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2022 A YEAR TO CELEBRATE

Our cleft infant nutrition program supported three 340 cleft children. These essential services were carried out through skilled and knowledgeable health promoters who performed 1,806 monthly-home visits to promote breastfeeding, deliver necessary nutritional supplies, and strengthen the use of nasal retractors, lip taping, and special soft bottles to assist with feeding. Through this work, we accomplished:

- **163** cleft lip surgeries.
- **177** cleft palate surgeries.
- **Sixty** women received breastfeeding education and support.
- **Sixty** women received breast pumps, special bottles, nipples, and incaparina.
- **2,070** formula nan 1.
- **1,437** formula nan 2.
- **59** other infant formula.
- **8,272** incaparina.

Five mobile medical missions to provide free medical care to people without access to the most basic health care, including surgical needs.



1,316 Triage patients

1,002 Patients identified for surgery

811 Women screened for cervical cancer

Twenty-one surgical missions were staffed with highly qualified Guatemalan and International surgeons, nurses, and volunteers who provided 947 surgeries to patients who otherwise could not afford surgical care in the following specialties:

370 Plastic

348 General for adults

887 Gynecology

54 General for children

50 Orthopedics

38 ENT



A BRIGHT HOPE AHEAD FOR JADE

Our commitment to the best possible surgical outcome starts way ahead entering an operating room, and this little girl's story is a testament to that. Jade is a highly valued stone in Guatemala that symbolizes strength, gentleness, serenity, and harmony. So, when we met little Jade in Ixcán, Quiché, on January 16th, the name of the stone took a different shape in our hearts. This little girl's character and personality embody the unique qualities of the stone she's named after.

When Jade was a baby, her mother sought help from unknown doctors on the Mexican border who did not understand how to support her with the proper surgery for her cleft lip. They cut around her nose and sewed it back together when they realized they could not repair her lip. As a result, she has scarring around her nose. The experience has also created an emotional scar around

Jade and her family's hearts. They've been too afraid to try again since then. But this precious girl is very bright. You can see in her eyes that she's gentle and inquisitive, and even though she is quiet, you can tell her mind is full of many thoughts. Jade's mom confirms this, as she's told us she's always been first in her class and attentive to her studies. She's always been excited to do her math homework because it has always been her favorite subject. She loves going to school to learn. Unfortunately, her lip condition has made her short life difficult. At school, many children avoid her because they fear her cleft lip is contagious. Those who are not afraid relentlessly bully her by calling her hurtful names. This situation prompted Jade's mother to seek help when she heard our rural medical mission was coming to their village this past January.



Yet, because Jade is now eight, she needs special pre-operative care with an orthodontist in Guatemala City before receiving surgery. This treatment is essential as it will determine the success of the surgical intervention ensuring her gums and teeth are pushed back into place so that the tissues around her mouth can be adequately sustained and do not rip apart again. For over six months, Jade and her mom must travel 11 hours from their village to Guatemala City to meet their appointments with a volunteer orthodontist that partners with us with these special cases. We want to help! Will you consider joining us on this mission to free this special little girl from the burden of her cleft condition? We are attempting to raise USD4000 to cover their expenses through surgery. Our volunteer orthodontist is donating her time and knowledge for Jade. However, they will still need support will help cover travel, food, sleep accommodations, supplies for her mouth therapy, and the surgery that will transform her precious life forever.