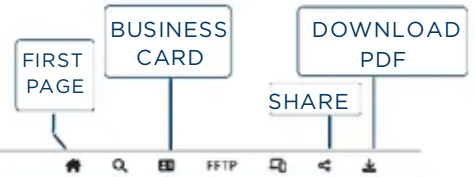




Smiles Without Borders - Pediatric Cleft Surgeries Phase II - Benevolent Program

Guatemala City, Guatemala

HOW TO USE THIS REPORT



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Project Title
Community Name,
Country

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Project Goal

Provide life-altering cleft lip and cleft palate surgeries for 75 children from impoverished families in Guatemala.

Project Description

The **Smiles Without Borders - Pediatric Cleft Surgeries - Phase II - Benevolent Program** project seeks to care for 75 children needing cleft lip or palate surgeries. One in 700 babies is born with a cleft lip and/or palate, making this one of the most common congenital abnormalities[1].

Babies born with this malformation need special care from a team of various health professionals. The "Smiles Without Borders" program, which this project is a part of, intends to support children needing surgery.

Food For The Poor (FFTP) will collaborate with Cáritas Arquidiocesana and the Operation Smile Foundation to provide comprehensive treatment and reconstructive surgeries with medical excellence to low-income children suffering from cleft lip and palate, transforming their lives and their families. With your gracious heart, we can ensure that 75 children have the opportunity to live happier and healthier lives through these specialized surgeries.

To achieve this, Cáritas Arquidiocesana will carry out three days of surgeries at the Juan Pablo II Hospital for Children with cleft lip or palate. Each group will support this transformative initiative, with Operation Smile supporting 56.12% of the total cost of each surgery and Cáritas Arquidiocesana contributing 9.5%.

[1] American Academy of Pediatrics (2017)

Completed project budgets are subject to change if not fully funded within six months. The completion date of this project may be extended for issues related to weather, natural disaster or civil unrest to the extent that such events exceed normal conditions and impede the project's progress.

Total Project Costs: \$42,295.50

Guatemala

The most populous country in Central America, Guatemala is home to more than 17 million people. Income distribution remains highly unequal, with the wealthiest 20% of the population accounting for more than 51% of Guatemala's overall consumption.

Poverty is widespread, as more than half of Guatemalans live below the poverty line and almost a quarter live in extreme poverty. Indigenous groups comprise 40% of the population and their poverty level is dismal at 79%, with 40% living in extreme poverty.

A sad result of this widespread poverty is that Guatemala has one of the world's highest rates of chronic child malnutrition. Nearly one-half of Guatemala's children under age 5 are chronically malnourished. Guatemala's severe food insecurity and lack of accessible, affordable medical care have led to high infant, child and maternal mortality rates.

To help the people of Guatemala, FFTP has worked for more than 10 years with *Cáritas Arquidiocesana*, which oversees many of the projects undertaken by FFTP in that country.

Guatemala City

The Juan Pablo II Hospital, where this project's surgeries will take place, is located in Guatemala City. However, the patients come from all municipalities. Most of the children receiving treatment at the hospital are from Mixco, Guatemala City, San Juan and San Pedro Sacatepéquez, Villa Nueva, Chinautla, Amatitlán and San Jose Pinula. Overall, the country itself suffers from many health issues.

Although Guatemala has made progress in improving its population's health, it is still experiencing a national crisis to guarantee access to and coverage of essential health services. During the last few decades, the health system in Guatemala has amassed a series of problems, resulting in an obsolete, fragmented and inefficient system.

The political instability that the country has experienced in recent years has exacerbated this health situation.

Due to a variance in wealth distribution, access to healthcare differs by location. Impoverished indigenous populations in rural areas suffer as a result.

Guatemala suffers from the second-highest infant mortality rate in the Americas, only behind Haiti. According to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, in Guatemala, for every 100,000 live births, 103 women die from pregnancy complications.

Furthermore, the neonatal mortality rate in Guatemala is 23 children per 1,000 live births. The leading causes of death in children are conditions of the perinatal period (50.5%), pneumonia (17.0%), intestinal infections (8.8%) and malnutrition (2.3%).

On the contrary, compared to other Latin American countries, Guatemala has a birth rate of 24.6 births per 1,000 inhabitants, the highest rate in Latin America and 50 worldwide.

With a total fertility rate of 3.6 births per woman and an annual population growth rate of 2.5%, the Guatemalan population is growing at twice the average rate (1.1%) of other Latin American countries and the Caribbean[2]. This makes hospitals like Juan Pablo II Hospital necessary for their survival.

[2] United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (WHO-ECLAC)

Heal God's Children

You have a unique opportunity to make a lifesaving impact by ensuring that 75 children gain access to crucial surgical procedures.

Cleft lip and/or cleft palate, congenital malformations with genetic and environmental factors at play, often stem from malnutrition during gestation and are closely associated with poverty and a lack of preventive programs. Latin America, particularly countries like Guatemala, witnesses a high prevalence of cleft lip and cleft palate[3].

One organization actively involved in treating these cases is the Operation Smile Foundation. Through corporate volunteering, cash donations, sponsorship of surgical supplies and surgical programs, this institution relies on contributions from compassionate individuals. In 2022 alone, the foundation conducted 1,000 surgeries for children with cleft lip and palate in Guatemala. Additionally, they provided 38,000 in-person consultations and 5,000 virtual consultations to overcome the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

This process is organized into phases for each surgery day. Parents and their children slated for surgery are accommodated at the Caritas Arquidiocesana shelter. Trained staff from the Juan Pablo II Hospital, working in collaboration with Operation Smile, provide necessary care on the day of the surgery.

Following the operation, the patients recover in the hospital's bedding area for approximately two to three days. Once discharged, they are transferred to another foundation to complete appropriate follow-up care before returning home.

Would you help empower children with the gift of a smile? We invite you to prayerfully join us as we serve Christ's beloved sons and daughters in need with transformative cleft surgeries.

[3] Febles M. Fanny, The World, Caracas Venezuela, July 12, 2004

Testimonial



Alexandri Nicolle Rodríguez Juárez is 10 years old and lives with her family in Zone 25 of Guatemala City. Alexandri's mother had a calm and normal pregnancy and was monitored with ultrasounds and medical check-ups.

However, when Alexandri was born, they found out that Alexandri had a cleft lip and palate. Her parents felt incredibly guilty. Believing they may have caused this, they sought out ways to help their daughter.

Through a magazine, they learned about the Operation Smile Foundation. They went through the enrollment process and little Alexandri was evaluated by doctors to see if she was eligible for surgery.

Three days after the evaluation, her parents received the call they had been waiting for. Alexandri was a candidate for cleft-lip surgery! "We feel great emotion, joy and gratitude with the team from the foundation after the surgery," Jessica, Alexandri's mom, said. This was only the beginning of their joyful journey.

Although the recovery required much care, Alexandri, Jessica and their family were surrounded by medical support. In addition, she received free treatment, such as medicines, speech therapy, psychological therapy and dental evaluations, even after surgery.

The comprehensive treatment and reconstructive surgeries completely transformed Alexandri's life. She is now a happy, healthy, active child passionate about the arts.

You can do the same for a child in need. Will you help give them a chance to develop into strong, healthy and loving individuals?

Please click this impactful cross to watch a video of other benevolent projects where we served the Lord's children.



FFTP FOOD FOR
THE POOR
— United in God's Work —

We invite you to join us in offering children the opportunity to live life abundantly, as Christ promises: "I have come that they may have life, and have it to the full" (John 10:10).



Please click the image to view more photos of Alexandri, whose life was transformed by cleft surgery.

Budget

| QTY | UNIT | DESCRIPTION | AMOUNT | TOTAL |
|-----|------|----------------------------|----------|-------------|
| 75 | Sum | Cleft lip/palate surgeries | \$482.00 | \$36,150.00 |
| | | Total Direct Costs | | \$36,150.00 |

| Indirect Costs Corporate, Network, & Field Operation | |
|---|--------------------|
| In-country project management expenses | \$2,530.50 |
| Food For The Poor fulfillment, project management and monitoring expenses | \$3,615.00 |
| Total Indirect Costs | \$6,145.50 |
| TOTAL PROJECT COSTS | \$42,295.50 |

The funds you generously contribute to Food For The Poor will be used toward completion of your project of choice. If any of your donation exceeds budget cost, rest assured that it will be used to fund other Food For The Poor programs and organizational support to meet the urgent needs of the poor.

Contributions are tax-deductible under Internal Revenue Code Section 501(c)(3).

A MESSAGE FROM NATALIE CARLISLE



*Click the image above for a message from
Natalie Carlisle.*

About Food For The Poor

Food For The Poor, one of the largest international relief and development organizations in the nation, does much more than feed millions of hungry children and families living in poverty primarily in 17 countries of the Caribbean and Latin America. This interdenominational Christian ministry provides emergency relief assistance, water, medicine, educational materials, homes, support for vulnerable children, care for the aged, skills training and micro-enterprise development assistance. For more information, please visit www.FoodForThePoor.org.

To view this proposal online, please visit the following website:
<https://simplebooklet.com/bp006usmileswithoutborders>