



**St. Andrew's  
Children's Clinic**

# *La Clínica*

Nogales, Arizona

Spring 2013



Above are sisters Fernanda, age 8, & Diana, age 5, Solis Ponce. They both are patients in the **Vision Department** where they get free eye glasses once a year if needed.



Luís Miguel Hernandez Lopez was born with a Cleft Palate and Cleft Lip. He has had several surgeries at our Annual Cleft Palate/Cleft Lip Mission in Hermosillo. Now he can pronounce his sounds very well. He is a patient in the **Speech & Language Therapy Department**.

**S**t. Andrew's Children's Clinic, a non-denominational, non-profit organization has a volunteer professional health care staff. The staff sees approximately 200-250 children the first Thursday of each month, except July, in Nogales, Arizona. Every October, in cooperation with Children's Surgery International and CIMA Hospital, approximately 45 children have cleft palate/cleft lip surgery in Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico. This special mission involves volunteers on both sides of the U.S.-Mexico border who work with the medical team to give patients smiles and a much better life.

In 2012, with the help of generous donors and volunteers, St. Andrew's Children's Clinic provided the following:

- 3,329 Clinic hours by volunteer health care professionals
- 4,800 Clinic hours by other volunteers
- 2,327 patient visits
- 173 new first-time patients to The Clinic
- 105 office visits (U.S. and Mexico)
- 123 lab tests (U.S. and Mexico)
- 44 cleft palate/cleft lip surgeries
- 270 professional health volunteer hours for cleft palate/cleft lip surgeries
- 43 orthopedic surgeries
- 2 retina surgeries
- 2 corneal transplants
- 1 prosthetic eye
- 101 pairs of eye glasses dispensed
- 29 round-trip flights to hospitals for patients
- 49 prostheses
- 57 orthotics
- 213 pairs of corrective shoes
- 62 repaired hearing aids
- 30 customized wheel chairs, walkers, and strollers
- 18 prescriptions, either for cornea transplants or dermatology patients
- also, medicated eye drops; Braille writers; strollers; speech and language equipment; nutritional supplements; physical, occupational, and speech therapy; dermatology and cardiology consultations; and many generous donations of clothing and toys

**We are very proud to report to you that 98% of all donations goes to patient care.**

## Then and Now

One of our Board members, Lourdes Montijo, found Francisca Veronica Mada on the streets of Hermosillo, Son. The child's foot was so misshapen that she could not walk.



The family could not afford an amputation and prosthesis. Lourdes brought Francisca to The Clinic where she went to Shriners Hospital for surgery.

Above she is getting her prosthesis fitted. She was 5 years old at the time.

Francisca's mother was very grateful for what The Clinic did to help her daughter. One of her proudest moments was when Francisca won a gold medal in a foot race at school. Her mother and father have since passed away, and Francisca lives with her cousin.

Francisca is now 14 years old. She loves school and is able to participate fully in school activities thanks to St. Andrew's Children's Clinic.



Lupita Tapia Muñoz has cerebral palsy. In the photo below, Speech & Language Therapist



Sharon Hendrickson-Pfiel introduces the five-year-old to the Tech-Talk speech communication device. Lupita was enthralled because with the Tech-Talk, she could begin to communicate. There was one

problem, however, she was so spastic from the cerebral palsy that she could not control her hands enough to select the items on the Tech-Talk. She was frustrated.

At the next clinic, Lupita's mother told Sharon that Lupita was now picking up tortillas with the big toe on her left foot. An idea was born, and Lupita began to use her big toe to select the items on her device.

Lupita is a very bright young lady. Once she could use a device, she was given the SpringBoard speech communication device. This enabled her to put together complete sentences. She was able to participate in school where she used a Bilingual Vantage Lite device which is a much higher level device than the SpringBoard.

Below Lupita uses her big toe to make selections on her communication device. With her is her mother. Lupita is now 17 and lives in Magdalena, Son.



## Patients Need Different Services

**N**ora Lovio is 8 months old. She is a patient in the **Vision Department**. She has strabismus where both eyes do



not look at the same point at the same time. This is often self-correcting, especially with eye glasses. If not, The Clinic can arrange for corrective surgery. Nora is one of the youngest patients at The Clinic.

Yazmin Felix is 8 years old. She lives in Nogales, Son. She is a patient in the **Physical Therapy Department**. Physical thera-



pist Barb Sinclair is stretching her muscles and showing her mother how to work with her at home. Parents provide a lot of

therapy for their children between visits to The Clinic. The physical therapists teach them how to loosen and strengthen their child's muscles.

Marco Anonio Acerdes is 14 and lives in Magdalena, Son.



Marco is a patient in the **Audiology Department**. He has hearing loss in one ear and wears a hearing aid. Marco comes to The Clinic for regular check-ups and to have his hearing aid cleaned. He can come to The Clinic until he is 18 years old. The initial mold for the hearing aid costs \$400, and the hearing aid costs \$100; these are provided free by The Clinic.

## Clinic Wish List

To donate any of the items below, please call the Clinic office in Green Valley at:

(520) 648-3242 or e-mail [office@standrewsclinic.org](mailto:office@standrewsclinic.org)

- AA Batteries for speech/language devices
- Benefiber
- Blenders
- Breakfast drinks (powder or can)
- Clorox wipes
- Disposable bibs
- Disposable diapers (esp. newborn size)
- Eyeglass frames (children's, used)
- Ground flaxseed meal
- Hand sanitizers
- Hearing aids (used) and batteries
- Milk of Magnesia
- Peanut butter
- Pediasure (generic okay)
- Physical therapy (exercise) balls (45 cm & 55 cm)
- Physio rolls "peanut balls" (30 cm & 40 cm)
- Powdered milk
- Prune juice—small cans only
- Receiving blankets
- Trash bags with drawstring
- Umbrella strollers (available at Wal-Mart)
- Vitamins, adult
- Vitamins, children's chewable with iron
- Wipes
- Ziploc bags—quart size only

Volunteer drivers are needed to transport patients from the Border to the Tucson airport and return.

We also need volunteers to answer the telephone in the Green Valley Clinic business office, file, and do data entry or special projects.

## Patients Need Different Services

Even Mendoza, age 12, is getting an eye exam by Dr. Amy Davis in the **Vision Department**. He lives in Imuris, Son. Children needing eye glasses can get one pair a year unless medically needed more frequently. The frames are donated, and the prescription costs about \$22. Used children's eye glass frames are on our Wish List on page 3.



Julio Cesa Izarra is 1 year and 8 months old. He lives in Caborca, Son. He is a patient in the **Pediatrics Department** and was having blood drawn in the



**Phlebotomy Department** at a recent clinic. Blood tests cost about \$25.

Amiel Olaiz Hernandez, age 2, has cerebral palsy. She has a problem sitting up straight as a



result. Physical therapist Barb Tracy has her sitting in a special chair that forces her to sit up straight. The table with activity board is to stimulate her because she has vision problems. The special chair costs about \$40. Amiel lives in Caborca, Son., and is a patient in the **Physical Therapy Department**.

Francisco Torres is being examined by Dr. Francisco Valencia in the **Orthopedics Department**. He is 10 years old and lives in Nogales, Son. His quadriceps are weak.



Angela Ruiz Valdez, age 8, lives in Los Moschis, Sin. She is proudly standing on her new prostheses and showing off her shoes. She requested pink



shoes. This is the first time she has worn shoes since she was born. Angela was born with only partial limbs. The prosthetist in the **Orthotics Department** fitted her with special "stubbies" that were tubular limbs with a flat paddle at the end for her to walk on. This was to give her an opportunity to learn to balance on the "stubbies" in preparation for prostheses. She not only learned to walk but danced at her school recital. The special shoes cost \$70-150, and prostheses for 2 legs costs \$8,000-10,000. All are provided free to the patient from The Clinic.

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## Patients Need Different Services

Tadeo Bari is 3 years old. He lives in Nogales, Son. He is a patient in the **Pediatrics Department**.



Patients living across the Border from the Clinic in Nogales, Son. might come by car if their family has one. Many do not, however, and travel by city bus to the Border. Then, they walk across the Border where they board a Clinic bus or van to come to our clinic at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. We have volunteers who drive the bus or van.



Roberto Enrique Baez lives in Nogales, Son. He is a patient in the **Vision Department**. Our Vision patients have a variety of needs. Some need eye glasses to see properly and participate in school. Some have strabismus which can be corrected with eye glasses or surgery. Some need prosthetic eyes because they were born without an eye in the socket or have had a tumor which necessitated the eye removal. Some are blind, and we teach them how to walk with a cane and use a Braille writer. A refurbished Braille writer costs about \$250 on e-bay.



Hazel Martinez Aquirre lives in Nogales, Son. He has Down Syndrome and is a patient in the **Orthopedics Department** where the doctor was checking his flexibility.

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## Please Visit Us

Clinic Day tours for groups of 4-6 people are offered to the public (please see our calendar on the last page). The Clinic takes place at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, 969 W. Country Club Dr., Nogales, Arizona. Take exit 8 from I-19 to Country Club Drive (the first traffic light) and turn right. You'll see the Church on the left.

Reservations are needed for tours. To reserve your place on a morning tour, please call the Clinic office in Green Valley at: (520) 648-3242 or e-mail: [office@standrewsclinic.org](mailto:office@standrewsclinic.org)

Each tour will begin with a video overview of The Clinic in operation. Then, a volunteer guide will lead the tour through The Clinic. Visitors are asked to refrain from taking photographs without permission.

**Please note:** From the Welcome Table, you will need to walk several hundred yards over our unpaved, uneven and slightly uphill driveway to the Ramada for the video and beginning of the tour. You will find that there are several congested areas in The Clinic. Please give right-of-way to Clinic patients and volunteers. Thank you!

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## Patients Need Different Services

**A**lan Emmanuel Leon Mejia, age 11, lives in Nogales, Son. He is a patient in the **Orthotics Department**. He is



fitted with special shoes because he needs special support for his feet.

Elena Ramirez Quijada is a pa-



tient in the **Vision Department**. She has strabismus and will be fitted with eye glasses to see if this corrects her condition. She lives in Imuris, Son., and is 9 years old.

Juan Daniel Prieto lives in Navajoa, Son. He is 12 and is a patient in the **Dermatology Department**. He travels 10-



12 hours by bus to get to The Clinic. Because many of our patients travel long distances and wait several hours to be seen at The Clinic, we provide a snack about 9:00 a.m. and lunch about 10:30-11:00 a.m. Juan is eating a sandwich prepared by

volunteers. For patients leaving later in the afternoon, we now provide a sack meal which is assembled and funded by the Green Valley AAUW chapter.



It's always amazing how children can sleep amid the hustle and bustle of 200-250 patients, their families and about 100 volunteers at The Clinic. Some sleep from the exhaustion of long hours of travel and waiting to be seen by a doctor or therapist. Above, Nora Guadalupe Ruiz of Santa Ana sleeps through "the sound of healing." She is a patient in the **Pediatrics Department** and is 8 months old.

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## e-Script—Another Way to Give to The Clinic

**I**t's easy to register St. Andrew's Children's Clinic as a beneficiary with the e-Script program—automatically donating a percentage of your purchases to The Clinic.

Grocery, online and restaurant purchases all qualify when

you register your loyalty card or credit/debit card. Ask your merchant(s) if they participate and what is their procedure. For example, you can register at Safeway by telephone: 1-800-400-7878, press 2 and a real person will ask for your Safeway Club

Card number and your address. Online, go to [www.escrip.com](http://www.escrip.com) and follow "Make a Difference in Four Easy Steps."

## Fitzsimmons Recital Funds Speech Communication Devices

Johanna Cabrera Valdez is very smart but cannot talk. She is 9 years old and lives in Nogales, Son. Below she is receiving a speech communication device from José Luís Ibarra which makes her very happy.



José Luís is very happy too. He had developmental apraxia of speech and could say only a few words. With funds from the 2011 Fitzsimmons recital, The Clinic purchased a refurbished SpringBoard communication device so he could put together sentences and communicate with others.

After he got his device, his mother said he listened to the sentences over and over and practiced and practiced. His proud moment came when he no longer needed the device; he could now talk! You can see the happy smiles on both children above.

Most of our speech-impaired children do not have this type of miracle. But, with a communication device, they can communicate with family, friends, and teachers. Each new SpringBoard costs about \$2,500. A refurbished one is less.

Nyssa Anay Marin, 10 years old, lives in Nogales, Son. She



has Down Syndrome and is the first Down Syndrome child that we know of to be integrated in the classroom in Nogales, Son. She is the recipient of the SpringBoard funded from the 2012 Fitzsimmons recital. She is very bright and eager to communicate.

Monserrat Isabel Lozano Gastelum is 6 and lives in Nogales, Son. She will be receiving a new I-Pad with speech communication software funded from the 2013 Fitzsimmons recital funds. Sharon Hendrickson-Pfiel, our speech and language therapist, found a program online that she downloaded onto an I-Pad. It



mimics the SpringBoard and is a cheaper option for children who can handle it.

## Remember the Clinic for Memorials and in Your Will

Looking for a way to honor someone special in your life? A contribution to The Clinic is a nice way to honor someone special—to say thank you, happy birthday, happy anniversary, etc. It will also help patients who need The Clinic's

services.

Send your check in the envelope enclosed with this newsletter. Include the information about the memorial or honoring. The Clinic office will send the person notice of the memorial or honoring. For memori-

als listed in obituaries, please include the correct name and address: St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, P.O. Box 67, Green Valley, AZ 85622.

Another way to help The Clinic is to include a contribution in your will. Contact your lawyer for help with this.



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**La Clínica**

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ORGANIZATION  
US POSTAGE  
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Green Valley AZ  
PERMIT NO 367

P.O. Box 67, Green Valley, AZ 85622

Address Service Requested

**Phone:** (520) 648-3242

(Green Valley)

**Fax:** (520) 740-9701

(Green Valley)

**Email:**

office@standrewsclinic.org

**Website:**

www.standrewsclinic.org

## Clinic Calendar

The Clinic meets on the first Thursday of every month except July.

- June 6 (Clinic)
- August 1 (Clinic)

### **Publisher:**

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic

**Editor, Writer, Photographer**

**& Layout:** Vicki R. Fitzsimmons

**Additional Photographers:** Sharon Hendrickson-Pfiel, Ed Hunt, Gloria Thiele

**Design/print production:** J.R. Duarte, adobepress@mac.com, Tucson

The mission of St. Andrew's Children's Clinic in Nogales, Arizona is to provide free, specialized medical care to children living in Mexico who cannot get the care or afford the care they need in their home country.

Ivan Assalia, age 5, lives in Guyamas, Son. He comes to The Clinic with his family in the family car. The trip is 4-5 hours one way. He is a patient in the **Orthopedics Department**. He has hip luxation and cerebral palsy. He wears ankle-foot orthoses (AFOs) on both legs and walks with a special walker which costs about \$200. The AFO(s) cost about \$750.



St. Andrew's Children's Clinic receives funding from individuals, churches, organizations, corporations, and foundations. No government funding is received from either the United States or Mexico. Of donations received, 98% goes to direct patient care.

Cruzando fronteras para ayudar a niños minusvalidos de México