

Casa Activities

...Project Highlight...



Heart Felt Shunt Fund

The Heart Felt Shunt Fund was established through Casa Corazón in 2008 by family and friends of Joel W. Winer MD, Neurosurgeon, York Hospital, York, PA. After visiting Honduras and touring Hospital Mario Catarino Rivas, the public hospital in San Pedro Sula, Honduras, Dr. Winer was touched by the suffering of the children due to the scarcity of

medical equipment and supplies. The purpose of this fund is to provide quality ventral peritoneal shunts to children diagnosed with Hydrocephalus. Hydrocephalus is a condition that does not allow normal drainage of cerebral spinal fluid. The build up of fluid in the brain compromises brain activity and growth and will eventually lead to retardation and death. Because the government of Honduras does not recognize the necessity of providing hydrocephalic shunts, the families are responsible for purchasing these shunts. Shunts are not always available in Honduras and are too costly for the poor. Many children spend months in the hospital awaiting donated shunts. As the children wait for shunt placement, their cerebral spinal fluid accumulates causing pressure, large head, and brain damage.

The first three recipients of shunts are pictured below.



Debora



Dulce



Lohany

The HFSF is currently accepting contributions. Each shunt costs \$257.00, a small price to save the life of a child. Please make your tax-deductible donation to Casa Corazón and earmark for The Heart Felt Shunt Fund.

Casa Corazón Newsletter



Jesus said: "Let the little children come to me:"
and He took the children in His arms and put His hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10: 14, 16

Casa Corazón is a 501c3 ministry of Mountville Mennonite Church. Our mission is to assist children in Honduras to gain access to medical care and healthy living styles. This includes sponsoring children to come to The United States for life-saving/changing surgery that is not available to them in their country, organizing medical and surgical teams to Honduras, and assisting with projects that decrease the health risk factors in the mountainous villages and public hospitals of Honduras, Central America.

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Casa Kid Highlight

Luis's story with Casa Corazón began in 2000 when he was diagnosed with a brain tumor.

His mother searched all over Honduras for a shunt to help drain the cerebral spinal fluid that was accumulating in his brain. The tumor did not allow for normal fluid drainage and the pressure caused by the increasing fluid gave him headaches and vision changes. Luis's mother was finally able to find a donated shunt. Although surgical placement of the shunt corrected the fluid build up, the tumor was still active and growing. Because of the type and location of the brain tumor, Luis could not safely have surgery done in Honduras.

Sponsored by Casa Corazón, Luis underwent successful excision of the tumor at York Hospital, PA. After 6 weeks of radiation Therapy at York Cancer Center, Luis was released to go back to Honduras.

Six years later, Luis's symptoms returned. A follow-up CT scan showed increasing cerebral spinal fluid from a shunt malfunction. What began as a simple shunt revision/replacement ended in catastrophe as Luis's brain filled with blood following the surgery. Luis was dying. There was nothing available in Honduras to treat his damaged brain.

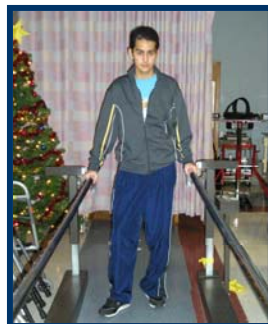


September 2006, two weeks after surgery, Air Ambulance Services airlifted Luis from Honduras to York Hospital, Trauma Intensive Care Unit. After a flurry of activity, the hardest part of the whole journey began...Waiting! For eight weeks we waited for Luis's brain to heal, to show signs that it had survived the un-survivable.

Proving that he was medically stable, Luis was transferred to Healthsouth Rehabilitation Hospital. He began intensive speech, occupational, and physical therapy. And we waited some more for

Luis to show us that his brain was still alive.

And just when we had all but given up, a miracle happened. Luis began to speak, to eat, to walk, to smile, to show emotion, to learn, to grow, to laugh. And we all laughed with him.



December 2006, just before Christmas, Luis, aided with a walker, walked out of Healthsouth on his discharge date. He continued with outpatient therapy provided by Lancaster General Health Campus.

March 2007 Luis returned to Honduras amongst a hero's welcome complete with fire trucks welcoming his airplane with an arc of water sprayed over his aircraft where he was seated in first class. After a brief transition phase, Luis enrolled in college in Honduras and began studying psychology.

Luis returned to The visit with all who so his miraculous journey. been difficult, Luis knows excitedly shares his story an honor to participate in express their heartfelt



helped him recover.

United States this year to patiently and lovingly aided in Although his recovery has he is a walking miracle and with all who meet him. What his life! Luis and his family appreciation to everyone who



A Special Thank-You to...

York Hospital

Mr. Ray Rosen CEO
Joel W. Winer MD, Neurosurgeon
Anesthesia Associates of York
Quantum Radiology

York Cancer Center

Cancer Patient Help Fund
Amit Shah MD, Radiation Oncologist

American Airlines

Larry D. Oxenberg OD

Healthsouth Rehab Hospital

Mr. Mark Freeburn CEO
Rosa Kurtz MD
Daniel C. DeFalcius, MD

Lancaster General Health Campus

Out Patient Therapy
Richard A. Moraga PhD

Air Ambulance Services

Joni Wegeman RT

Greg Bennett DMD

