



Stephanie and Her Wheelchair – one small step

I would like to introduce you to a little girl named Stephanie and her mother Maritza. Stephanie was born with a syndrome called Cerebral Palsy (CP). CP is caused by complications during pregnancy such as when the baby's brain receives less oxygen than needed during development. This can be related to a lack of quality care for the mother during pregnancy. Due to CP, Stephanie developed severe motor paralysis and never has been able to walk on her own. As a result, her mother Maritza was forced to carry her everywhere they went.

We first met Stephanie when she was five years old. Maritza carried her to the Total Health clinic in Managua to see Dr. Walter Bonilla for medical care.

During a 2012 Total Health medical missionary brigade, Maritza again carried Stephanie to the clinic to be seen by the missionary doctors. Stephanie was seen by a Columbus, Ohio pediatrician, Dr. Chris Houts. Seeing Stephanie was a moving experience for Dr. Houts as one of his friends and colleagues has a daughter with a similar syndrome.

Upon returning home to Columbus, Dr. Houts told his friend about Stephanie. His friend's daughter is older than Stephanie and had outgrown her first wheelchair. It was a special wheelchair that had been made specifically to support Dr. Houts' friend's daughter. They still had the wheelchair and volunteered to give it to Stephanie.



Dr. Chris Houts

But, Dr. Houts still needed a way to get the wheelchair to the clinic in Managua. He contacted Total Health to see if we had any suggestions. As it turned out, there was another Total Health medical mission team headed to Managua a short time later from Minnesota. As a result, we were able to ship the wheelchair to Dr. Walter Argueta in Minnesota. Dr. Argueta then carried the wheelchair to Managua as part of his luggage.



Stephanie and Maritza with missionary Dr. Walter Argueta

Unfortunately Stephanie continues down a difficult road. She is currently at a local hospital receiving specialized care awaiting surgery for a muscle disease secondary to her CP.

Maritza continues to visit the clinic and always tells Dr. Bonilla how grateful she and her family are for this gift. It is such a small thing but it changes the quality of life for an entire family.

We at Total Health are very grateful for those, like Dr. Houtz and Dr. Argueta, who take the time out of their busy schedules to support those in need. We are even more blessed that they remember that the need remains after the missionaries return home. It is only through those of you that give of your time and financial resources that stories such as these are possible.

Nursing Care with Love

We have the opportunity to work with some wonderful and talented Central American medical professionals in the Total Health clinics. Briselda Antunez is one of those. Briselda is the registered nurse in the La Ceiba, Honduras clinic.

Briselda was born in Olanchito, a town about 106 kilometers (about 65 miles) south west of La Ceiba. She has been living in La Ceiba for the past 28 years.

Briselda is a single mother. She has an eighteen year old daughter Rina and a fifteen year old son Rafa.

Briselda was the first registered nurse to be employed at the La Ceiba clinic, and has been with the clinic since October, 2011. Not only are her technical skills high

quality, but she has a true heart for her patients. She is a loving and caring person that very much understands how to show God's love to her patients.

In Central America, a registered nurse is trained and given a bit more responsibility than here in the U.S. Accordingly, Briselda is trained to perform many aspects of well visits, GYN care and to treat some of the simpler medical problems. As a result of Briselda's knowledge, training and ability, the clinic is able see and treat many more patients than ever before.

In her spare time, when she is not busy loving on the patients, Briselda enjoys traveling the country and seeing the sights.



Rafa, Briselda, and Rina

We are extremely thankful and blessed to have Briselda on staff at the clinic. If any of you would like to assist specifically with Briselda's support, please see the instructions to the right and indicate Briselda on your donation.

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