

A Decade of Support for Local Charities - by Lisa Scanio

"Charity begins at home". When Dino told me about his dream of giving back to others by starting an O & P Foundation, those were my words to him. As a third generation Tampa native, I feel privileged to have spent my life in this wonderful city. I was able to volunteer with many local organizations throughout my teenage years and beyond.



As a matter of fact, I met Dino while volunteering at a golf tournament to raise money for a local ALS Foundation. So after we married in 2004, Dino and I planned to fulfill our dream of charity at home and abroad. Just 3 years later, the Florida O & P Outreach Team was born.

A few local charity donations came out of sheer gratitude and appreciation for their assistance. The Speech Therapy department at Shriners Hospital for Children was a tremendous help to our first son, who suffered bouts of severe reflux and aspiration as a baby. Our second son was born 10 weeks premature, and spent 60 days in the quaint 15 bed NICU at University Community Hospital. Other charities were started by wonderful, local individuals who do great things with small amounts of support. The IamMore Foundation provides the opportunity for special needs children to play sports. The Clinic of Angels provides financial assistance to chronically ill patients. The HOPE Children's Home provides a home, family atmosphere and private education for children who have been discarded, abused or unwanted. These are just a few of the organizations that make a real difference!



As we journey into our second decade, I am filled with hope and excitement. I am confident that our Foundation will continue to grow and give back and I am so grateful to our friends and family who continue to support us in our endeavor to serve others.



How We Began - by Dino Scanio

My passion for helping others began at an early age. After becoming an American Board Certified and State Licensed Orthotist, I wanted to start a humanitarian clinic. In 2007, with the help of my family, I made this dream come true. The FOOT Foundation clinic in Guatemala City (and now in Antigua) specializes in pediatrics, and has provided orthotics and prosthetics to hundreds of children.

My wife, Lisa, is the Co-Founder and Fundraising Chairperson. She is responsible for all aspects of fundraising and selecting Florida charities seeking Foundation assistance. Lisa focuses on small local charities. They may not receive global exposure, but they perform great acts of charity in our own backyard.

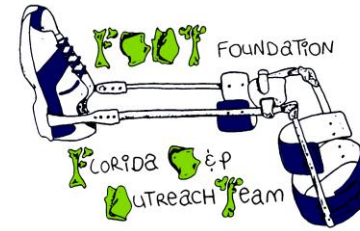
Lisa and I are both Tampa natives and have been blessed with two sons. Our youngest son was diagnosed with Progressive Mitochondrial Myopathy in 2012. Therefore, we also strive to provide ongoing education and awareness about this disease for which there is no cure.

Website: www.footfoundation.org Facebook: FOOT Foundation Twitter: @FOOTFoundation1

Contact us:
footfoundation2007@yahoo.com

The FOOT (Florida O & P Outreach Team) Foundation is a 501(c)3 Public Charity. All donations are tax deductible.

FOOT Foundation 17633 Gunn Highway, Suite 135 Odessa, Florida 33556



The mission of The FOOT Foundation - Florida O & P Outreach Team is to provide orthotic and prosthetic services to children and adults of impoverished countries. The Foundation is also committed to giving back to local community charity organizations, and to increasing awareness for Mitochondrial Disease.

Florida O&P Outreach Team: Improving Lives One Person at a Time

Clinic Team Celebrates 10 Years of Improving Lives, One Person at a Time

The past 10 years have flown as we grew from a humanitarian trip with a host group, to operating two clinics of our own. More than 375 children have been provided with much needed orthotic and prosthetic services. Dozens of prosthetics and hundreds of orthotic braces gave children (and parents) a renewed hope for the future. These patients now have the ability to transition into the local community like everyone else.

Over the past 10 years, the humanitarian care we provided was recognized by local media both in Guatemala and the US. Over 20 articles have journaled our accomplishments, and we hope to continue our mission for many years to come. Our second clinic in Antigua is complete, and the first few patients will be seen in September, 2017. Mike Traina, local Tampa artist and owner of Art District, Inc. (he also designed our logo), will be painting a custom mural as the finishing touch.



We are truly fortunate to have a wonderful working relationship with the Guatemalan Government. The President and First Lady have visited our clinic, and the Health Minister's staff has been instrumental in helping us utilize our resources to benefit the neediest families.



I want to take a moment to thank two special people. Mike Hanson and Bryan Sinnott have been by my side since our first FOOT Foundation journey. They selflessly use their own vacation time and money to help fulfill this beautiful mission each and every year. Because of their personal commitment to volunteerism, we have made a real difference in the lives of so many. I am so grateful for the steadfast dedication of these wonderful individuals.

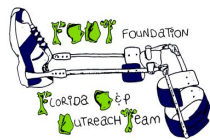
I also want to thank Julio Duarte and his family in Guatemala. My most important goal when I began this organization was simple. I needed to train local practitioners so they had the skills to fabricate and maintain the O & P devices in their local community. I wanted to ensure that patients were able to continue using their devices safely and efficiently, well after we departed. Julio and his son Julito, along with Brian and Mike, were instrumental in helping to quickly achieve this goal. In my opinion, empowering a community to care for its own is such a beautiful and vital component of charitable service to others.

As I reflect on the last 10 years, I am humbled by the kindness of our families, our friends, and even strangers. The generosity of our supporters is the only reason that our dream became a reality. I am overcome with gratitude that we are able to use our God given talents to help these beautiful children. Giving back is truly a blessing because the heart and soul are immediately repaid.

I look forward to the next 10 years with hope and renewed strength. I know the future holds such promise for our small organization. We will continue to dream big as we pursue our mission of Improving Lives...One Person at a Time!

For pictures, media articles, and more information, please visit our website at www.footfoundation.org.





Kid Volunteers can make a Big Difference!

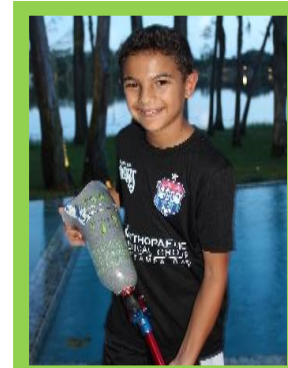
Children are NEVER too young to volunteer or support a charity. Just a simple act, like helping to cook a meal or work in a garden for an elderly neighbor or injured friend, can make such a difference. We are constantly amazed and so proud of the youngsters who give of themselves. When children learn to volunteer at a young age, it becomes a natural part of their life. Children with a love and compassion for humanity are a wonderful gift to the world.



The FOOT Foundation and friends volunteered at HOPE Children's Home this year, and our children all joined in! Liam and Liana Fernandez, Shane Steacy, Ana Hernandez, Genevieve Lujan, and our sons Giovanni and Gianluca Scanio spent a Saturday sweeping, mopping and cleaning. They also took an evening to pre-pack special treat bags for each of the HOPE children. Kids helping kids...what a beautiful BLESSING!



Makenzie Lawrey is on a MILLION DOLLAR MISSION! When her brother Gavin was diagnosed with Mitochondrial Disease, she was just 8 years old. She wrote a book about Gavin and decided to raise \$1 Million for research and awareness. To date Makenzie has raised over \$200K! This year, at the age of 12, she launched Handmade Pieces of Hope, and sold her beautiful handmade goods, including these adorable foot-shaped soaps to raise money for our Mitochondrial Disease Camp. Gavin has been taking pictures since age 5, and sells portraits to raise money too. What a Dynamic Duo!



Jacob Wahba, age 11, chose the FOOT Foundation as his school service project. He spent time doing research and creating displays to explain the mission of the Foundation. In just one week, Jacob successfully raised over \$150, and even collected dozens of new toy cars to give to our patients, who have so little. What a giving spirit with a HEART for others!



Avery Guise used her craftiness to design and make "Copacabana" centerpieces for the 2016 FOOT Foundation Fundraiser. She also pitched in with her mom at the Raffle Ticket Table. At 13, Avery is a veteran volunteer who loves to give back!



Our son Giovanni, 11, has been volunteering nearly half his life. But last year, he tackled an adult-sized job! Giovanni (photo from that night with best friend Lily Weber), was the designated Photographer for the 2016 FOOT Foundation Fundraiser. For

almost 4 hours, this pint-sized paparazzi artfully snapped away. He captured more than 800 photos of our 250+ guests, candids on the dance floor and even some journalistic shots of our raffle/auction setup. The results were SPECTACULAR and we couldn't be prouder of his continued dedication to service!



The dedicated dancers of Mary Jo's Performing Arts Academy take time to volunteer at our events. Their beauty and grace are such a special addition and we are so appreciative of their commitment. A little over a year ago, they launched a fundraising competition by age group. Extra change was tossed into water bottles for weeks as the dancers battled for 1st place. The result? Over \$2,000 for Mitochondrial Disease Awareness! We are so grateful to the children of MJPAA for choosing to make a difference each day!

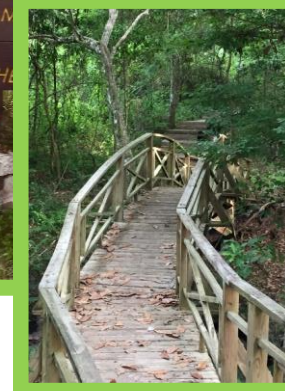


Now Taking Applications for our First Camp H.O.P.E.

The FOOT Foundation will be hosting our inaugural Mitochondrial Disease Camp for families. Camp H.O.P.E. (Handling Obstacles through Play and Education) is scheduled for May 4-6, 2018 at the Lakewood Retreat campgrounds in Brooksville, FL. This will be the first family-based camp focused on Mitochondrial Disease in the Southeast United States!



Families and children with Mitochondrial Disease will laugh, have fun, and make lifelong memories at Camp H.O.P.E. each year. For 3 days, they will relax, play and learn how to handle challenges and overcome obstacles. The goal is to provide these children with a true "Camp" experience.



We are accepting applications for Camp families, and volunteers at our website beginning on September 1, 2017. We are limited to 15 families (includes Mito patient, parents, siblings) per year.

If you are interested in applying, or becoming a volunteer, please go to www.mitogladiator.com for more information.



The 2nd Annual Casting for a Cure Fishing Tournament was terrific thanks to our families and friends who support



us each and every year. Over \$7,000 was raised for Mitochondrial Disease Awareness, and everyone had a wonderful time. Thank you to Southeastern Fishing Tackle for creating and sponsoring this great event!



Thank you to my family, especially my Mom & Dad, my brothers Vince & Darin, and my uncle Mike for everything you do to make this event possible.

A special thank you to our friend Christie Granowicz, and Circles Waterfront in Apollo Beach for providing an amazingly delicious buffet and such a beautiful venue to enjoy!



September 17-23, 2017 is Global Mitochondrial Awareness Week
Please go to www.mitogladiator.com for more information

