyone who has suffered or is suffering from spinal deformities is given a chance to once again feel “normal,” like myself.” – Samantha Scott



In June, Samantha had her one-year (post-surgery) follow-up appointment with spine surgeon, Dr. Matthew Geck. Her recent x-rays show that she is straight as an arrow. Samantha told SpineHope that she loves how she now looks in clothes, is happy as can be and no longer has any pain! This young lady is a treasure and has displayed a true inner strength and a positive attitude through it all!

Upcoming Patient: Shemaiah Enoe (Guyana)



Approximately three years ago, Miss Shemaiah Enoe noticed that one side of her body appeared shorter than the other side. When she brought it to her parents’ attention, they too found it noticeable and a bit strange. At that time, they had no knowledge about scoliosis and assumed that it would change as she grew. Due to Shemaiah’s positive outlook, joy of physical activities and active social life, it took a while for Shemaiah’s parents to realize the severity of the deformity. However, after some time, Shemaiah began to experience back pain and extreme difficulty breathing after running or certain physical activities. This motivated her parents to take her

to a doctor who informed them that she was suffering from severe scoliosis and there was not much that could be done in Guyana. Over the last year, Shemaiah’s curve has become more pronounced, and the pain in her back and sides has become more regular and severe. She has difficulty doing basic household chores, which was easily done before, like lifting a bucket or pail of water or sweeping. She even finds it difficult to sit through church sermons without bending forward to ease the pain in her back.

“As parents, it has been difficult to watch her experience such pain. We feel helpless since there is little we can do to help her.”

Her physician, Dr. Hyder Khan, reached out to SpineHope for help. Surgeons reviewed her case and she was accepted into the U.S. Hub Program for this fall in Austin, Texas. Her family is grateful and looking forward to her having corrective spine surgery. Shemaiah has a positive spirit. She enjoys singing, dancing, swimming and jogging. She recently completed her final high school examination and hopes, that after spine surgery, she can attend the University of Guyana and enjoy a healthy, pain-free life. Shemaiah wants to pursue a career in medical imaging, a goal inspired by her own circumstances. She believes medical imaging is one way in which she can help others to see below the surface and help doctors to identify early and solve the numerous health problems that exist.



Thursday, April 30, 2020
 6:30 p.m.–9 p.m. | 77 Degrees
 11500 Rock Rose Ave, Austin, TX 78758

Cocktail Reception • Raffle • Silent Auction

Come open your hearts to children from under-resourced countries suffering from debilitating spinal deformities and meet the BIG HEARTS who are changing children's lives worldwide. Benefit proceeds will help bring children to Texas for charity spine surgery and support SpineHope's surgical missions abroad.

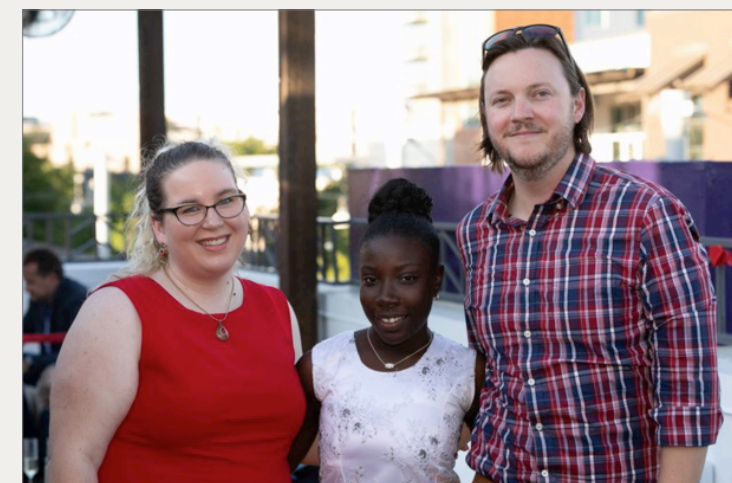


Sponsor Highlight

SpineHope would like to acknowledge and thank K2M, Inc., now a part of Stryker, for sponsoring and donating implants/biologics for our most recent U.S. Hub patient, Yomali Perera. Yomali, a teen from Sri Lanka, received charity spine surgery at Dell Children's Medical Center of Central Texas, member of Ascension, on August 13, 2019. Her surgery, performed by Dr. Ryan Murdock, was a huge success. Yomali is recovering at an accelerated rate and will now be able to live a pain-free, more normal life. Already back in Sri Lanka, she looks forward to jumping back into school. She is studying chemistry and is excited about her future. Yomali is grateful to her sponsor as well as everyone else who gave her this priceless gift.

Volunteer Highlight

It takes a team of individuals and volunteer organizations to make the SpineHope U.S. Hub Program possible. We would like to highlight a couple of individuals and a law firm that make it possible for our Hub Program children to come to Austin, Texas. SpineHope appreciates the time and work that immigration attorney, Jessy Faulkner, and paralegal, David Shackelford (Azarmehr Law Group) donate for the immigration and visa process required for our children. Without their assistance, these spinal operations would not be possible.



On a personal note, Jessy and David have generous and caring hearts. In addition to the hours of service per child they contribute for the immigration process, both have gone the extra mile by visiting children after their operations. It means the world to the kids to see the "angels" who have helped them in person. Thank you, Jessy and David. We are grateful to have your support and participation.

Get Your Ticket Today

Purchase tickets and sponsorships at:
spinehope.org/events.

Tickets: \$45 online, \$55 at the door



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Walk Tall Austin Recap

April 25, 2019

Thank you to all who attended the 2019 WALK TALL Austin Benefit on April 25th! We appreciate the generosity of our child sponsors, event sponsors, attendees and volunteers who made the evening a huge success. Because of your support, we will be able to bring three children to Austin for charity spine surgery.

THANK YOU!



About SpineHope

Founded in 2008, SpineHope is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization dedicated to providing advanced medical treatment to children from under-resourced countries. We assemble volunteer teams of experienced medical professionals to address spinal deformities and other complex spine 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 organizations and hospitals abroad to build sustainable pediatric spine programs. During outreach trips, teams perform 8-15 spine surgeries and examine 20+ children in clinic.

U.S. Hub Program: We partner with healthcare organizations in Austin, Texas to bring children with severe spinal deformities to the United States for surgery and treatment. Children come for 6-8 weeks for evaluation, testing, spine surgery and recovery.

Education Program: Volunteer medical teams provide training and education on spine safety protocols and advanced surgical techniques to local surgeons, hospital staff and medical students during global outreach trips.

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

SpineHope.org | (682) 463-9082

Follow us on social media: @SpineHope



We are grateful for your support!

Thank You

To our generous 2019 sponsors

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Jeff Spearman, JDS Spine



U.S. Hub Program:



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