



RAGDV

ROTARIAN ACTION GRUP OF DENTAL VOLUNTEERS

March 2014



RAGDV ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and Presentation (with speaker)

will be at Sydney Convention Center - Marine room

Saturday, 31 May, 2014

14:00-17:30 - RAGDV (Marine)

You are all welcome!

The Thousand Smiles Foundation

Changing Lives One Smile at a Time

The Thousand Smiles Foundation was established by a group of Rotarians from the San Diego area in 1985.

Mission Statement:

- * To provide quality professional medical treatment without cost to patients with maxillofacial deformities who, without our help, would go untreated.
- * To use our facilities to provide dental care to under privileged children in the areas in which we work.
- * To promote a bilateral interchange of medical, dental and surgical techniques between the medical professionals from the USA and the countries in which we work.
- * To foster strong international relationships between Rotarians from our District 5340 and the Districts in which we work.



The Thousand Smiles Puppy

Hello, we'd love to hear from you. Please feel free to write us a letter, email or just call the office and ask a question. We appreciate any comments or suggestions that you may have. If you would like to donate, please visit our donations page and our wish lists. If you would like to volunteer, please visit our volunteers page.

Thousand Smiles Foundation

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History:

1985: The Thousand Smiles Foundation was first conceived by a group of Rotarians from the Rotary Club of National City, CA to support programs dedicated to treatment of financially challenged patients with facial deformities such as Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate. The originally the project was named "Operation Smile." But, after learning that there was another project with this name, it was changed to "Thousand Smiles Foundation."

The Rotary Club of National City did not have a major project at the time and the members became interested in raising funds for an existing cleft palate surgery project. Terry Tanaka, DDS (Rotary Club of Chula Vista) had brought the program to their attention. The existing project was operating field surgical clinics in several locations in Mexico: Mexicali, Guaymas and La Paz. Dr. Tanaka had been involved with this project.

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2011: Thousand Smiles had 4 successful clinics and the NorCal Rotary group had 2. The February clinic was held at the Ensenada General Hospital, as usual, however starting in May we were forced to change to the Ensenada Navy Hospital, due to extensive remodeling at the General Hospital. All the members of our surgery team had nothing but good things to say about the hospitality of the staff of that facility. Victor Celis, Kim Muslusky and Bob Chalfa had a meeting with Admiral Gomez Leyva, the commander of the facility and were told the facility would be available to us any time we need it. The August and November clinics were also held at their facility.

2012: The February surgeries were again held at the Navy Hospital. It was again a great experience. The dental clinic treated 99 patients, which was not a record but close to it.

2013: 4 clinics were held. February, May, August and November. Surgery facilities were provided by the Ensenada General Hospital and the Hospital Naval de Ensenada.

2014: The February clinic was held but due to an influenza epidemic we were not able to use either of the hospital facilities that we generally have available. Surgeons were present and did examinations in preparation for the May clinic. We were able to use our NewTom Cone Beam X-Ray machine that was so generously donated by C Dental for the first time. This gives the surgeons and dentists digital 3 dimensional x-rays that they can manipulate and view at all angles on the computer screen. It is a great tool to make the procedures safer and more efficient. 114 dental patients were treated.

Thank You!

We would like to announce our appreciation for Rotary District 5330 (Riverside County) who have been so generous with support lately.

A Special Thanks to TSF volunteer Jack Winsten, who took these before and after photos of this pretty little patient during the last couple of years... What a difference we make in young lives in Baja!

Thousand Smiles Foundation wishes to thank the Rotary club of Monarch Beach, and long time TS volunteer, Dr. Mark Cruz for a much needed \$27,000 matching grant for medical and surgical instruments. This grant was partnered by our friends Jose Cuisine and the Club Rotario Ensenada Centenaria. We appreciate all who worked so hard to help our kids!

A SPECIAL THANKS GOES OUT THE FRANCIS PARKER INTERACT CLUB FOR THEIR RECENT \$400 DONATION. PLEASE KNOW THAT YOU WILL GIVE A SMILE TO A CLEFT BABBY FOR YOUR EFFORTS!

Thousand Smiles has become a very popular project among California Rotarians because:

Many children are born in Mexico each year with disfiguring birth defects. The simple things that parents of normal infants take for granted—eating, drinking and swallowing—are in many cases, major efforts. Many infants suffocate because their deformed palates allow liquids to enter their lungs. Thousand Smiles affords a good interchange of technology between professionals of both the US and Mexico. The exchange goes both ways.

Thousand Smiles is an international program with hands on participation. Ther are many related needs that can be helped through International Service Projects for individual clubs.

The efforts at Thousand Smiles really changes lives. The children who suffer from these deformities have additional health problems. They often don't attend school, are subject to ridicule. Many children end up in orphanages. The project encourages interaction between Rotary Clubs in Northwestern Mexico, Costa Rica and San Diego.



Before



After surgery

Please note the Rotary Clubs who have been so much help to us at Thousand Smiles:

- * 49er Rotary Breakfast Rotary of Nevada City
- * Club Rotario Juarez, Paso Del Norte, AC
- * Rotary Club of Auburn CA
- * Auburn Gold Country
- * Rotary Club, District 5190
- * Rotary Clubs, District 5330
- * Rotary Club of Borrego Springs CA
- * Rotary Club, Carlsbad Hi-Noon
- * Rotary Club of Carlsbad
- * Rotary Club of Chula Vista
- * Rotary Club of Del Mar / Solana Beach
- * Club Rotario Ensenada Centenario
- * Rotary Club of Coronado
- * Rotary Club of El Centro
- * Ensenada Centenario Rotary
- * Rotary Club, Escondido East
- * Rotary Club Escondido Sunrise
- * Rotary Club of Fallbrook
- * Rotary club of Forsyth County, Georgia
- * Rotary Club of La Jolla
- * Rotary Club of La Jolla Golden Triangle
- * Rotary Club of La Jolla Sunrise
- * Rotary Club of La Mesa
- * Rotary Club of La Mesa Sunrise
- * Rotary Club of Mission Bay
- * Rotary club of Mornarch Beach Sunrise
- * Rotary Club of National City
- * Rotary Club of Nevada City
- * Rotary Club of Old Mission San Diego
- * Rotary Club of Point Loma
- * Rotary Club of Point West
- * Rotary Club of Ramona
- * Rotary Club Rohrmoser (Costa Rica)
- * Rotary Club of Sacramento Point West
- * Rotary Club of San Diego, Downtown Breakfast
- * Rotary Club of San Diego
- * San Diego North Sunrise Rotary
- * Rotary Club of San Diego, Uptown Rotary
- * Rotary Club of San Jose North
- * Rotary Club of Temecula
- * Rotary District 4100 (Baja California)
- * Rotary District 5340 (Southern California)
- * Rotary Clubs of District 5320
- * Rotary International



San Diego-based Thousand Smiles Foundation provides free-of-charge treatment and surgery of cleft lip, palate and ears as well as orthodontic and dental care to underprivileged children in Mexico once each quarter.

Children's Dental Health Association supports Thousand Smiles Foundation by providing arts & craft entertainment to the children at their clinic, many of who spend all day as they are screened, educated and treated.

Save the Date: Saturday, May 17, 2014

**So You Think You've
Got Talent San Diego**

Gala Fundraiser

To Benefit Thousand Smiles Foundation



Francis Parker School
Dinner Reception 5:30pm
Talent Show 6:30 pm
www.gottalentsandiego.com





About RAGDV

The **Rotarian Action Group of Dental Volunteers** operates in accordance with **Rotary International** policy but is not an agency of, or controlled by Rotary International.

Are you a **Rotary dental volunteer**?

Share your experience, and give details as to how others may participate.

RAGDV

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The new RAGDV website:

www.ragdv.com

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MERCY SHIPS IS ONE OF ROTARY'S NEWEST STRATEGIC PARTNERS OF THE ROTARY FOUNDATION. ROTARY CLUBS AND DISTRICTS CAN APPLY FOR A PACKAGED GRANT THAT WILL ALLOW MEDICAL AND DENTAL PERSONEL TO PARTNER WITH MERCY SHIPS TO PERFORM LIFE CHANGING SURGERIES IN UNDER DEVELOPED PARTS OF THE WORLD.