

Mending Faces

...one child at a time



I want to be like other girls. WILL YOU HELP ME?

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**UPLIFT
INTERNATIONALE**
mending faces...one child at a time

Winter 2011

Letter from the President



*by Dr. Jaime Yrastorza,
President and Founder*

The holiday season, a time of opportunity and appreciation.

I'm pleased to give the following update:

Taghoy Committee, chaired by Dr. Steve Krebs, has successfully recruited the Mission Team '12; the self-funded volunteers are scheduled for two workweeks at two separate host hospitals of the Visayas region between 4th and 18th February 2012. All the many preparations, in supplies and material, in obtaining the proper credentials of the professional staff, and in attending to the associated logistical concerns - are geared to give opportunity to render the life-changing care to over 100 children with facial deformity.

Dan Hershberger, UI Development Committee who also serves as Rotary Club Assistant Governor of District 5450 is leading preparations for a Matching Grant request on behalf of Operation Taghoy. The grant request is a cooperative process that involves the commitment of a number of Colorado and Philippines Rotary Clubs.

The evening of the first of October was the fruition of preparations by the Fund Raising Committee, Chaired by Dr. Jack Dahl. The Gala featured the recognition by presenting them with UI's Humanitarian Award of three steadfast volunteer members of past Mission Teams and a special potpourri of attractive items for the silent and live auctions. The evening was an opportunity for all of us to enjoy the camaraderie and celebrate our important contributions as a community joined together to enable the continuing success of the project of hope and promise: Operation Taghoy.

Elsewhere in this issue are the details of all the above items for recommended reading. On behalf of the Board, thank you so much to each one of you... together, we are a community bonded to the goal: mending faces... one child at time.

Uplift Internationale and Rotary International A Team of Hope – by Dan Hershberger

Throughout the world, Rotary International, with its 33,000 clubs and 1.2 million members, serves those who are not able to provide for themselves. For example, the skills of water engineers make it possible for many to have potable water so that disease and even deaths of children become a memory that was once a part of daily life. There are many such villages in Africa and South America that now have clean drinking water through the efforts of Rotary Clubs and their programs. Once individuals are healthy, they can participate in literacy programs provided by local Rotary clubs, which include reading, math, and hygiene classes to sustain their health. As a Rotarian I am still awed by what is accomplished by this organization. Not only in international projects, but community projects closer to home such as backpack programs in conjunction with the local food banks. These projects make sure that children have the nutrition they need over the weekend when they do not have access to school lunches. All of these projects are made possible by Rotary volunteers seeking to serve their fellow man.

There is one such club in District 5450, the Wheat Ridge Rotary club, and one individual member of that club who witnessed a need in his native land, the Philippines. Dr. Jaime Yrastorza, a maxillofacial surgeon, saw children born with cleft palates and lips with no hope of getting these repaired. He decided to be a part of healing the affliction these children were born with. He launched a campaign

in 1989 called Uplift Internationale and for 22 years has been repairing their faces; giving them not only mended palates or lips, but also a new hope for life.



*Dan Hershberger, Jaime Yrastorza,
and Megs Lunn with Joe Woodson
of Lakewood Rotary Club.*

Over the years, Dr. Yrastorza has partnered with surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists, speech therapists, dentists and care giving volunteers. Many of these individuals are Rotarians. Many from the Wheat Ridge club have traveled to the Philippines and are actively involved in Uplift Internationale.

During the annual mission to the Philippines, Rotary clubs are critical for the success of the activities of Uplift Internationale. Transportation, meals, and recruitment of patients are provided by local Rotary clubs. Pre-op and post-op involves both the medical personnel and lay volunteers. Rotarians are involved in the success of the missions.

This Team of Hope, Uplift Internationale and Rotary International, comes together with one goal in mind - to give hope by **"Mending faces... one child at a time."**

UI Philippines Executive Coordinator Visits Colorado – by Megs S. Lunn

My trip's mission to the US was twelve days in Colorado in September and October 2011. For the first five days, I visited numerous Rotary Clubs on behalf of Uplift Internationale in the cities of Denver, Wheatridge, Arvada and Lakewood. In my journey to the different Rotary clubs, I met many interesting and special people who made these visits meaningful and rewarding. I gained new friends and enjoyed talking about what we do in our different advocacies in Rotary.

The Annual Gala Benefit Dinner at Denver Marriott West was my final speaking engagement. I was able to meet all of the UI board members and many supporters of the Operation Taghoy medical mission. During

the event, I was presented with the 2011 UI Humanitarian Award.

From the bottom of my heart, there are no words to comprehend what I experienced on this trip. THANK YOU, to my fellow Rotarians, fellow UI/Taghoy volunteers, and my family hosts. On my way to the airport, the song "God Bless America" played on the radio. Indeed, God bless you all and God bless America!



*Megs Lunn receiving
the 2011 Humanitarian
Award from
Dr. Jaime Yrastorza.*

New Board Members

The UI Board welcomes the following new board members:



Gerald Capoot, MD – Taghoy Philippines Committee, Chair of Surgery

Jerry Capoot was born, raised and educated in the Chicago area, including medical school and an otolaryngology (ear, nose and throat) residency at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Chicago. He served two years in the U.S. Navy which included being the medical officer on a guided missile cruiser.

After completing an internship at the old Denver General Hospital and a general surgery residency at the old Colorado General Hospital, he knew that he would eventually return to Denver. He has had a private practice in otolaryngology for 38 years in Denver, Highlands Ranch and now Littleton.

His first surgical mission with Uplift Internationale was last February. Dr. Capoot was so impressed by the quality of the work done by Uplift Internationale that he accepted an invitation to be on their Board of Directors and definitely plans to go on the next surgical mission in February 2012.



Dan Hershberger – Development Committee, Rotary Liaison

Dan was born and raised in Colorado and went to Catholic elementary schools at St. Dominic's, St. Joseph's, and St. Mary Magdelene. He attended Regis High school and transferred to Wheat Ridge High, where he graduated in 1958. He attended City College of San Francisco, Regis College, Metro State and Rochester Institute of Technology. He began employment with The Rocky Mountain News in 1968 and retired in 2001.

Dan and his wife Marilyn live in Arvada. They have five children and seven grandsons. Their hobbies include racquetball, reading, bicycling and traveling.

Dan joined the Arvada Rotary Club in 2004 and has served as Public Relations Director, Membership Director and Secretary. He served as president of Arvada Rotary Club in 2007-2008. He is very committed and passionate about Rotary and now serves as Assistant Governor of Area 10 in District 5450. Area 10 includes Arvada, Arvada Sunrise, Westminster 7:10, Westminster 12:10 and Wheat Ridge Rotary Clubs. He also serves as Rotary Liaison on the Board of Directors of Uplift Internationale, an organization committed to mending faces of children in the Philippines who are born with cleft palates or cleft lips.

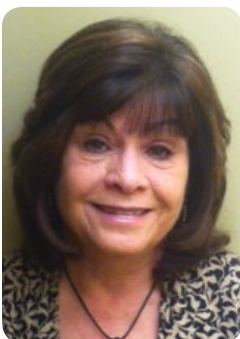


Sally Capoot, RN – Taghoy Philippines Committee, Nursing

Sally worked as an Operating Room Technician at Porter Memorial Hospital in Denver from 1977-1983, during which time she went back to school to earn her Registered Nurse degree. She continued to work in the operating room specializing on the cardiac surgical team until 1990. From 1990-2005 Sally worked as an office nurse and private scrub for Dr. Gerald Capoot.

Most recently she has volunteered at the Dumb Friends League in Health Care/Surgery services. Sally had the opportunity to be a part of the surgical team on the 2011 Operation Taghoy Mission. It was such a rewarding experience that she plans on going back for the 2012 mission.

Her favorite activities include skiing, golfing, bicycling, hiking and gardening.



Patti Carr – Development Committee

Patti Carr is a Colorado native and has her Bachelor's Degree in Psychology. She worked as a volunteer and subsequently as a site manager for the Catholic Charities Emergency Assistance Centers from 2000-2010. She also started a clothing bank at St. Mark's Parish and managed it for seven years. She currently volunteers with Broomfield Fish, Emergency Family Assistance Association, and Salvation Army. Patti played an integral role in the planning of the UI Gala and is very excited to be joining the upcoming mission in February 2012.

Patti and her husband have five children and six grandchildren. Her favorite hobbies are golf and traveling.

Mission 2012

Visayas Region of the Philippines

For the 2012 Mission we will again head to the Visayas region of the Philippines. The Visayas region represents the central and most numerous islands in the archipelago. UI's chief of surgery Gerald Capoot and UI founder Jamie Yrastorza recently returned from an advance logistics trip and have secured two excellent host locations for February 2012.

The first week of the mission will be

from Feb. 4th to the 11th on Negros Island. Our host will be the modern Terisita Jalandoni Provincial Hospital in Silay City. The second week of the mission will find the team on Bohol Island at the Governor Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital in the city of Tagbilaran from Feb. 12th to the 19th. February is an ideal month



Dr. Steve Krebs, Head of Mission

to hold a mission in the Philippines thanks to favorable weather, no need for malaria prophylaxis, and reasonable travel costs.

Mission 2012 – Uplift Internationale Volunteer Team Roster

Anesthesia

- Christine Cokinos (New York)
- Robert Kyureghian (New York)
- Julius Arches (Philippines)
- Myroslav Harasym (Illinois)
- Sofia Geralemou (New York)
- Asher Emanuel (New York)
- Daniel Balch (Colorado)
- Nylene Tan (Philippines)
- Scott Stenquist (Colorado)
- Laurie Steward (California)

Surgery

- Tom Williams (Iowa)
- Jerry Capoot (Colorado)
- Aaron Wallender (Kentucky)
- Hector Santos (Philippines)
- Elliot Dubois (New York)
- Christine Nufable (Philippines)
- James Bertz (Arizona)
- Dominic Foti (Colorado)
- David Shokrian (New York)

Nursing

- Sally Capoot (Colorado)
- Nora Bacalzo (Colorado)
- Nora Mickelson (Colorado)
- Anne Somes (Colorado)
- Erin Trout (Colorado)
- Kirk Leamons (Colorado)
- Edith Pasion (Colorado)
- Sara Sikorsky (Colorado)
- Patrick Latoza (Philippines)
- Craig Incandela (New York)
- Lisa Myers (California)
- Jose Bautista (Florida)
- Mary McNelis (Colorado)

Speech Therapy

- Resy Pison (Philippines)

Pediatrics

- Steve Krebs (Colorado)
- Marny Eulberg (Colorado)
- Larry Wolk (Colorado)

Outreach

- Patti Carr (Colorado)
- Meriam Dominos (Illinois)
- John Geo Fuentes (Philippines)
- Marvee Flores (Philippines)
- Aimee Cornell (Australia)
- Gay Cuthill (Colorado)
- Nancy Rosi (Colorado)
- Emilie Allen (Colorado)
- Rhe-j Jalocon (Philippines)
- Gina Luttrell (Colorado)
- Christine Flores (Philippines)
- Gheza Mae Ibardolaza (Philippines)
- Don Wollenzien (Colorado)
- Mikayla Wolk (Colorado)
- Megs Lunn (Philippines)
- Meaghan Krebs (Washington)

Photography

- Brett Scott (Colorado)
- Scott Angus (Missouri)
- Megan Sparks (Missouri)

Mission 2011 – Uplift Internationale enters its third decade of consecutive missions this coming February. Last year an international cast with members from as far as Bahrain and the British Isles returned to the city of Roxas on Panay Island. The 2010 mission was a single site 7 day affair to the same site visited in 2009. Returning to Roxas allowed completion surgery on multiple complex cases started the year prior in addition to an entire phalanx of new cases.



2011 Uplift Internationale Volunteer Team

Taghoy Mission 2011: Roxas City Summary Statistics

- **Length of Mission:** 5 surgical days (Monday 2/21/2011 – Friday 2/25/2011)
- **Surgical teams:** 3 surgical tables/teams (Mon. - Thur.); 2 surgical tables/teams (Fri.)
- **Speech therapy/post-operative instructions and care** were provided to all palate repair patients by Resy Pison, a local Speech Therapist
- **37 patients were provided mending care surgeries**

June 2011 Emissary Trip Report

– Dr. Jerry Capoot

Dr. Jaime Yrastorza, President and Founder of Uplift Internationale, and Dr. Jerry Capoot, Director of the Surgery Division, went on an emissary trip to the Philippine Islands from June 16-26, 2011. Once there, they were joined by Megs Lunn, our Philippine Executive Coordinator, who contributed immeasurably to the success of the trip.

Their ambitious itinerary included meetings—often multiple—in each of 9 cities on 7 islands in 8 days.

The highlights of the trip included:

1. Establishing the surgical mission for 2012 at the Teresita L. Jalandoni Provincial Hospital in Silay City on the island of Negros for February 4-11, 2012, and a second week at the Gov. Celestino Gallares Memorial Hospital in Tagbilaran City on the island of Bohol for February 12-19, 2012.
2. Obtaining verbal commitments from surgeons in the cities of Kalibo, Roxas City, and Iloilo on the island of Panay to establish community based cleft lip and palate clinics in their own cities with the support of each one's local hospital and appropriate political dignitaries. Uplift Internationale will be closely involved in the details of developing these local clinics.
3. Meeting with Rotarians in each of the 9 cities visited either formally through a Powerpoint presentation by Dr. Yrastorza or informally with small groups concerning who Uplift Internationale is, and how dedicated we are to transforming their children's facial deformities, where we are given the opportunity. In every encounter, significant interest was voiced with verbal commitments for their Rotary Clubs to be involved in logistical support and/or financial aid through a matching grant program for the benefit of Uplift Internationale's goals.

While much work needs to be done to follow through on verbal agreements and further develop new and existing relationships, the face

to face contacts made on this emissary trip furthered the influence Uplift Internationale has in certain parts of the Philippine Islands in its mission:

**Mending faces...
one child at a time.**



Team Taghoy with Dr. Cellini Bauson (seated), chief of hospital of Roxas Memorial Provincial hospital (1 to r) Dr. Jerry Capoot, Dr. Jaime Yrastorza, Dr. Villareal, consultant to RMPH, PP Rueben Yap and PP Megs Lunn.



Taghoy Team with Governor Felipe Nava of the province of Guimaras, Emma Nava and the members of Rotary Club of Guimaras.

Our Fall Gala Celebration

– Dick Newman

Uplift Internationale celebrated its Fall Gala at the lovely Denver West Marriott on October 1, 2011. Our more than 200 guests were entertained by the beautiful violin artistry of Catherine Yamasaki throughout the evening.



Violinist Catherine Yamasaki

Before settling in for a delicious dinner prepared by the head chef of the Denver West Marriott, everyone had time to leisurely stroll the hallways and view and bid on the hundreds of silent auction items donated by individuals and corporations to Uplift Internationale to aid in our ongoing mission of mending faces.

We were especially happy to have Karen Leigh from Channel 4 news as our Master of Ceremony. She did a magnificent job as did our special live auctioneer Mr. Adam Kevil.

Dr. Jaime Yrastorza, President and founder of Uplift Internationale and Dr. Jack Dahl presented the annual UI Humanitarian Award to three very deserving individuals, Elliot Dubois, M.D., Lawrence Herman, M.D. and Megs Lunn the Uplift Internationale Representative in the Philippines.



2011 Humanitarian Awardees (left to right) Dr. Lawrence Herman, Dr. Elliot Dubois, and Megs Lunn pictured with Dr. Sara Runnels.

This year's Gala was highly successful in its fundraising efforts netting \$37,880. We are grateful to every individual who donated items for both the silent and live auction and to those who participated by bidding for those special items.

We are now turning our attention to 2012 and how we can make the evening even more entertaining and rewarding for each of you who attend.

On behalf of the children who will receive a new lease on life as a result of your generosity... SALAMAT!



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P.O. Box 181658
Denver, CO 80218
(303) 707-1361
www.upliftinternationale.org
info@upliftinternationale.org

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Mend-a-Child

The Operation Taghoy Mission for 2012 has set a goal of mending the faces of 120 children. As always, donations of \$250 will fund a child's surgical procedure. We want to get all 120 children sponsored for the 2012 mission!

A donor can choose a plan of giving \$19.95 per month for a year or make a one-time \$250 donation. Choose the plan that best suits your budget. In recognition, donors who participate in the **Mend-a-Child** program will receive a before and after photo of their sponsored child.

Please support the life-changing program: **Mend-a-Child.**



Imagine their gratitude when freed of ridicule and shame...facing instead a lifetime of promise and hope. They and many more like them are our cause. We need and welcome YOUR help and participation.