

*Throughout the history of The Clinic, the one continuing factor has been Love.  
Coca Romero*

Xochitl Aceves and Reynaldo Valenzuela. Both are nurses at CIMA Hospital where our Cleft Palate Cleft Lip Mission takes place. They assist with taking vitals during evaluation day and also they prep children on the day of surgery.



We have been with this program since it started 15 years ago. It is a great satisfaction to participate in such a wonderful program that benefits our children. Returning their smile to them is priceless. That happiness motivates us to continue to participate with even more enthusiasm in such a beautiful event, hand in hand with our foreign brothers and sisters. Submitted by Xochitl and Reynaldo



I have been volunteering at St. Andrew's Children's Clinic for 8 years. I was introduced to the Clinic by my friend, Judith Whipple, a long-time volunteer herself. She was responsible for setting up and staffing the Volunteer Check-in Desk, and she invited me to work with her. The desk is positioned outside the Church where it is visible as people arrive. Volunteers are greeted and welcomed there. This includes the medical staff, the kitchen staff, and all the volunteers who work with the children and their families. In addition, student volunteers and visitors come to the desk. The students need advice on where their services might be needed.

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Equally importantly, the volunteers sign-in and record their names, functions, and number of hours they plan to volunteer. This information is added to a database to provide data that's used by the Clinic on funding applications and reports.

Because of its conspicuous location outside the Church, the desk often serves as an Information Desk, a Lost and Found, a temporary storage spot for donations, and recently, a sales table for shirts for volunteers to purchase. When Judith retired from the Clinic a few years ago, I took over the Volunteer Check-in Desk with the collaboration of Peggy Leech and other volunteers. As a winter visitor to Arizona, I am available to volunteer from November through April, and Peggy takes over for the summer months.

Over the years, I have had a chance to meet and get to know the extraordinary people whose passion and dedication to this wonderful enterprise is so inspiring. I feel honored to know them and learn a little bit about their stories.

Submitted by Ellen Curtes

## Jaciel Story!

As the world struggles to find a new normal, we all face uncertainties about our own roles and the future of our organizations. I am no exception to that and admit to having doubts and worries about the future of St. Andrew's Children's Clinic as our period of lockdown has continued to grow. Something happened last week to help me reaffirm our true mission—helping children.

Over the weekend, I received a call from a partner in Mexico about a severely burned toddler in need of immediate help. The pictures of Jaciel were heartbreaking and I knew we would need to move quickly to intervene. Our lead pediatricians, Dr. Quiroz and Dr. Piña quickly assessed that Shriners Hospital in Sacramento needed to be engaged. The process moved swiftly and Jaciel was approved to travel to Shriners to receive needed treatment. As you can imagine, the travel needed to be coordinated quickly and carefully to fully comply with all border and travel restrictions.

Imagine the leap of faith Jaciel's mother had to take to put her trust in us. They crossed the U.S.-Mexico border the night before they were to depart for Sacramento. We picked them up early to make the drive to the airport where we were met by Dr. Piña who assured us travel details were all in place. Jaciel's mother was understandably nervous, but determined the trip was necessary to get Jaciel the proper care. I spent all day hoping flights would not get canceled, they would make their connecting flights, and good people along the journey would be there to help. I heaved a huge sigh of relief when I received a text that the trip had been uneventful and mother and son were in the Shriners' van on their way to the hospital.

As I reflect on all the steps that needed to occur to make this happen, I am filled with gratitude to you, our donors and volunteers, who continue to believe and support our mission. Because of you and your dedication, Jaciel and his mother are in good hands and he is receiving the care that will help him recover from his burns. Seeing the videos of him at the hospital laughing with his mother is the greatest reward. Jaciel is happy to be home and will not need further surgery! Thank you for being part of this mission—even in these most uncertain times!

Laura Romero, Executive Director



Uriel is 10 years old and is from Imuris, Sonora. He is a patient in the Orthopedics, Nutrition and Pediatrics Departments. He is lactose intolerant and has difficulty walking. He progresses everyday with daily physical therapies to help him ease his pain in his feet. He has been coming to the Clinic for a year and enjoys his free time with all the children.

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## Ramirez Family

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When he isn't at the Clinic he spends his time playing soccer with his friends. He hopes that one day he can become a construction worker. Uriel loves spending time with his family and his two siblings. He will be a 5th grader this year and likes going to school. His favorite subject is mathematics.



Maria Fernanda is a spunky six year old from Camaea, Sonora and is a patient in the Pediatrics, Audiology and Speech Language Therapy Departments. Her mother brought her to the clinic at only four months old with a cleft lip and cleft palate. She received the surgeries that she drastically needed in our Annual Cleft Lip/Cleft Palate

Mission. She likes spending time with her family and receives nothing but support to help her with her goal of becoming a hair stylist, nail technician, and makeup artist. Her mother and sister are always letting her try new nail techniques on them. This year will be her first school year attending school and she awaits the day with hopes of making new friends.



Pictures and information about each child provided by Yadelle Valencia



If your organization is interested in learning about St. Andrew's Clinic during this pandemic time, the Executive Director will be happy to participate in a Zoom program. Please contact Laura Romero by emailing [edstandrewsclinic.org](mailto:edstandrewsclinic.org)



Ruben Ali Soza Encinas date of birth is 12/23/10 Ruben is receiving help in the Department of Pediatrics at the Clinic.

Just a reminder that the filing deadline for 2019 tax returns has been extended from April 15th to July 15, 2020. Additionally, the COVID-19 CARES relief bill passed on March 2020 allows taxpayers to claim a \$300 deduction for charitable donations made in 2020 allows taxpayers to claim the deduction without having to itemize on your 2020tax return.



Please send your donation to St. Andrew's Children's Clinic at Box 67, Green Valley, Arizona 85622

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Your gift is tax-deductible. The Donations received, 98% goes to direct patient care.

*Thank you for your continued support!*