

Another Successful Year of Missions and Events To Save Lives

Surgeons Of Hope is delighted to share updates on missions and events conducted in 2023, aimed at aiding underserved communities across Latin America and delivering life-saving heart surgeries. This year witnessed three missions to Costa Rica and one to Paraguay, in addition to a successful fundraising event held in October, dedicated to securing funds for our organization's noble work. Moreover, SOH welcomed a new board member and extended support for a 7-month training program for Pediatric Cardiologists in Spain, focusing on Echocardiography.

Paraguay April 2023

In April 2023, the SOH team, led by professionals from Madrid's Gregorio Marañón Hospital, embarked on a mission from April 15th to 22nd during which the team performed 9 surgeries and 24 catheter procedures, working in close collaboration with the local staff. A member of Mending Kids, an organization based in California, joined the mission. Our team had the opportunity to meet with the local UNICEF representative to explain what we do and how to collaborate particularly in the area of preventive care.



Empowering Hearts: Training Future Leaders in Pediatric Cardiology

Thanks to your generous support, Surgeons of Hope has facilitated a remarkable training opportunity for Dr. Franciele of Paraguay in the field of echocardiography at the prestigious Hospital Gregorio Marañón in Spain. From June 2023 until December 2023, comprehensive training equipped Dr. Franciele with the skills to return to Paraguay and train her local colleagues in the early diagnosis of congenital heart disease. The effect transforms lives on a global scale. By utilizing ultrasound imaging, they can now provide timely interventions, significantly enhancing outcomes, particularly in underserved communities where access to healthcare is limited. This training initiative is a true game-changer. We are immensely grateful to the Hospital Gregorio Marañón for their invaluable support in hosting this training program.



Costa Rica February, August & November

From February 12th – 18th, a team of professionals from Advocate Children’s Hospital, Chicago, Illinois, led by pediatric surgeon and SOH’s board member Luca Vricella, performed several surgeries at the Hospital Nacional de los Niños (HNN) in San José. Coming from different regions of the country, the six girls and boys had access to highly complex corrective surgeries that they had been waiting for, some for over a year. The local team was intimately involved in each procedure.



This was our first time in Costa Rica since 2019 because of the pandemic. We used this opportunity to visit past patients of Dr. Vricella, three hours away from the hospital by car. Seeing those patients who grew to become teenagers performing in their environment, surrounded by friends, and having a normal life was one of the most precious moments of the trip. Our photographer, Daniel Teboul, memorialized this mission in this video: <https://vimeo.com/807248315>



In August 2023, a dedicated team from SOH, led by professionals based in Dallas, embarked on a three-day mission to Costa Rica with the primary goal of delivering vital medical assistance to children under the age of 5. This mission proved to be a remarkable success as the team effectively administered essential care to these young patients while fostering meaningful interactions with the local healthcare teams.

Additionally, we strengthened a valuable partnership with Edwards International during this mission. This collaboration afforded key members of the Edwards team the opportunity to observe surgical procedures and catheterizations, offering them invaluable insights into the practical utilization of medical equipment. Our visit also included a tour of Edwards Plaza Costa Rica, providing a firsthand look at their facilities and operations.

Being able to directly witness the profound impact of our work consistently evokes a deep sense of gratitude, reminding us of the positive change we bring about. Additionally, we had the privilege of meeting with the parents of the children we assisted, witnessing the uplifting and constructive influence our efforts have on these resilient families.

In late November, we organized a “mini mission” led by Dr. Joe Forbess, Chief of Cardiovascular Surgery at Nicklaus Children’s Hospital in Miami. Joe interacted very closely with the local team during the three surgeries performed each of the three days he was there. Those more frequent, shorter missions with a much smaller number of professionals give us more flexibility to ensure a more regular and sustainable dialogue between missions.

We are in the process of finalizing our agenda for 2024. The plan includes two missions to Paraguay, two missions to Mexico, and two or three missions to Costa Rica.

Highlights from Our Fundraising Event in October: Cocktails for a Cause

In October 2023, Surgeons of Hope hosted a fundraising cocktail event featuring a main event with a wide array of wonderful items for auction, as well as a simultaneous silent auction. The event included speeches from our Co-Chairs, Eduardo da Cruz, M.D. and Richard Duron, and a heartwarming slideshow from our newly appointed SOH ambassador, Crystelle Desnoyer. She spoke eloquently about the profound impact her participation in the April 2023 mission to Paraguay had on her.



Once again, we wish to express our deep gratitude to our sponsors, board members, event committee, volunteers, and staff. We would also like to extend our thanks to Ambassador Carlos Alberto Ortiz, the UN Representative of Paraguay, for participating in the event and assisting our collaboration with the government of Paraguay. Finally, we want to express our heartfelt appreciation to everyone who attended our event, as your presence and support contributed to its great success.



Acknowledging Our Valuable Board Members and Welcoming New Additions

We would like to extend our deep gratitude to Blaire Bloxom (pictured left), who joined our board in August and has proven to be an instrumental and driving force in organizing our highly successful event on October 4th. SOH is truly fortunate to have her on our team. Blaire's dedication and hard work were pivotal in ensuring the success of the event.



We are excited to reinvigorate our ambassador program, initially launched in 2018 with the support of Diego Luna, and thrilled to welcome and express our heartfelt thanks to two outstanding new ambassadors, Crystelle Desnoyer and Melindah Sharma. They have embraced their roles as new ambassadors with enthusiasm and dedication, making significant contributions to the October event and beyond.



We are dedicated and steadfast in our commitment.

To remain in touch with us in 2024, visit our website to read our latest news at surgeonsofhope.org

Thank you to all our generous donors for opening your hearts and continuing to support children in critical need of heart surgery!

And thank you to our medical volunteers and our partners on the ground.



EVERCORE

POSES
FAMILY
FOUNDATION

IMAGINE. COLLABORATE. TRANSFORM.

Victoria Codru Dance Studio



THE ART
STUDENTS
LEAGUE
OF NEW YORK



Parisima Dos Internacional S.a



KINGSTON
FAMILY
VINEYARDS
CASABLANCA CHILE

