

# MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA

## NEWSLETTER

Volume 15, Issue 3

December, 2014

The Mission of Hope clinic in Santa Cruz is ending its 12<sup>th</sup> year of providing free medical care to the poor, providing services in pediatrics, gynecology, and general medicine. The clinic has an all Bolivian staff of 24, including administration, reception, laboratory, pharmacy, and medical personnel.



**Dana after eye surgery**

They begin each morning with a short devotional and prayer. Before the patients see the doctor, they also have an opportunity to hear the Gospel message and pray, and **thousands have made decisions to follow Christ** in our waiting room!

Patients are usually able to see the doctor and receive a diagnosis and treatment all in the same day, unless the patient has a special need. People often ask us, "What happens if a patient needs surgery and the surgery teams are not there, or the patient needs a surgery that the teams cannot do, or the patient needs to be hospitalized for treatment?" The answer is this, "**We help as many patients as possible** by referring them to local hospitals and **covering all of their expenses.**"

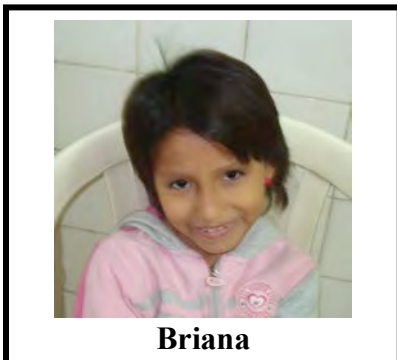
**Dana** is a 10 year old girl who lives with her mother, father, and 4 brothers and sisters. Her mother does not work, and her father earns very little money as a construction worker. She came into the clinic with **severe headaches and blurred vision**. Her mother told us that she had been diagnosed at birth with **cataracts in both eyes**. She had an operation when she was one year old, but it did not help. As Dana grew, the problem with her eyes worsened. She could not see anything without glasses, and even with glasses her vision was blurred. She dropped out of school. The blurred vision and headaches continued. Mission of Hope referred Dana to a specialist, who informed us that Dana was **in danger of completely losing her vision** unless she had surgery!

**Mission of Hope paid for Dana to have surgery** on her right eye. The surgery was a success and afterwards, her vision was much better in the operated eye. As soon as Dana has completely recovered and the pressure in her operated eye is normal, she will be able to have surgery on her other eye. It is our hope that with these surgeries, Dana will be able to see clearly with both eyes and will be able to return to school very soon.



**Jorge after treatment**

**Jorge** is an 8 year old boy who lives with his mother and father and 4 siblings. His family is very poor. His father is a taxi driver and his mother earns money doing housework. Jorge was playing at a park when he lost his footing, **slipped and fell**, and landed hard on his back side. Soon, an abscess began to form in the place where he had injured himself. **Jorge was in a lot of pain**. As the abscess increased in size, **he developed a fever**. His mother heard about Mission of Hope from friends and brought Jorge to the clinic. By the time Jorge arrived at the clinic, he was in so much pain he could not even sit down. The only position that was comfortable for him was lying flat on his stomach. After seeing the pediatrician in our clinic, Jorge was referred to a children's hospital in Santa Cruz. **Mission of Hope paid for all the expenses of his hospitalization and treatment. Jorge has completely recovered** from his fall and is now back to playing with his friends.



**Briana**

**Briana** is 8 years old. She came to the clinic with her aunt to see the pediatrician. While she was waiting to see the doctor, she asked us, "**Can you please help my mom?**" She said her mom needed a surgery and did not have any money. We told her to bring her mom to the clinic, which she did a few days later. Briana's mom had a **uterine mass** and a **successful hysterectomy** when the fall surgery team arrived days later!



**Jacob (left) and Dylan (right)**

People often ask us, “Where does the funding for Mission of Hope come from?” The simple answer is, “People like you and me!”

In the fall of 2013, Jacob Mace and Dylan McKnight were students at Radford University. They got permission from their professors to take a week off from classes and join the Mission of Hope September surgery team. During the week of surgery in Bolivia, Jacob and Dylan cleaned and sterilized all of the surgical instruments. They noticed that many of the instruments needed to be replaced.

Jacob and Dylan went back to Radford and organized a “5K Run” to raise money for new instruments. On a beautiful day in April of this year, 68 students from

Radford and Virginia Tech University **ran 3.1 miles and raised about \$6,000 for Mission of Hope!**

Robin Sommer of Central Lake, Michigan first heard about Mission of Hope in the year 2000. Her mother sent her a newspaper article about a woman named Cindy Thacker who wanted to buy a hospital that was for sale in Santa Cruz, Bolivia to provide free medical care for the poor. This was very close to Robin’s heart as she had just adopted a little girl named Sophia from Santa Cruz. Robin began taking pledges and running every summer to raise money for Mission of Hope, including the 26 mile Detroit marathon!

Robin’s fundraising was not limited to running. Cherries are plentiful in Michigan in the summertime. If you go out for lunch, you are likely to be served a bowl of fresh cherries with your sandwich instead of French fries! **Robin and Sophia went cherry picking** and took orders for homemade cherry pies. They got so many orders, they had to go back and pick more cherries! **All of the cherry pie money was donated to Mission of Hope!**



We, at Mission of Hope, want to thank all of you for the many ways you have supported us through prayer, through your financial gifts, representing us at mission fairs, speaking about us in churches and in Bible studies, selling Christmas trees, having bake sales and yard sales, and sharing our newsletters with family, friends, and co-workers. Many of you have also supported us through social media. A big **“THANK YOU!”** to all of you who have used your time and talents to raise awareness and funds.

**THE \$100,000 MATCHING GIFT CHALLENGE CONTINUES UNTIL DECEMBER 31<sup>ST</sup>.** EVERY DOLLAR THAT WE RECEIVE WILL BE DOUBLED. THIS MONEY WILL BE USED TO PROVIDE FREE MEDICAL CARE FOR THE POOR IN THE COMING YEAR. THANK YOU FOR PARTNERING WITH US! GOD BLESS YOU, AND MERRY CHRISTMAS!



**Micah and Audrey sell lemonade and cookies for Mission of Hope**

**Mission of Hope, Bolivia**  
**P.O. Box 103**  
**Charlottesville, VA 22902**  
 Tel. & Fax 434-977-4748  
[cindy@missionofhopebolivia.org](mailto:cindy@missionofhopebolivia.org)  
[www.missionofhopebolivia.org](http://www.missionofhopebolivia.org)  
**Mission of Hope, Bolivia is a 501c3 tax-exempt organization.**