

MISSION OF HOPE, BOLIVIA NEWSLETTER

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Surgery Team #35 arrived in Santa Cruz on Saturday, May 24th, to provide a week of ear, nose, and throat (ENT) **surgeries for 55 patients completely free of charge**. Here are some of their stories...



Debram

Debram

Debram is seven years old. He lives with his mother, father, and brother deep in the Amazon rainforest, **a two-day trip from Santa Cruz**. During the months from December to March, his family travels to the border of Peru, a four-day trip by boat, where they work to harvest chestnuts.

After the harvest this year, his family **came to Santa Cruz** so that Debram could have **surgery to remove his tonsils**. When they arrived at the government-run Children's Hospital, they found out that the **doctors there were on strike**, and they were told to return at a later date.

While staying in Santa Cruz, Debram's mother was invited to a church near our clinic. **Someone at the church told her about Mission of Hope** and the surgery team that was coming. Debram was put on the schedule and was able to have his tonsillectomy with us. His mother is **so thankful** that God put Mission of Hope in their path.

Sara

Sara is 13 years old. Her mother Martina is a single mom of six children, and she works cleaning houses. When Sara was only **six years old**, Martina noticed a **lump on Sara's right cheek**. The mass continued to grow, and Sara grew her hair long to try and cover it up. By the time she was admitted to our clinic for surgery, the mass was **the size of a softball!**

Martina has always made a point of taking her children to church. Even as a six-year-old, Sara would kneel beside her mom and ask God to do a miracle and heal her, **"just like Jesus did in the Bible."**

During a very delicate five-hour surgery, the parotid cyst that had been growing in Sara's cheek for seven years was successfully removed. For Sara, being able to have **this surgery was the miracle she had been praying for!**



Sara

Federik

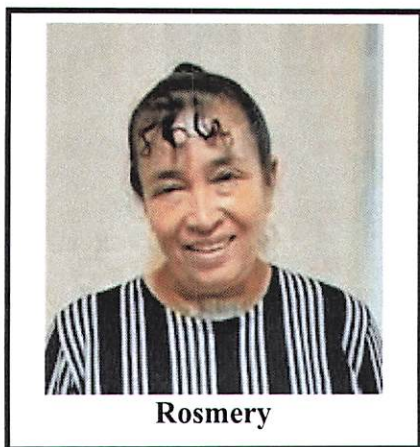
Federik is seven years old and in second grade. He began having **problems with his tonsils** about two years ago with **frequent episodes of inflammation and fever**. His mother heard about Mission of Hope from an aunt who works as a nurse at a hospital in Santa Cruz.

Federik's family lives about **five hours from Santa Cruz**. His father works in construction, and his mother takes care of his little sister at home. The cost of getting to our clinic in Santa Cruz by taxi was the equivalent of a full day's wages, so the many trips to the clinic were quite an expense for them.

Federik likes to play soccer. He loves music and plays the tambourine. He also loves to dance. Federik wants to be a doctor when he grows up.



Federik



Rosmery

Rosmery

Rosmery is 55 years old. She lives with her husband in a rural area about **six hours from Santa Cruz** where they sell fruit for a living. There are **no medical facilities** there.

About **20 years ago**, Rosmery **began having swelling** in her hands and feet, headaches, anxiety, and weight gain. Sometimes her feet were so swollen that she could not wear shoes. She came to Santa Cruz and was seen in a public hospital. **Doctors there recommended surgery**, but she **did not have money for surgery**.

You may be wondering how Rosmery heard about Mission of Hope living so far away. Well, it turns out that her mother lives in Santa Cruz. Seven years ago, her mother's neighbor had an **excellent thyroid surgery**

at Mission of Hope that was free. Thus, the connection was made.

Rosmery came to our clinic and was scheduled for thyroid surgery in the **spring of 2020**, but the spring team that year was **cancelled due to the Covid pandemic**. She did not have the money to pay for the surgery in another hospital, so she **has been waiting all this time** for the U.S. team to return. For Rosmery, it was **worth the wait**. She loved her time with us, and she had a **beautiful thyroidectomy**.

Sarah

Sarah is 17 years old. She **grew up in an orphanage** not far from our clinic, where she still resides. She goes to school in the mornings and works at a day care center in the afternoons.

Sarah heard about Mission of Hope from a young woman who works in the orphanage named Tina. During our weeks of surgery at Mission of Hope, Tina volunteers her time with us as a translator.

Sarah has a **long history of ear infections**, beginning at a very early age, which resulted in a large perforation in her eardrum, erosion of the middle ear bones, and **hearing loss in the affected ear**. She had surgery to repair the eardrum and reconstruct the missing middle ear bone. After this amazing surgery, **Sarah's hearing was completely restored**. In fact, she kept saying to Tina, "Everything is so loud!"



Sarah

Eye Clinic

During this week of surgery, we also held an eye clinic. A total of **83 patients** received free reading glasses. For patients who have difficulty putting food on the table, **eyeglasses are a blessing and a luxury!**

EXCITING NEWS!

Our very generous matching gift donor of 24 years, now in his eighties, together with our Board of Directors has established an **endowment fund to ensure the future of Mission of Hope**. We are so grateful to him and to all of you for your faithful support over the years.

If you would like to make a **legacy gift** towards this fund, please write "ENDOWMENT" on the memo line of your check. You may also want to consider a gift of stock. **No gift is too small**, and we are excited to begin building this fund for the future. Please note that we will **still need your monthly/regular donations** for the **daily operating expenses of our two free clinics** in Sucre and Santa Cruz. If you would like more information about the endowment fund, please contact julie@missionofhopebolivia.org

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