

**Small Steps Healing the Children and Podiatry Institute Medical Mission Trip  
San Salvador, El Salvador  
September 23<sup>rd</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> 2017**

**Podiatry Institute members:**

Todd Gunzy- *Founder*

Luke Cicchinelli

Todd Haddon

Sara Lewis

Jay Phillips

Jaclyn Schwartz

El Salvador has become the location of a yearly medical mission trip for the past 14 years. The mission trip was originally founded by Dr. Todd Gunzy. Next year an astonishing accomplishment will be celebrated as The Healing Children Project and The Podiatry Institute celebrate their 15<sup>th</sup> medical mission trip anniversary in El Salvador.

Every year a team of physicians, residents, pediatric prosthetist/orthotists, nurses, scrub techs, CRNA's, students, translators, and others gather in San Salvador for a week-long mission to provide quality foot and ankle care to the children and adolescents of El Salvador and surrounding nations. This year the team had members from all across the United States, Spain, and Guatemala. The mission unites a diverse group of people from various backgrounds, cultures, and age with one common goal. With years of dedication and experience, the mission trip has become tremendously successful.

This year the team screened over 200 patients, performed 42 surgeries, created over 250 custom molded orthotics and prosthetics, and graciously touched the lives of many families in El Salvador. The team also had the opportunity to examine surgical patients from the prior years. Multiple lower extremity deformities were corrected including brachymetarsia, clubfoot, over-corrected clubfoot, pes planovalgus, polydactyly, spastic equinus and others. Follow up care will be provided by a local Orthopedic Surgeon at the Military Hospital.

With exceptional support from the Military Hospital of El Salvador and the Cuscatlan Rotary Club, the team was able to complete another successful podiatric medical mission trip. The team is excited for their return next September and to continue to provide compassionate, top-quality care to such a welcoming and amiable community.



PI Members from left to right: Jay Phillips, Sara Lewis, Luke Cicchinelli, Todd Haddon, Todd Gunzy. Not pictured: Jaclyn Schwartz



A 1 year follow-up after severe clubfoot correction. Jefferson is now able to wear normal shoes and ambulate without assistive devices.



Over 200 patients were screened on our initial day in El Salvador.



Dr. Cicchinelli and Dr. Phillips performing a PMR on a pediatric clubfoot.



Some of the beautiful smiles of children we were able to help during our trip.