

Giovanni's Birthday Bowl-a-Thon (by Giovanni Scanio)

f This year for my birthday I decided to have a Bowl-A-Thon for the foundation. All my life my parents have preached to me that giving back to the community is one of the most important things to do, and I felt that this

was a good way to do it.



We had a great turnout and it was truly a success. We had about 12 teams compete. Seeing all these people who care about me and the foundation was very moving. I am very appreciative of everyone who came out and supported the foundation. All of the money earned will be used for buying sock and components for Guatemala and from the local charity we support this year.



 $oldsymbol{O}$ ne of my favorite things to do is bowl, so ${ t I}$ wanted to see hoe I could make it a fundraiser. I think that all the partakers in the tournament had a good time. This was the best way to celebrate my birthday in my opinion. Thank you to everyone who came and made my birthday truly amazing.

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 clinics in Guatemala City and Antiqua specialize in pediatrics and have 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.



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

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FOOT Foundation Newsletter



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

Annual Trip to Guatemala City (by Giovanni Scanio)

No matter how many times we go to Guatemala, there are never enough words to explain how amazing the trip is. I had the privilege to attend the 2019 summer trip to Guatemala. This was my third time going to Guatemala, and this was my second time going to the City clinic.

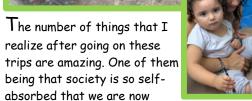


As a child I had heard my father tell stories about these trips. I heard almost everything that happened and I had seen almost every picture. I thought I knew what our foundation did, but I quickly found that I did not half of what we truly did. Seeing all of those children that were satisfied and happy with their life when they couldn't even walk was eye opening. Everything they received, from a pair of socks to being able to walk for the first time they had the upmost gratitude.



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same age as me. He lost his leg while helping his dad on the roof of his house. He was told to move an electrical wire with a PVC pipe. He moved it with a metal bar on accident and he was electrocuted from his fingers down to his toes. The kid had the biggest personality and could not be happier. After we made his prosthetic and he walked across the clinic room, he was immediately brought to tears. The amount of joy from his family was unexplainable.



forcing people to volunteer their time. If you do not know

what I mean, the phrase "Service Hours" should ring a bell. Many schools are not letting kids advance to the next grade if they don't meet a certain amount of service hours. We should be willing to volunteer our time and effort to help others. Many organizations would suffer if kids didn't need service hours for school. That is pretty sad in my opinion. For many years, holidays would be approaching and my family would ask me "what presents do you want us to get you". I wouldn't know what to ask for, I realize that it's because I have too many things, and yet I never felt satisfied. The



only time that I really am completely satisfied is when I know I change a life for the better. I hope that you will do the same.

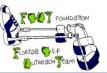
Antiqua Clinic Visit (by Lisa Scanio)



got when I stepped in the room and saw, firsthand, the fruits of our labor. To see the children and the facility is so special. I also got to meet the wonderful people who help our Foundation with our efforts each year. We helped out with feeding and transporting children, and were able to make 10 sets of braces (along with some adjustments and repairs) during our two days there. While we have helped nearly 50 children since opening our doors in 2017, there are still so many in need of care. My visit just made me want to work harder to make a difference in the lives of these kids!

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The Value of being a Volunteer

Each of us is blessed with talents that make us unique and special. These talents are often used in a chosen profession to earn a living or even supplement income. There are many people who are wealthy and successful because of their talents, but they are somehow left unsatisfied. But when talent is used for the sole benefit of helping others, even the largest void can be filled. Volunteerism is a beautiful gift of self that has the unique (and scientifically proven) ability to release "feel good" endorphins in the mind. It is the epitome of a win-win! I encourage you to find a way to use your talents to help others. The reward is greater than you can imagine!

St. Timothy Catholic Church is home to the Creative Hands Ministry. These ladies meet several times a month and create greeting cards, baby items and other beautiful craft items to brighten the lives of others. To help our Foundation, the Creative Hands Ministry sewed orthotic straps and pads for our braces. This is so helpful because the quick pace and number of patients at our clinics, much of the prep work needs to be done in advance in order for the clinic to be successful. Currently the ladies are working on bibs and diapers for the patients in our Antigua clinic. We are so grateful to the Creative Hands group for a "helping hand", and we look forward to our continued partnership.





Wow! When most kids are making a birthday list, these twins are choosing which charity to support for their birthday. Most children focus on expensive gifts, sports, social media and Xbox, but these two youngsters make it their mission to helping others. We were so excited to hear that the FOOT Foundation was selected by **Jacob** and **Jada**'s 8th birthday celebration. **Tiana Walker**, take a bow because you are raising amazing children who have given me hope for humanity. Because of Jacob and Jada, we will continue to Improve Lives, One Person at a Time!



Brian and **Lisette Fernandez** are active volunteers in their church and community. As the Owner of Allstate Insurance in Lutz, Lisette was aware that Allstate had a give back program for employees who volunteer their time to non-profit organizations. She traveled to Guatemala with us in 2018. She was overwhelmed by how much good we did with very limited resources, and she also fell in love with the children in our Antigua clinic. This year, Lisette returned with us to Antigua, and also

surprised us with another generous donation! Thank you, Lisette and Brian for your constant support and friendship!

Our friend Ludwiga McClendon, affectionately known as Ludi, is a devoted community volunteer, youth mentor and a native of Guatemala. When Ludi found out about our organization, she was immediately drawn to help. She provided us much needed insight into logistical issues we encountered, and then generously offered her family's home for us to stay in Antigua in order to save money on lodging. Ludi has also made two trips with us and is even planning a trip for our church youth in 2020. Her love for her native country and the beautiful people there shines through in all she does and we are so grateful for her support!



Mito Gladiator News

FOOT Foundation honored with Commendation



In September, the FOOT Foundation was officially presented with a Commendation from the Tampa City Council. It is an honor to be recognized for our many years of service and support to others, and we hope to continue our endeavors for many years. A recognition of our efforts, like this one, is even more incentive for our Foundation to continue Improving Lives...One Person at a Time!





Camp H.O.P.E. Update

We have great news! The FOOT Foundation has teamed up with Mito Action and Give Kids the World to make Camp H.O.P.E. a reality! Give Kids the World Village is an 84-acre storybook resort in Orlando. Children with critical illnesses, and their families, are given a cost-free weeklong vacation at this beautiful resort, and are also provided with daily entertainment and theme park tickets.

In coordination with Mito Action, Camp H.O.P.E. will be providing transportation expenses for families and children with Mitochondrial Disease to visit Give Kids the World for a week in May, 2020. We hope that this first event is a successful one so that we can continue this well into the future. We will be sure to keep you all updated on our Camp H.O.P.E. adventures!



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Mito Awareness Week - September 15-21, 2019







Mito Awareness Week was a great one! This year, we were able to plan an Awareness Lunch at Gianluca's school. Nearly every teacher and staff joined us for lunch. So many of them had never heard of Mito, and many questions were answered. We are so happy to be in a school that is so supportive of our family and our efforts. Surrounding our Mito Gladiator with support is so important in the fight against Mito!

Next year, we hope to expand our Awareness efforts, and are even working on a Going Green for Mito campaign in our area. We look forward to seeing some downtown buildings (or even the Sunshine Skyway) light up green! If you are interested in helping us with next year's Mito Week, please go to www.mitogladiator.com for updates.