

## Early Patients, Now Adults



Claudia Mercado Peña came to St. Andrew's Children's Clinic when she was eight years old. She was crippled by polio. Today she is a successful entrepreneur in Nogales, Sonora. Claudia is co-owner of an upscale beauty salon and has worked as a hair stylist for several years.

Claudia was a patient at The Clinic for 15 years. During that time she had two surgeries in Tucson and lots of therapy. Her orthopedic surgeon was Dr. Mark Frankel. Her orthotist, Dan Leal, fitted her with many different braces over the years. Dr. Francisco Valencia's mother took her to Tucson where she spent several months at University Medical Center and St. Joseph's Hospital so she could use the pools for water therapy.

Claudia still wears a brace on her left leg. She walks with a limp and uses a cane when outside her shop. She continues therapy at a regular gym. Today she is able to stand long hours on the job and supports herself financially. She says she's walking and doing what she does now because of the help she got from The Clinic. "Thanks to my friends who really helped me, St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, and God, I made it through everything."

Francisco Romero came to The Clinic because he had hip displacement. Through The Clinic, he had hip and knee surgery at a Tucson hospital. He is very grateful to The Clinic.

Francisco had gone to many doctors in Mexico. They told him that his leg would always be rigid. Maybe he would have ten good years, then he would not be able to walk.

Thanks to the surgery through The Clinic he has a good life. He got married and has four children. He is a butcher and works in the family business. He stands and walks a lot in his work. Without the Clinic-provided surgery, he would not have been able to participate in the family business.



Betsabe Duran was born with a cleft palate; her parents could not afford the needed surgery so they brought her to St. Andrew's Children's Clinic. She was about six to eight months old. At that time, a doctor at the Tucson Children's Clinic next to Tucson Medical Center performed the cleft palate surgeries for St. Andrew's. Betsabe also had ear surgery. She is missing the right ear and had tubing put in her left ear. She remembers Janis Wolfe Gasch testing her hearing.

After the cleft palate surgery, she went to Tucson Children's Clinic for speech therapy for about two years. Then, she came to St. Andrew's Children's Clinic for speech therapy with Sister Maggie. She thinks that was for about a year.

What difference did St. Andrew's make in her life? "Everything. Without the surgeries, I don't know if I would be able to hear or speak or sing."

Today, Betsabe is a child psychologist. She uses music therapy in her work. She also volunteers in the library at the National Pathology University. "I feel that if I can help others, I will do it—that I will give back in return for what I have received."

## Patients, Then and Now



At age four, Aracely was not mobile and she could not talk because of a seizure disorder. On the far left is the photo of Aracely in her first wheelchair provided by St. Andrew's Children's Clinic. The new mobility excited her greatly.

With donations from a Tucson church, Dr. Carol Henricks, Clinic neurologist, was able to test Aracely and determine the correct medication she needed. She is now seizure free—and she hasn't stopped talking!

At age 13, Aracely (immediate left) is an active teenager who loves school. She is being molded for new ankle-foot-orthoses (AFOs) by Orthotist Sarah Sumii from Hangar Prosthetics.



Elizabeth was eight months old when she had retinoblastoma. She was two years old when she visited The Clinic for an examination (immediate left).

St. Andrew's was able to have Elizabeth fitted with an eye prosthesis which costs about \$1,500. She was The Clinic's first patient to be fitted with an eye prosthesis. In the photo on the far left, she is five years old. She was being fitted with eye glasses because her right eye needed a little correction.

Two-year-old Jesús playfully crawled around the examination table with his shoes on his hands (immediate right). He is a spinal bifida patient. He is unable to walk without his crutches (far right). Even then, his gait is slow and very awkward. He received a wheelchair when he was eight years old. He was delighted to have greater mobility, and his crutches were mounted on the back so he can still use them when needed



## Patients, Then and Now



Both Rodrigo and Eneyda (Lupita) came to St. Andrew's Children's Clinic at age 2 and unable to walk normally. Rodrigo's right foot was amputated. Lupita's feet were so badly deformed that the doctors determined she would never walk. She had bilateral amputation below the knees.

At left, Rodrigo is age five. He was in the Orthotics Department for adjustments to his prosthesis. On the right, Lupita is age four. She, too, visited the Orthotics Department for adjustments to her prostheses.

Today, both Rodrigo and Lupita are active teenagers. When these photos were taken a couple of years ago, Rodrigo was ten, and Lupita was twelve.

Both Rodrigo and Lupita have had a series of prostheses as they have had growth spurts. A prosthesis costs \$1,200-\$3,000, depending on whether it is a full prosthesis or below the knee. When The Clinic takes on a patient needing a prosthetic leg, the projected financial commitment is significant. However, once a patient begins treatment with The Clinic, he/she will have continued treatment to age 18. Prosthetics, orthotics, and special shoes needed for prostheses and braces are one of the two largest costs for The Clinic.



## Patients, Then and Now



Francisca (above) was five years old when she came to The Clinic. She could not walk because her foot was so misshapen. Surgery at Shriners Hospital and prosthesis provided by The Clinic helped her win a gold medal in a foot race at school! She is now 14 years old.



Hector (right) came to The Clinic when he was six months old. The doctors diagnosed him with arthrogryposis. He has no real knee, elbow, or wrist joints. He went to Shriners Hospital for surgery on his feet.

Children with arthrogryposis are very bright. They are very good at figuring out ways to adapt. For example, Hector lays his arm on the table and brings the fork up to his mouth.

Hector is unable to uncross his right leg. The Clinic furnished him with a wheel chair because he is unable to walk. A wheel chair costs \$250-1,000, depending on the adaptations needed.



Jesús has osteogenesis imperfecta, more commonly known as “brittle bones” disease. Because his bones break easily, doctors at Shriners put steel rods in his long bones to stabilize them. This procedure gives the bone mass a chance to develop and become stronger. It also reduces hospitalization due to broken bones.

Jesús was six in the photo at the far left when he got his first wheel chair; now he is 17.