



Wedding Gown Review Benefits St. Andrew's Children's Clinic

Theresa Bennett is a remarkable 17 year old who has amassed quite a collection of wedding dresses over the years. Her early years in San Antonio were marked with tragedy, including the murder of her father and older brother.

Desperate for a safe place to stay, at age 11 she phoned her aunt, Tess Cowan, who lived in Mesa, and said she needed a secure place to live.

Theresa thrived in the care of her aunt and uncle, and began collecting wedding dresses at garage sales. Word got out, and the collection grew to 35 dresses.

Theresa and Tess had attended St. Andrew's Children's Clinic several times through their membership at St. Mark's Episcopal Church in Mesa. When Theresa decided to hold a wedding dress fashion show and Silent Auction, she chose the Clinic to benefit from the proceeds. The goal was \$10,000.

On April 5th at 11 a.m., with swans swimming in the background lake, the event was held at the Woodbridge Lake Clubhouse in Mesa. The media had done several interviews with

Theresa, and word about the event began to draw attention.

Additional wedding dresses were offered, including one from Clinic volunteer, Barbara Gray. Cakes were donated for the reception, and a local photographer volunteered her services. Silent Auction items rolled in.

The event was a wonderful success and more than \$7,083 was raised. Theresa hopes to raise a bit more by auctioning off several of the gowns.

Thank you, Theresa and Tess, for the wonderful contribution!

—Karen Sykes



From left to right: Theresa Bennett and her aunt, Tess Cowan, with Karen Sykes, Board secretary

Hitting Our Prime

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic celebrates its 35th anniversary this year. What began in a Mexican living room is now a unique medical endeavor.

Honoring the Clinic founders and preparing a special anniversary publication is a must, of course. And, if you have ideas, or early photos (yourself, volunteers, patients, doctors and nurses, activities and more), or stories to share about how to mark this impressive date, and/or wish to join in planning, please call the Clinic office in Green Valley at (520) 648-3242.

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Meet Juan ~ Juan Padilla, Nogales, Son., has been coming to the Clinic for eight of his 10 years. A cerebral palsy patient, in 2005 he traveled to Shriners Hospital in Sacramento, Calif. for hip surgery. In our photo, with his mother Rosa Leon, Juan tries out his new Maclaren Stroller donated by the women of Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, Sahuarita, and customized by Rising Medical, Tucson.



Our Woman at Exxon Mobil

Catherine Clark, R.N., Pediatric Department, has good connections. She is working toward a generous grant for \$2,000, to be given to the Clinic by the Exxon Mobil Individual Volunteer Program for employees, retirees and their families, and surviving spouses. In 2006, this recognition program gave more than \$6 million to charitable organizations.

Here's how it works: eligible participants (Catherine's late

husband Forrest was an Exxon Mobil employee) volunteer at least 20 hours during a calendar year for a \$500 grant, and this may be applied for four times a year. Catherine did the math and is giving her valuable time at the Clinic and its administrative office...\$500 x 4 (80 hours total) = \$2,000, of which \$1,000 has already been received. Many thanks to Catherine, a Clinic volunteer for almost 10 years.



Creating Smiles

Every year approximately 15,000 Mexican children are born with harelip and cleft palate, a terrible ailment that causes facial disfigurement, learning disabilities, not to mention the social stigma factor. Many of these children develop other medical problems, including severe speech impediments, due to their inability to properly chew food.

The exact cause of harelip and cleft palate is not known, but we are told it involves genetic factors, poor prenatal care and even the mother being exposed to harmful chemicals in the environment during pregnancy.

This year, again, Hospital Cima Hermosillo and its Lady Volunteers, St. Andrew's Clinic of Nogales, Ariz. and Children's Surgery International (CSI) will provide harelip and cleft palate corrective surgery to approximately 35 Mexican children—without cost—to the children's families. This gesture of goodwill is borne out of deep concern for the future of these poor children, whose quality of life is marginal without the help of so many caring people.

Hospital Cima Hermosillo will provide its facilities and medical, nursing and technical personnel. Cima's Hospital Lady Volunteers will plan the program, and organize and oversee the logistical needs of the visiting teams performing the surgeries. St. Andrew's Children's Clinic will provide funds to underwrite

the surgeries, as well as donate food and lodging for the children's families. Children's Surgery International from Minnesota, a humanitarian organization that travels all over the world serving children with harelip and cleft palate, will perform the surgeries.

The Clinic is fortunate to have CSI come again to Hermosillo and help us improve the quality of life of these poor children who otherwise will be forever afflicted by this devastating condition.

On behalf of the children, the Clinic thanks you for your help in this worthy effort.



America Gamez, patient in 2006

This coming October the Cleft Palate surgery program at Hospital Cima Hermosillo will celebrate its fourth year of bringing joy and hope to children suffering from this condition.



Meet Jysel

Jysel Valencia is waiting for an artificial eye, a prosthesis.

Now 3 years old, Jysel's left eye was removed in November 2007 following a diagnosis of retinoblastoma, cancer of the eye. She lives with her family in Nogales, Son.—waiting and hoping (with her pet bear) for a bright new future.

Jysel is one of hundreds of disabled children of impoverished parents from Mexico helped by St. Andrew's Children's Clinic. Since its founding in 1973, the Clinic, with the help of hundreds of its closest friends, has been in the business of bright futures.

A new prosthesis will cost \$2,500. To be part of young Jysel's vision, or to help other Clinic children, please call (520) 648-3242 or send your donation to St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, P.O. Box 67, Green Valley, AZ 85622.

New Executive Director

On May 1, 2008, Ted Estrada was appointed Executive Director of St. Andrew's Children's Clinic by the Board of Directors.

Ted, a native Californian and lifelong career healthcare worker, was a hospital administrator in Los Angeles for 25 years, and for the past eight and one-half years, was CEO of Hospital Cima Hermosillo, in Hermosillo, Son.

Three years ago, Ted got to know the Clinic's work with impoverished Mexican children, when the first group of 30 children was taken to Hospital Cima Hermosillo for cleft palate and harelip surgery, performed by a team of surgeons from Children's Surgery International at the request of St. Andrew's Children's Clinic. He was very supportive of the Clinic's work, and offered the hospital setting that allowed the surgery program to be repeated during the subsequent two years.

Hospital Cima Hermosillo's CEO, Omar Garza, recently informed Ted that they would welcome the cleft palate and harelip surgery to take place next October.

An avid writer, Ted wrote a chapter for the book "Healing Latinos" (recently reissued by the University of California Press), and has written several articles about children who have been helped by St. Andrew's Children's Clinic.

"I've retired three times," Ted said. "But when I saw the caring

love and empathy shown by everyone involved with the Clinic—doctors, nurses, volunteers, directors—for these poor Mexican children, I knew I wanted to be part of the team that brings hope and a quality of life to these unfortunate youngsters. Which means, I guess, I'll just have to wait a while longer to really retire."



Ted hopes to meet all the volunteers and professional and ancillary staff on Clinic days, to listen to their recommendations and suggestions, because, he said, "...they are the heartbeat of the wonderful work done today, as it has been since the Clinic's inception more than thirty years ago."

Ted said, "I thank the Board of Directors for its confidence in me, and look forward to continuing the work begun three decades ago when a small group of volunteers decided that God's work on earth must be our own, by helping Mexican children, many of whom cry themselves to sleep at night because of pain or hunger.

When a youngster now walks, where he couldn't before, or a baby can now take a bottle thanks to reconstructive surgery for cleft palate and harelip, and a little girl now smiles because she can hear with the help of a hearing aid, we can all share in the pride that we are helping those who cannot help themselves."

Clinic Wish List

To donate any of the items below, please call the St. Andrew's Children's Clinic office at (520) 648-3242

- Benefiber
- Blenders (used OK, if in good condition)
- Breakfast drinks (powder or can)
- Disposable bibs
- Disposable diapers (especially newborn size)
- Eyeglass frames (children's, used)
- Ground flaxseed meal
- Hearing aids (used)
- Milk of Magnesia
- Peanut butter
- Pediasure
- Physical Therapy exercise balls (45cm & 55cm); physio rolls "peanut balls" (30cm & 40cm)
- Powdered milk
- Prune juice (small cans only)
- Receiving blankets
- Umbrella strollers (available at Wal-Mart)
- Vitamins, adult
- Vitamins, children's chewable **with iron**
- Wheelchairs (child-size only)

Another Happy Child Story

Two year-old Ely and her four year-old sister were orphaned after their mother died of a drug overdose. The sisters were taken in by a religious shelter run by nuns in Nogales, Sonora.

The nuns phoned Coca Romero, St. Andrew's Children's Clinic's indefatigable volunteer for more than 30 years, and asked for help: Ely was diagnosed with a pulmonary valve stenosis and needed to have heart surgery as soon as possible.

Coca contacted Drs. Arturo and Rodolfo Siordia, renowned cardiovascular surgeons at Hospital Cima Hermosillo, and convinced them to perform the surgery without charge, to which the doctors agreed.



Then, Coca called Hospital Cima and asked me (I was then director of the quality and certification program) if I could help in raising money for the operation.

The next day, I called Coca and told her to have them bring Ely down to the hospital, because I had raised the money to pay the hospital bill.

The following Saturday, Ely underwent surgery, and by Monday afternoon she was discharged from the hospital, running down the hall with her teddy bear as though nothing had happened.

Ely has a new future, with quality of life, thanks to the quick work by Coca Romero, the skill and kindness of Drs. Arturo and Rodolfo Siordia, the cooperation of Hospital Cima Hermosillo and St. Andrew's Children's Clinic.

Ely is one of thousands of Mexican children St. Andrew's Children's Clinic has helped in the past 35 years, bringing hope and new life to these unfortunate youngsters.

—Ted Estrada

Please Visit

You're invited to visit the St. Andrew's Children's Clinic. It operates the first Thursday of every month (except in hot July), in Nogales, Arizona. To arrange a morning tour, please call the Clinic office at (520) 648-3242, or e-mail office@standrewsclinic.org.

Visit Us Virtually

To read more about the Clinic's young patients, faithful volunteers and its remarkable 35-year history, please check www.standrewsclinic.org. You may also make your donations online.

Timeless: Planned Giving

Philanthropy is usually about the future. St. Andrew's Children's Clinic can help you with your gift.

The Clinic can discuss planned giving with you and your lawyer or financial advisor. Several plans are available, some

providing lifetime monetary benefits and considerable tax savings. Please call the administration office in Green Valley at (520) 648-3242, or e-mail office@standrewsclinic.org. The Clinic is a 501 c (3) nonprofit corporation.



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

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Terrific new glasses for Vision Department patient, September 2007.

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St. Andrew's Children's Clinic

MISSION

To provide medical and restorative care to impoverished Mexican children.

VISION

To improve the quality of life of Mexican children through preventative healthcare.

GOAL

To continue the volunteer work begun more than 30 years ago on behalf of Mexican children who seek help.

Calendar of Events

St. Andrew's Children's Clinic, the first Thursday of every month except hot July—

- ◆ August 7
- ◆ September 4
(**Back-to-School Clinic**)
- ◆ October 2
- ◆ November 6
- ◆ December 4
(**Christmas Clinic**)
- ◆ January 8
- ◆ February 5
- ◆ March 5 (**Easter Clinic**)
- ◆ April 2
- ◆ May 7 (**Mother's Day Clinic**)
- ◆ June 4