

SpineHope

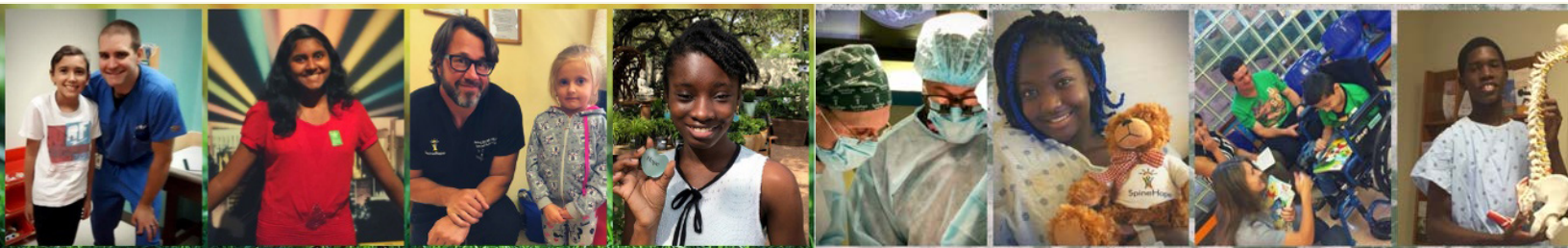
NEWSLETTER

Spring 2020 Issue

spinehope.org



SpineHope



A Message from SpineHope

We would like to thank SpineHope supporters and volunteers who were critical to the success of our Global Outreach and U.S. Hub programs in 2019! Because of you, our teams were able to develop treatment plans and deliver life-changing surgery for children from Ecuador, Costa Rica, Sri Lanka, The Republic of Guyana and Ukraine. We could not have done it without our amazing donors and volunteers. We are truly grateful for your support and will continue our efforts in 2020 and beyond. Best wishes to all for good health and safety during this challenging time.

Together we can continue to make an impact, one spine and one child at a time.

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Thank you 2019 Donors!

Product, Equipment and Services:



Hub Program Child Sponsors:



2019 WALK TALL Austin Benefit Sponsors and Individual Donors

Global Outreach Updates



Ukraine, Europe

SpineHope's inaugural surgical trip to Ukraine (October 7–13, 2019) was a considerable success. Our volunteer team worked closely with host surgeons, Dr. Igor Kurilets and Dr. Igor Kurilets Sr. (from the International Neurosurgery Center in Kiev), and with nonprofits Razom for Ukraine and the National Foundation for Scoliosis in Ukraine, to lay the initial groundwork for a pediatric spine program for Ukrainian children suffering from complex spine and neurological conditions.

Our team was embraced at the Stryi Central District Hospital. Together we evaluated more than 60 patients, performed surgery on our first approved patients, helped direct post-operative care, and provided training and education to surgeons, medical staff, and students on advanced surgical techniques and spine safety protocols.

A special thank you to Medtronic for donating critical implants and biologics for this trip and NuVasive for donating neuromonitoring services.

Thank you to the following SpineHope volunteers who donated their time to make this trip possible:

- Anya Siryk, Co-Clinic Coordinator/Translator
- Brandon Black, Implant/Product Representative
- Jorge Guerrero, Anesthesiologist
- Kimberley King, Co-Clinic and OR Coordinator
- Luke Tomycz, Neurosurgeon
- Matthew Geck, Spine Surgeon
- Wynn Bridges Gordy, Neuromonitoring Tech

We would also like to express our appreciation to the host hospital team for their warm welcome and commitment to this collaborative effort. We are excited to help build a sustainable program that will impact Ukrainian children for years to come. Our next surgical trip, planned for May 2020, has been postponed due to the COVID-19 health crisis. We hope to set new dates as soon as possible.



Ecuador, South America

We are pleased to report another successful SpineHope inaugural surgical trip, which took place November 2–9, 2019 at the Hospital de los Valles near Quito, Ecuador. In collaboration with host spine surgeon, Dr. Hazem Nicola, and other local partners including the Fundación El Cielo Para los Niños, we performed three spine surgeries and evaluated over a dozen children during a day clinic.

Thank you to the following SpineHope volunteers who made this trip possible:

- Alec Stall, Spine Surgeon
- Brandon Black, Implant/Product Representative
- Curtis Jackson, Implant/Product Representative
- Emily Kegans, Neuromonitoring Tech
- Jacinto Real, OR Nurse/Translator
- Jorge Guerrero, Anesthesiologist/OR Translator
- Keely Williams, Co-Onsite Clinic/OR Coordinator
- Kimberley King, Co-Onsite Clinic/OR Coordinator/Translator
- Ryan Murdock, Spine Surgeon
- Wynn Bridges Gordy, Neuromonitoring Tech

We are deeply appreciative of the volunteers who donated their time and resources to join the SpineHope team as well as the hospital team that hosted us. A special thank you to Medtronic for donating critical implants and biologics for this trip, as well as NuVasive and Sentry Neuromonitoring for donating neuromonitoring services. We look forward to planning additional surgical trips to Ecuador in 2020 and beyond. Next surgical trip dates are to-be-determined.



U.S. Hub Program



Patient Update: Shemaiah (Guyana)

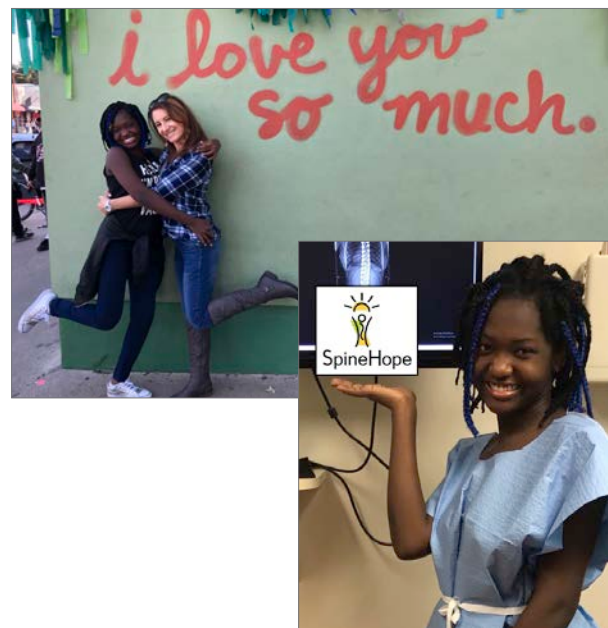
Shemaiah Enoe (from the Republic of Guyana in South America) received the gift of charity spine surgery on November 25, 2019, in Austin, Texas. Shemaiah had a quick recovery and was well enough to return home in time to celebrate the holidays with her family. Her parents wanted to share their thoughts:

“We have received a blessing that cannot be easily compared to anything else. A few months ago our daughter had a curved spine which brought on pain, discomfort, complications and concerns for her future. Today she has a straight spine, thanks to the doctors and friends of the SpineHope organization. Words cannot truly express the gratitude the members of our family wish to express but we say thank you. Ms. Dawn Deakin, you are an exceptional woman with a heart of gold. You not only ensured all arrangements were made for Shemaiah but went beyond to ensure she was comfortable and happy.

Shemaiah thinks you are just awesome and missed her mom a little less because you were always there for her. I truly believe you touch the heart of every child who comes into contact with you. We wish to say a heartfelt thank you to Dr. Ryan Murdock and the entire medical team and Mr. Brandon Black and Medtronic. To Shemaiah’s personal “Grey’s Anatomy” team, thank you. To The Caribbean Children Foundation, thank you

for choosing to partner with SpineHope for such an awesome cause.

To the nurses and staff at Dell Children’s Medical Center and all the volunteers and staff at the Ronald McDonald House Charities, thank you for your dedication, love, and support. We pray that God continues to bless this organization, all its partners and the work you do. We wish to encourage others to join and support SpineHope. I have seen the impact made on the lives of the children who benefited. We thank you for choosing Shemaiah as a beneficiary of this blessing. Our best to all of you and best wishes and gratitude from all of Shemaiah’s family and friends. Once again thank you, thank you, and thank you.”



Patient Update: Samathra (Guyana)

Congratulations Samathra Scott! Only one and a half years after having corrective spine surgery in Austin, Texas, Samathra (from The Republic of Guyana) graduated with an Associate’s Degree in Biology from the University of Guyana. She has recovered well and looks forward to continuing her university studies in medicine. SpineHope is very proud of her courage, inner strength, commitment, and accomplishments!

Patient Update: Sammy (Guatemala)

Samuel Esteban (from Guatemala) experienced a painful and difficult battle with severe kyphoscoliosis. But, one year after halo traction and spine surgery in Austin, Texas, we are pleased to report his pain is no more. His mother wished to share a message to commemorate his anniversary:

“Hello my darling Dawn, I just want to share with you my joy Samuel has already received his diploma to move to another level of study. We will be eternally grateful to SpineHope for having changed Samuel’s life, to you and Dr. Matthew Geck. God bless you always.”
 –Marleny Esteban, Guatemala



New SpineHope Team Member

Welcome, Anne Koncki! Anne has joined the SpineHope team and will be serving as a Project Manager. She has a background in volunteer program management and communications for international medical nonprofits.

With experience working directly with children from under-resourced countries in need of medical care, Anne looks forward to helping SpineHope children while getting to know the amazing philanthropic community that her new home of Austin boasts.

As a bilingual young professional with a passion for surgical access around the world, Anne looks forward to helping the mission of SpineHope grow. SpineHope is thrilled to have her on the team!



Karaoke Night Fundraiser Recap

A huge thank you to Long Island Spine Specialists, P.C. for hosting the fun-filled, Karaoke Night Fundraiser at the Big Kahuna in Huntington, New York, on January 31, 2020, that benefited SpineHope. Dr. Laurence Mermelstein (SpineHope volunteer surgeon), Dr. Thomas Dowling, and others raised their mics and brought in \$4,000 to support SpineHope programs! We are truly grateful for their generosity, kindness, and support for our mission and the children we serve.



2020 Walk Tall Austin Benefit

SpineHope would like to thank and express appreciation for all who have been supporting our mission to provide life-changing spine surgery to children worldwide. Because of the serious impact the coronavirus is having all around the world, including in Texas, SpineHope will be postponing the WALK TALL Austin benefit scheduled for April 30. As an organization focused on caring for others, we are committed to working alongside our community to help curb the spread of this virus and protect the vulnerable. We will be working diligently during this time to determine a new benefit date, reschedule new patient surgeries and coordinate surgical mission trips as soon as this current health crisis passes. Your continued good thoughts and support are greatly appreciated. New benefit date to be determined.

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Keely Williams (Right) with Emily Kegans

Sponsor Spotlight

SpineHope would like to recognize Sentry Neuromonitoring and their dedicated team for their generosity and support of the SpineHope mission for the last five years.

They have been instrumental to our programs and have shown their support in numerous ways including being ongoing WALK TALL Benefit Sponsors; sponsoring Hub Program Patient, Estefany Santos Rosales from Guatemala; donating neuromonitoring services and sending OUTSTANDING volunteers (Emily Kegans, Wesley Varghese and Keely Williams) for surgical trips to Costa Rica and Ecuador; and forming volunteer teams to help plan, coordinate and provide on-site support for SpineHope's past and future fundraisers/awareness raising efforts (WALK TALL Austin Benefits, Kendra Scott Give Back Parties and the Costa Rica Independence Day Fair). SentryNeuro's participation has been vital and we are truly grateful for their continued support.

SpineHope would like to pay a special tribute to Mr. Anthony Hicks, former CEO of Sentry Neuromonitoring and a man with a heart of gold. Anthony's belief in our mission was always strong. Although he is no longer with us on this Earth, Anthony's kind spirit always will be. Thank you Anthony and team for all the lives you have changed!

Volunteer Experience

"Our week in Ecuador broadened my world view. I truly believe that it is imperative to spend time somewhere where you are the minority—time when you have to rely on the mercy and generosity of other people. By leaving the familiarity of my comfort zone and interacting with people from a different culture, I learned a great deal in humility. Despite language and cultural differences, all of us are fundamentally the same—we all have the same basic needs. We often take for granted the healthcare and resources that are so easily at our disposal here in the United States. The SpineHope Ecuador team was absolutely incredible! They shared their unique gifts and compassionate hearts and lives were changed because of it. To the people of Ecuador—thank you for entrusting our team with your children and for being so incredibly good to us. Your kindness and generosity will forever be remembered and our hearts are forever changed. Thank you, SpineHope."

— Keely Williams, Sentry Neuromonitoring

Thank You

To our generous 2020 sponsors

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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
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We are grateful for your support!