

If it were not for hope...the heart would break.

Hope For Tomorrow

Fall 2008

Vol. 3 Issue II

Letter from Dr. Meilman



Dear Friends,
I am proud to announce this is our fifteenth year anniversary of the Hope For Tomorrow Foundation.

I fondly remember our beginning and have happily observed our steady growth over the years. In 1990, during a private audience with His Holiness Pope John Paul II, the idea of assisting the poor around the world originated and took root. I salute everyone who has volunteered and their generosity.

Looking forward, I am hoping for your more active involvement and interest in our mission. Children and young adults in third world countries have benefited from reconstructive surgeries provided by our foundation. I believe that the Hope For Tomorrow Foundation is a great vehicle for Buffalonians to contribute to both worldwide and local charitable endeavors.

I thank all of you, our supporters, who have helped to better the lives of over 1500 children.

~ Dr. Jeffrey Meilman

Peru Trip 2008

At the end of May through the beginning of June, Hope For Tomorrow with a medical team of seven professionals and nine volunteers left Buffalo to return for the second year to donate surgery and medical care in Juliaca, Peru at the Carlos Monge Hospital. Upon arrival there were several hundred patients and their families lined up in the corridor in

the hospital for screening, all hoping to become surgical recipients. Twenty-nine candidates were chosen and received cleft lip and palate surgery by Dr. Meilman and cataract surgery by Dr. Anthone. Dr. Huebschmann, a Niagara Falls anesthesiologist, administered anesthesia for all the surgical cases. Registered nurses Karen Carlo, MariLou Peters, Janice Vosburgh, and Physician Assistant Sara Martineck assisted the Doctors. Karen Carlo and Jan Vosburgh have traveled on previous Hope For Tomorrow missions. Dr. Rice, from Niagara Falls, performed consultations on wound care also at the Carlos Monge Hospital. While the team was in Juliaca, we met Yolanda Quispe Mamani who was badly burned in a fire ten years ago and we have made arrangements to bring her back as this years Hope For Tomorrow recipient. We also had the pleasure of being greeted by Hope For Tomorrow recipient Moises who has completely recovered from his surgery last



Left to right: Janice Vosburgh, Marilou Peters, Antoinette Andolina, Hope For Tomorrow 2007 Recipient Moises, Dr. Jeffrey Meilman, Michele Straeck, Katherine Gallivan and Dr. Huebschmann.

year at Kenmore Mercy Hospital. He was proud to show the group his home where he is living with his brother.

The volunteers on the mission were Antoinette Andolina, Stan Coleman, Katherine Gallivan, Janet Long, Brian Rusk, and Michele Straeck, along with siblings Jenna and Andrew Gage, children of the late Dr. Gage, who spent part of their summer college break traveling with the group. On the way back to the United States the group made a schedule stop in the Galapagos Islands where unexpectedly the team was asked to correct a cleft lip on a three month old baby boy. The local operating room had to be converted to accommodate the infant and the surgery was successful. The team was thanked by P. Michael McKinley the US Ambassador to Peru, and Leopoldo Mora the mayor of Santa Cruz, Galapagos Islands. To date, Hope For Tomorrow has operated on over 1,500 children worldwide.

2008 Hope For Tomorrow Honorees



Gene Vukelic

International Community Service Award

Gene Vukelic is Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Try-It Distributing Co., Inc., a leader in the nation's beverage distribution industry.

Try-It Distributing Co., Inc. serves Western New York clients from a state-of-the-art sales and service center in Lancaster, New York, its corporate headquarters.

Gene heads the Company founded by his father, the late Stephen L. Vukelic, of Lackawanna, New York in 1928. Growing up in the family business, Gene completed his education at Canisius High School and LeMoyne College and served as an instructor with the U.S. Marine Corps 3rd Marine Division before joining the Company full time.

While building upon the foundation created by his father 75 years ago, and introducing his own five sons into the Company, Gene has led the Company to national prominence, handling the products of Anheuser-Busch, Inc., Labatt USA and Heineken USA. Try-It Distributing Co., Inc. has received numerous awards marking its sales achievements and business milestones. In 2003, Gene was awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award from Labatt USA. Gene was also the Honoree for the Sammy Award from the New York State Beer Wholesalers Association.

Gene is well known for always balancing his Company responsibilities with his personal efforts to support civic and charitable causes. He has performed an exceptional legacy of community service and remains at the forefront of Try-It's commitment as an involved corporate citizen. In 2003, Gene was awarded the Caritas Award from the St. Joseph's Hospital Foundation. In 1997, the Center for Entrepreneurship at Canisius College chose Try-It for the Family Business of the Year Award.

Gene received the Executive of the Year Award for 2003 from Buffalo Niagara Sales & Marketing. Gene has served as president of four area organizations, Mercy Hospital Foundation Board of Trustees, the Buffalo Executives Association, PROBUS and The Buffalo Club. He is a past treasurer of the Automobile Club of Western and Central New York.

Not-for-profit agencies, institutions and charities benefiting children and education are major beneficiaries of his volunteer leadership. Among them are Baker Victory Services, Muscular Dystrophy Association (MDA), Christ the King Seminary, Nardin Academy, Canisius High School and Canisius College. He is a member of the Bishop's Lay Advisory Council.

The Western New York Chapter of MDA bestowed its Humanitarian of the Year Award on Gene Vukelic in February, 1998 for his "extraordinary service" over many years.



Ronald Kessler

Humanitarian of the Year Award

Ronald Kessler is chief Washington correspondent of Newsmax.com.

Kessler is also The New York Times best-selling author of 17 non-fiction books. Kessler began his career as a journalist in 1964 on the Worcester Telegram, followed by three years as an investigative reporter and editorial writer with the Boston Herald. In 1968, he joined the Wall Street Journal as a reporter in the New York bureau. He became an investigative

reporter with The Washington Post in 1970 and continued as a staff writer until 1985.

Kessler has won 16 journalism awards, including two George Polk Awards — one for national reporting and one for community service. He won the top prize for business and financial reporting given by the Washington chapter of the Sigma Delta Chi society of professional journalists. Kessler has also won the American Political Science Association's Public Affairs Reporting Award, The Associated Press' Sevellon Brown Memorial Award, and Washingtonian magazine's Washingtonian of the Year award. He is listed in "Who's Who in America."

A 3.75-square-mile island, Palm Beach is known as the most wealthy, glamorous, opulent, sinful spot on earth. It is home to billionaires like Donald Trump, trust fund babies, women addicted to staying beautiful, and the sophisticated

"walkers" who escort them, portrayed through Kessler's novel "The Season: Inside Palm Beach and America's Richest Society."

Kessler's latest book, "The Terrorist Watch: Inside the Desperate Race to Stop the Next Attack," presents the chilling story of terrorists' relentless efforts to mount another devastating attack on the United States and of the heroic efforts being made to stop those plots. Drawing on unprecedented access, the book takes readers inside the war rooms of this battle for our survival — from the newly created National Counterterrorism Center to FBI headquarters, from the CIA to the National Security Agency, from the Pentagon to the Oval Office — to explain why we have gone so long since 9/11 without a successful attack and to reveal the many close calls we never hear about.

Hope For Tomorrow Foundation

Chairman

Dr. Jeffrey Meilman

Secretary

Cynthia Guzik

Directors

George Barbary

Karen Carlo

Anna Marie Diina

Lorraine Engl

John Lenahan

Brian D. Rusk

Richard Slisz

Michael C. Straeck

Michele Straeck

This Year's Recipient



Yolanda Quispe Mamani

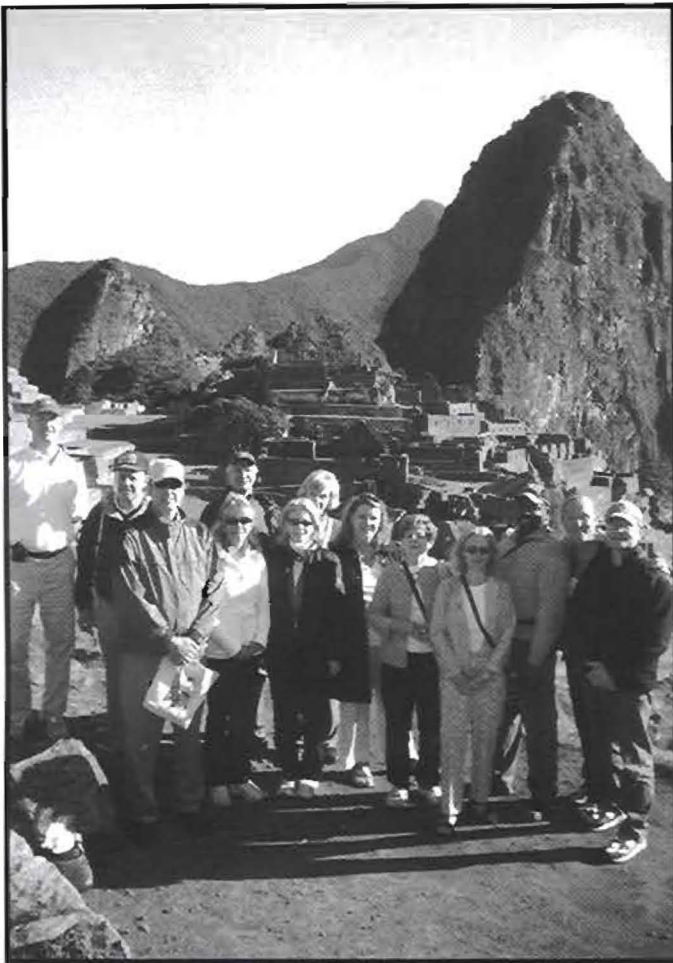
Yolanda Quispe Mamani is a twenty-two year old epileptic introduced to the Hope For Tomorrow Foundation through a recent humanitarian trip to Peru.

Yolanda was at a party in her hometown of Juliaca, Peru where she had a seizure and fell into a large fire pit sustaining life threatening burn injuries to her face, neck, and chest.

Your support will significantly change and improve her life forever.

At last year's **Hope For Tomorrow** Dinner a net profit of \$60,000 was raised. These funds will provide for two major plastic surgery operations for needy children from third world countries. We hope to raise \$65,000 from the **2008 Hope For Tomorrow Charity Dinner**.

Peru 2008 ~ Humanitarian Mission



Hope For Tomorrow group photo overlooking the famous Inca city of Machu Picchu.



Siblings Andrew and Jenna Gage



Mother and surgical recipient, Juliaca, Peru



Before



After

Galapagos Islands, 3 month old baby boy, cleft lip surgery, before and after

Hope For Tomorrow and Papal Encounters



Presenting the key to Buffalo to Pope, 1992



Surgical recipient Zhao Bin meeting Pope John Paul II in the Ukraine, 2002



HFT recipient Taras Kinash blessed by Pope John Paul II, 2003



Dr. Jeffrey Meilman meeting Pope Benedict XVI in Rome, 2006



Pope stopped procession in Turin, Poland to greet Buffalonians, 1999



HFT surgical recipient Tihana Vasarevic receiving Papal blessing, 1991

Hope For Tomorrow Surgical Recipients

We wish to acknowledge our kind hosts who graciously welcomed our surgical recipients into their homes.

YEAR	NAME	COUNTRY	HOST FAMILY
2007	Moises Ramos Mullisaca	Peru	Dan and Irma O'Connor
2007	Primalyn Elias	Philippines	Jack and Melany Sheedy
2007	Taylor Ingram	USA	Mrs. Shavetia Ingram
2006	Robert Grabowski	Poland	Hope For Tomorrow Foundation
2005	Ebele Ukanwa	Nigeria	Rev. Christopher Coric, Our Lady of Bistrice Church
2005	Stanley Nwachuka	Nigeria	Rev. Christopher Coric, Our Lady of Bistrice Church
2004	Izabela Baketeric	Bosnia	Rev. Christopher Coric, Our Lady of Bistrice Church
2003	Shresta Ezenwa	Nepal	Shriner's Hospital, Erie PA
2002	Taras Kinash	Ukraine	Svetlana Korczak
2002	Eglantina Pjetrushaj	Albania	Sal and Toni Andolina
2001	Zhao Bin	China	Rev. and Mrs. Sonny Lee
2000	Trevaughn Lewis	Jamaica	Ronald McDonald House
1999	Dorota Kasiorek	Poland	Kevin Guest House and Mr. and Mrs. Pat Cipolla
1999	Mehnoush Tafreshi	Iran	Mr. and Mrs. Pat Cipolla
1999	Marcin Cywka	Poland	Don and Ann Flansburg
1999	James Huebbers	USA	Sloan, New York
1998	Frank Pinzone	USA	Amherst, New York
1997	Meera Pardeshi	India	Karen Carlo
1996	Irina Nefyodova	Russia	Ronald McDonald House
1995	Tihana Vasarevic	Bosnia	Jim and Marie Sorrentino and Mike and Maryann Zylka
1994	Pan Ping	China	Mary Meilman
1993	Margaret Orłowska	Poland	Yolanta Cimini
1991	Aldonna Siebula	Poland	Sisters Hospital

Physicians

We wish to acknowledge the many physicians and the P.A. who have participated with the Hope For Tomorrow Foundation.

Dr. Kenneth Anthone	Ophthalmologist
Dr. Amar Atwal	Ophthalmologist
Dr. Riyaz Hassanali	Dermatologic Cosmetic Surgeon
Dr. John Hoebischmann	Anesthesiologist
Dr. Taj Jiva	Pulmonary Medicine
Dr. Hratch Karamanoukian	Cardiovascular Surgeon
Dr. Frank Koren	Dentist
Dr. Jack Kotlarz	Plastic Surgeon
Dr. Jeffrey Meilman	Plastic Surgeon
Dr. Krzysztof Merkel	Anesthesiologist
Dr. Thomas O'Connor	Anesthesiologist
Dr. Paul Paterson	Orthopedic Surgeon
Dr. Charles Rice	Wound Specialist
Dr. Jacek Sosnowski	Urologist
Dr. Joan M. Sulewski	Gynecologist
Sara Martineck	P.A.

Nurses

We wish to acknowledge the many physicians and the P.A. who have participated with the Hope For Tomorrow Foundation.

Ellen Colan
Karen Carlo
Andrea Greig
Chris Hanson
Julie Lindner
Pamela Long
Jennifer McCarthy
Marylou Peters
Joanne Slivinski
Janice Vosburgh



Hope For Tomorrow Event Chairs

We wish to thank the women who so graciously volunteered and so successfully directed the Hope For Tomorrow Charity Benefits.

2008 ~ Donna McGuire
and Audrey Russ

2007 ~ Donna McGuire

2002-2006 ~ Linda Culligan

2001 ~ Asenath Atwal and
Elaine Freedman

2000 ~ Bonnie Cipolla,
Dolly Gernatt, Shirley Rosen

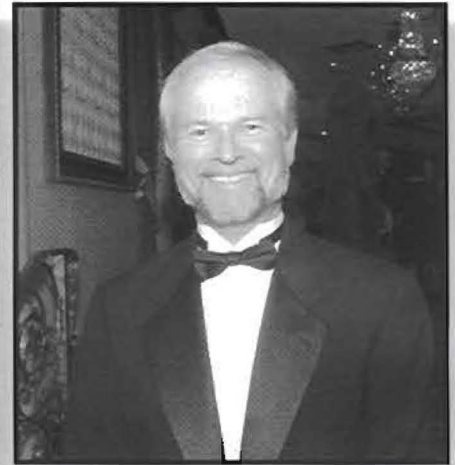
1999 ~ Dolly Gernatt
and Nancy Gacioch

1998 ~ Bonnie Cipolla
and Maria Stay

1997 ~ Shirley Rosen



Hope For Tomorrow Recipient Moises
and Event Chair Donna McGuire



Livingston Clark



John and Sally Lenahan



Rev. Christopher Coric



Asenath Atwal and Jessica Atwal

Hope For Tomorrow Foundation Raffle

- First Prize** - Samsung 50" Plasma HDTV (includes lifetime service)
- Second Prize** - 5 Days for Two in Las Vegas at Caesars Palace (includes airfare)
- Third Prize** - \$2,000 in Chips for Seneca Niagara Casino
- Fourth Prize** - \$500 in Chips for Seneca Niagara Casino

All prizes subject to availability. Drawing to be held September 26, 2008. Winner need not be present.

\$25.00 per Ticket • 5 Tickets/\$100.00

For Tomorrow Charity Event



MC - Don Postles and 2007 Hope For Tomorrow Recipient Taylor Ingram



John E.D. de la Browne, Dr. Jeffrey Meilman, Chairman, and Michael A. Young



Dr. Gary Wetreich, Mrs. Stephanie Meilman Wetreich, Board Member Karen Carlo, and Michael Young



Leiann and Billy Murphy




Grace Spier, Tom Spier, and Grace Spier

We are currently planning our next humanitarian mission for late May 2009 to Angola, Africa, returning through Rome where we hope to have our group have an audience with Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI.

If interested, please call
Tony Costantini at 716-886-4443.

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**NEW
GRAND
BALLROOM**

15th Annual

Hope For Tomorrow
Charity Benefit

Friday, September 26, 2008

 **Salvatore's Italian Gardens**
6461 Transit Road • Depew, New York

6:30 pm – Cocktails
7:30 pm – Dinner

Jeffrey Meilman, MD - Chairman
Donna McGuire - Event Chair
Audrey Russ - Co-Chair



Hope For Tomorrow Foundation

Jeffrey Meilman, MD
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