

BELIZE CRIPPLED CHILDREN'S PROJECT – POWER POINT PRESENTATION

SLIDE 1 - Introduction

SLIDE 2 – Belize is a Central American country about the size of Massachusetts. It is bordered on the east by the Caribbean Sea, on the north by Mexico and by Guatemala on the west. The population is approximately 225,000 with the breakdown shown on the slide. Because it was British Honduras in the past, English is widely spoken.

SLIDE 3 - Gene Verdu originally started bringing children from Belize to southern Illinois for orthopedic treatment in about 1975. He soon realized that the project was too big for just him and he enlisted the help of Rotarians. The district took on the project in 1977. Since then, over 215 children have been treated.

SLIDE 4 – A team from here goes down to Belize about every 4 months. Dr. Jack Sheridan, an orthopedic surgeon from Shriner's Hospital donates his time to attend these clinics looking for children with problems appropriate for care at Shriner's. Rotary pays for the children's transportation and they receive their treatment at Shriner's for free. Host families provide the children with free room and board and transportation to and from clinic visits. The children stay here for appropriate follow-up before returning to Belize.

SLIDE 5 – What I am going to show you today is the result of the February 2004 clinic trip to Belize which was accompanied by Hal Harsin, a member of the Swansea Rotary Club.

SLIDE 6 – The team consists of Dr. Sheridan, Gene Verdu, Charlene Brennan and Chris Lashley.

SLIDE 7 – The team goes to 5 or 6 different sites throughout the country. Hal only visited 3. The first clinic is held in the Good Shepard Clinic in Benque, (pronounced ben –key) which is only 1.5 miles from Guatemala. About 15-20 children are usually seen there.

SLIDE 8 – Aaron Mendoza had been treated for bilateral leg problems and returned home with the current team. Here Chris Lashley is showing his mother how to do his physical therapy while Charlene Brennan looks on.

SLIDE 9 - Two dwarfs, brother aged 11 and sister aged 12, have been followed for several years. It was decided to bring the girl back for some corrective surgery on her legs. Unfortunately, due to some physical defects, she could not get an anesthetic, so she returned home without being treated.

SLIDE 10 – Here a 44 year old grandmother has brought her grand daughter for follow-up after hip surgery. Note that there was no X-Ray view box. A view box was recently donated by the Swansea club and was taken there by Gene Verdu .

SLIDE 11 – One of the most common problems treated through this program is clubbed feet. Here is a boy who is to be scheduled to begin treatment through the program. At the present time, he is with a host family in Carbondale and is awaiting surgery.

SLIDE 12 – Surgical teams other than ours go to Belize, operate and leave without performing adequate follow-up of their treatment. Here is a girl who shows the result of inadequate follow-up. Her feet are not straight. The before treatment X-Rays (upper left) show how crooked her feet were and the lower left show that her bones are still not straight. She will be brought up for further surgery by Dr. Sheridan in the future.

SLIDE 13 –Margaret Juan is a very dedicated woman who has served as Director of the Good Shepard Clinic for years. Here she is discussing a case with Dr. Sheridan.

SLIDE 14 – The Rotary Club of Beaver creek, Ohio donated a truck to the clinic.

SLIDE 15 – The next clinic visited was held at Dandriga (pronounced dan-dree- ga) which is on the coast. The Hummingbird Highway, one of the few paved highways in the country, carries one to the Southern Regional

Hospital where the clinic is held. Citrus groves are seen along the route, some of which go right up the side of the mountain.

SLIDE 16 – The next case is that of a Mayan Indian boy who has a congenitally absent left foot. He will be brought to Shriner's for revision of the stump so he can be fitted with a prosthesis.

SLIDE 17 – This 12 year old Mayan boy had fallen about three weeks before and had broken his left forearm. X-Rays showed that the fracture had not been properly set. He will be brought up for surgical correction of the defect at a later date.

SLIDE 18 – This two year old has bowed legs. Dr. Sheridan's advice to the mother was to try to get the girl to lose weight...She will be followed in the clinic and, if the problem does not correct itself, she will be brought here for treatment.

SLIDE 19 – A high percentage of the populace is below the poverty level. Houses may be open-sided with thatched roofs. On the right, one sees representative samples of dwellings. On the left is a plantation owner's home...homes like this are few and far between outside the major towns.

SLIDE 20 – The third clinic was held in the country's largest city, Belize City which is also on the coast. It is held in the Carl Huesner Hospital.

SLIDE 21 – Here is a scene from the waiting room. It is not unusual to have 60 or 70 patients come to this clinic. This was a "light" day with only about 45 being seen.

SLIDE 22 – Kristin is a 15 year old girl who had a severe curvature of the spine. This picture was taken "before" and shows a marked deformity of her spine.

SLIDE 23 - Here, Dr. Sheridan is reviewing her X-Rays in follow-up. She is standing straight and she and her family were very pleased with the result. Note that the X-Rays show a lot of metal hardware which is holding her spine straight.

SLIDE 24 – Tess Dawson had been treated for a short left leg in December, 2003. The Harsins had hosted him. Here Dr. Sheridan is reviewing his X-Rays. He did well.

SLIDE 25 – Jamal Joseph had also been hosted by the Harsins. He had bilateral hip problems, which, due to a number of factors, were not treated. Now 15, he will be followed in the clinic until age 21 and, if indicated, could get treatment up to that age.

SLIDE 26 – Hal did a make-up at the Rotary Club of Belize. Here he is exchanging banners with the club president.

SLIDE 27 – So, what can you do to help? In addition to the transportation of the children, other expenses continue to add to the cost of their treatment. Expenses encompassing the transportation amount to about \$1,000 per child along with the same costs for a chaperone. Wheel chair rental, prostheses and crutches, to name a few, add to the cost. Therefore, as a club or as an individual, please consider donating dollars to the project. Also, host families are always needed and they do not have to be Rotarians. For those of you who live far away from St. Louis, several Metro-east clubs have agreed to provide overnight accommodations for the host families in order that they might get to early morning clinic appointments

THANK YOU!.

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