

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

Hope For Tomorrow

Spring 2009

Vol. 4 Issue I

Letter from Dr. Meilman



Dear Friends ~

We are entering our 16th year for Hope For Tomorrow. It's been a great experience for many of you who have participated with us either at our yearly event or on our humanitarian trips. I always remember those of you who helped us get started and all of you who have worked so hard throughout the years. I can't help but to remember all the hospitals we visited abroad and our many audiences with Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict XVI.

Last year's surgeries in Peru and Yolanda's surgery here at Kenmore Mercy Hospital were very successful and Yolanda is back in Peru with her family doing well. Now, looking forward to the coming year, Hope For Tomorrow plans to visit and work in the country of Ecuador on the Northwest coast of South America. We have been told that the need for medical and surgical care in the mountains north of Quito is great. On return, the trip will bring us through the Mayan ruins near Cancun. We all can be proud of our involvement with the more than 1500 children and their parents who we have helped throughout the world.

I hope to see many of you again participating this year.

~ Dr. Jeffrey Meilman, Chair

Yolanda's Day Trip

I was asked to write about my brief day trip with our guest of choice, Yolanda from Peru. Oddly enough I do not know where to begin. I thought it would be easier to write as a memoir of thoughts and the events that lead up to our trip, the trip itself, and my thoughts afterwards.

I first learned about Yolanda upon a visit to Dr. Meilman's office (which mind you is another story in of its self. But, that is for another time and place). The reason I chose Dr. Meilman was for his dedication to helping others. As I gazed around his office I took in all the clippings of past worldly jaunts to help heal the profoundly wounded and deformed if you will. Honestly, I thought botox would be a good future for me possibly. But then I thought otherwise. In looking and reviewing all these stories of massive reconstructive necessary surgery throughout his years of altruistic work, the first feeling I thought was guilt. I am a fine looking woman and aging quite normally I might add. How could I spend money reconstructing something that's quite within the normal ranges whatever that may be. I'm fine with that, almost. We live in a decadent society where perfection is in the eye of many beholders. It's a shame quite frankly.



Hope For Tomorrow surgical recipient Yolanda and Hope For Tomorrow volunteer Shereen Fox.

Anyways, my interest turned towards this new young lady that was chosen for help.

What could I do to help? Money doesn't cut it, not for me at least. I have a limited medical background. I'm a mental health counselor by trade but now a mommy of four and wife of one. So what could I do? I thought maybe I could at least take her out for a day or whatever is needed. That is exactly what I promised, a day for Yolanda out and about. I decided on Niagara Falls. Nature is a common lure to all human kind. I was very cognizant of Yolanda's background living in a tiny pueblo in Peru. I was guessing she knew little of our Western World. But nature could be a common ground.

Here were my thoughts: This poor woman will be shell shocked in total. Airplanes, black tie events, houses, strangers, food, sights, sounds, movements. You name it. If it were I, I would be quite terrified and territorial

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Yolanda's Day Trip (continued)

of my belongings and myself. Trust may be a concern no doubt.

I have traveled to many third world places in my life so I knew a bit. I also have a wonderful friend, Sandra Ocampos, who is bilingual and suffered from epilepsy herself, a bit in common with our patient. Sandra was not allowed to say no to me. She had to come.

The day came to take Yolanda out. Honestly, I didn't feel like it. I was tired, up all night with my newborn, and well I just was not up for it. But a promise is a promise. We picked Yolanda up at her hosts' house on the Waterfront. We weren't given that much information only because there wasn't much to give. I thought we would be calm, soothing, not overwhelming, and extremely observant to how Yolanda was handling our trip and us for that matter. Again, we had to be cognizant of her background; one that not any of us could comprehend I'm quite sure.

We realized quickly that her dialect was different. She had a bit of difficulty understanding Sandra but would not necessarily let on. We figured it out though. We then kept it simple and basic. I let her know to let me know if she needed anything to eat, drink and so on.

Niagara Falls. This amazed Yolanda. She darted here, there, and everywhere taking in all the power of the Falls. She didn't people watch as I thought she would. She was more interested in structures, the Canadian city side and of course the water. She was terrified of the Maid of the Mist so we elected out of that adventure. A big hit was the gift shop where she purchased many gifts for her siblings. After about four hours I think we decided to eat. Now, the American side is seriously lacking in all departments when it comes to food. We ended up at the Hard Rock Café. You want to talk about shock? I honestly feared Yolanda would end up having some sort of heart attack. It was overwhelming to state the very least.

I had a large beer at this point. We ordered, thankfully with Sandra's acute understanding that Yolanda wanted soft veggies and a plain hamburger. I'm sure she was clueless as to what to order. It would be like me going to Russia and ordering a meal. I have no idea. She liked a bit of what we each ordered so we all shared our food.

After dinner we took Yolanda home. She loved my jean jacket that I let her borrow because it got a bit chilly. I could tell she was cold so I insisted she wear it. She never asked mind you. I'm from Buffalo. I can handle shorts in the winter. Anyways, I gave her the coat, as she was transfixed with denim. I'm mentioning this only because I loved that damn jacket. Who cares, it's only a material nothing. Yolanda was thankful and Sandra and I felt well, tired, and glad she had a good day. We all did.

I think it's important to remember that you all touch lives and quite possibly you saved her life. Maybe she won't be the kind of story where she grows

up to be educated and "something" in life. The fact is you did help her. She may now not be frowned upon by her village natives or ostracized by other people. She may not be shunned anymore. Regardless, a life was helped. You cannot judge who deserves a bit of help because they all do. It's our job to help as many for no other reason than helping. It feels good to help because that is what we are meant to do. Keep it simple I always say. Help when you can in whatever way you can. Oh yeh, and a promise is a promise.

Thank you to all that helped Yolanda and the many before and the many to come.

~ Shereen Fox



Twenty-two year-old burn victim Yolanda Mamani of Peru Yolanda Quispe Mamani was greeted as she arrived at the Greater Buffalo Niagara International Airport for \$40,000 of donated plastic surgery, courtesy of plastic surgeon Dr. Jeffrey Meilman, Kenmore Mercy Hospital and the Hope For Tomorrow Foundation. Pictured above (left to right) are Hope For Tomorrow Event MC Don Postles, Ann Postles, Beverly Orcutt, Dan O'Connor, Father Matuzik, Dr. Jeffrey Meilman, HFT Recipient Yolanda, Cynthia Guzik, Irma O'Connor, Davis Tiburzi, and Janice Vosburg. Yolanda was injured after falling into a fire pit following an epileptic seizure in Juliaca, Peru.

2009 Hope For Tomorrow Destination

At this time Hope for Tomorrow Foundation Chair Dr. Jeffrey Meilman is planning to lead a humanitarian mission to the medical and dental clinic in Otavalo, Ecuador. Dr. Meilman hopes to perform about 20 cleft lip/palate surgeries at no charge for poor children in this small city. The delegation hopes to have noted Eye Physician and Surgeon Kenneth

Anthone once again join the mission to provide needed, donated cataract surgeries for the elderly of Otavalo.

Hope for Tomorrow also plans to have a TV crew to join us with a visit to an orphanage, meeting with Rotarian leaders, government officials and US leaders in Ecuador. After 4 busy days of surgery, the group will rest for a few days in Cancun, Mexico with a tour of

Mayan ruins. Approximate departure for 8 days will be in mid May, 2009. The cost is estimated at \$2,999 per double and \$3,599 per single including room, travel, breakfasts daily, 3 tours and dinner in Ecuador and Mexico. For info, please call Tony with Alidi Travel 886-4443. Bon Voyage!

Campanellas: New Board Members

Campanella Orthotics and Prosthetics has been in operation at its Linwood Avenue location for the past twenty-one years. Eight years ago Alex Campanella Certified Orthotist and President was contacted by Hope For Tomorrow. He was asked if his company would care to donate its skills to provide an artificial electronically controlled arm for an adolescent boy from Poland. One year later, Alex received a second similar request for another young boy from the Ukraine. In both cases the foundation made arrangements for transportation to our areas, both limbs were provided and functioned very well.

Since then Alex and his wife Ursula have traveled with the Hope For Tomorrow delegation. In each of their several trips, donations of brace and limb componentry and equipment have been delivered to developing countries.

Some of the countries the Campanellas have visited are Albania, Poland, Herzegovina, Nepal, Nigeria, and Peru. There have also been stops in Rome for audiences with the late Pope John Paul II. Our missions have had the blessing of his holiness. Each of our visits usually included a meeting with the U.S. Ambassadors and a visit to the local orphanages.

The delegates that will participate in the 2009 mission will be traveling to Ecuador. Dr. Meilman and his surgical staff will perform reconstructive surgery to children with birth or trauma deformities. Areas selected are those for which medical care is minimal or non-existent. The Campanellas will be available to evaluate those who may require braces or limbs. Of course, service to those in need come first but some time is always set aside for sightseeing. This is usually a guided tour of the general area or city. On the

return from Ecuador the group may stop in Mexico to visit Mayan ruins near Cancun. What is most fascinating is that the group visits some areas where tourists never have a chance to see.

Hope For Tomorrow Board of Directors

Chairman

Dr. Jeffrey Meilman

Board Secretary

Cynthia Guzik

Directors

Kenneth D. Anthone, M.D.

• George A. Barbary

Alexander Campanella

Ursula E. Campanella

Karen Carlo, R.N.

Anna Marie Diina

Lorraine Engl, Ph.D.

Jack Huebschmann, M.D.

John J. Lenahan II

Janet Long

Michele Patterson

Brian Rusk

Richard Slisz

Davis Tiburzi

* New members in italics

Hope For Tomorrow Foundation Raffle

- First Prize - \$2,000 in Chips for Seneca Niagara Casino
- Second Prize - 5 Days for Two in Las Vegas (includes airfare)
- Third Prize - Plasma TV and Home Theatre (\$1500 value)
- Fourth Prize - Laptop computer

All prizes subject to availability. Drawing to be held September 25, 2009. Winner need not be present.

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

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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
2008	Yolanda Mamani	Peru	Dan and Irma O'Connor and Nan Gallivan
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	Mehrnoush 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



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2008 Hope For Tomorrow Charity Event



HFT Board Member Cynthia Guzik, HFT Honoree Eugene Vukelic, HFT Chairman Dr. Jeffrey Meilman



Host mother Nan Gallivan, HFT surgical recipient Yolanda, Host mother Irma O'Connor



JD Crane and Catherine Baron



HFT board member Karen Carlo, Honoree Ron Kessler, HFT Chairman Dr. Jeffrey Meilman



Paul Fardink, Dr. Jeffrey Mailman, Joe Williams and Tom Rodak



Rosemary Marx and Fred Dentinger

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2008 Hope For Tomorrow



Honorees Mr. and Mrs. Ronald Kessler and Mr. Eugene Vukelic



Patrick Lee and Peter Vukelic



HFT Co-chair Audrey Russ and raffle winner Ivy Spier



Joseph, Elizabeth, and Lynette Dzwilewski



Raffle winner Donna Pietrocarlo



Danielle, Elaine, and Dan Latello



Mary Gage, Jenna Gage, Maureen Rusk, and Father Matuszik

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Charity Event

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

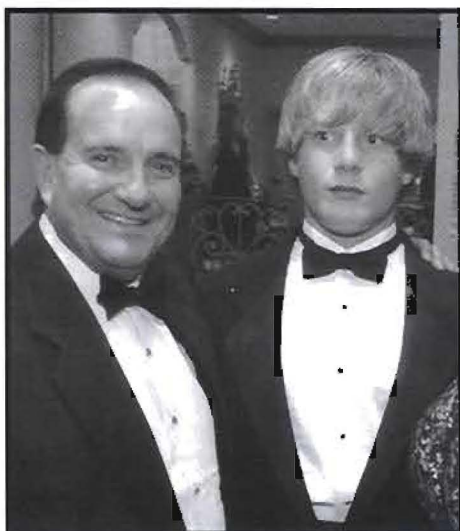
1999 ~ Dolly Gernatt
and Nancy Gacchio

1998 ~ Bonnie Cipolla
and Maria Stay

1997 ~ Shirley Rosen



HFT board members Anna Marie Diina and
Cynthia Guzik



Davis Tiburzi and son Davis



HFT chairman Dr. Jeffrey Meilman and
HFT board member Dr. Ken Anthonie



Mr. and Mrs. Paul Saffrin



Dr. and Mrs. Jack Huebschmann



L-R: Rosemary Rogers, Mary Greenwald, Rev. Msgr. Paul A.
Litwin, Nancy Perna, Sal Andolina, Toni Andolina, Tom
Greenwald, Maryann Sobczyk and Chester Sobczyk

PLEASE JOIN US
AT THE

*10th Annual
Hope for Tomorrow
Fundraiser*

Friday, September 25, 2009

Chairman
Jeffrey Meilman, MD

Salvatore's Italian Gardens



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16th Annual

**NEW
GRAND
BALLROOM**

Hope For Tomorrow
Charity Benefit

Friday, September 25, 2009

 Salvatore's Italian Gardens
6461 Transit Road • Depew, New York
6:30 pm – Cocktails
7:30 pm – Dinner

Jeffrey Meilman, MD - Chairman



Hope For Tomorrow Foundation

Jeffrey Meilman, MD
811 Maple Road
Williamsville, NY 14221

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