

OSBORNE HEAD
& NECK FOUNDATION

Newsletter



DREAM WITH US

*Supporting a healthier future
through community building and
humanitarian aid.*



ABOVE: Medical Mission volunteers in Peru stop for a photo on their way to the hospital in 2019

PATIENT STORY



Faces Of Change

In February of 2021, after spending more than a decade in self isolation, Texas resident Roger Hernandez came to the Foundation in desperation.

Roger suffered from an extreme case of rhinophyma, a skin disorder that typically is characterized by red, bumpy or bulbous growths on the nose. In his case, the growths became so extreme they complicated Roger's ability to eat, breath and talk.

When we met Roger, his disease had developed two, heavy, grapefruit sized bulbs on his face. Engaging in the basic joys of life, and connecting with other people was constantly a challenge.

Finding employment was impossible, and he regularly was asked to leave places of business because of the way he looked.

Roger's life was no longer his

own, and as his condition worsened, it drove him into seclusion.

Without income, Roger didn't have the ability to pay for health insurance or continue to seek options for care. At 60 years old Roger came to the Foundation hoping we could help him get his life back. This man was hurting, both physically and emotionally.

"The Foundation exists to help people like Roger, who feel alone and have nowhere else to turn" said Dave Dell, Executive Director of the Foundation. "Through medical partnerships we were able to address underlying health concerns that Roger developed due to his condition, including coronary disease, high blood pressure, and anemia."

With the expertise of volunteer surgeons, and the resources provided by donors, the surgical team was able to map



ABOVE: Roger Hernandez suffers from rhinophyma, a skin disorder that progressively took over his nose

"The Foundation exists to help people like Roger, who feel alone and have nowhere else to turn"



CONTINUED: FACES OF CHANGE

out a plan to change Roger's life. On February 7, 2021 after 15 hours of surgery, Roger emerged from the operating room feeling and looking like a man he had not seen in years.

Although he will need at least one more surgery to complete his journey with us, Roger is expected to make a full recovery.



ABOVE: Two weeks after surgery Roger Hernandez is healing, and enjoying a renewed life.

Community Outreach

Supporters, and past patients of Dr. Osborne and Dr. Hamilton, are remotely teaming up to ensure the **Osborne Head and Neck Foundation's new Medical Community Center** is brought to life.

Five teams have committed to helping raise the Capital Campaign's \$5 million fundraising goal, with \$500k raised to date.

These passionate members are sharing their personal experiences of needing the medical services the Foundation provides, and asking their social clubs, churches, families and businesses, to join in this community effort.

Want to get involved? Join an existing team, or create your own. For more information visit ohnifoundation.org/team-fundraising



"If sharing my experience will bring attention to the critical work the Foundation does to help people in need, it's the least I can do"

-Patricia Campbell, Patient



Paws For Patients Virtual Love



Above: Aimee Ferguson and her Golden Retriever Laney

In Early 2020, superstar volunteer Aimee Ferguson started a therapy dog program through the Foundation, with her golden retriever Laney. The program was aimed at giving comfort to patients who were facing difficult health issues.

Little did we know, Covid-19 would change the direction of the program dramatically. Almost overnight, the world stopped, but we saw an opportunity for Laney to expand her work to help people through online visits.

Quickly word spread about this unique virtual therapy dog program, and she was even

highlighted on several news stations. Laney's cheery disposition comforted many people having difficulty coping with a world turned upside down, calming anxieties and freeing people momentarily from their isolation.

Over the past year Laney's been a great help to parents and teachers while she listens to children practice their reading. Schools across the country have welcomed her into their online classrooms, and some have even made her their official mascot.

She has taught all of us, we can continue to help people, even in the most dire circumstances.

"We had to cancel our Medical Mission to Guatemala last year due to Covid, but I am determined to go in 2021 to help those in need."

- Dr. Ryan Osborne, Founder



Medical Mission Update Guatemala

After a year of planning the 2020 Medical Mission to Guatemala, Covid travel restrictions prevented our team from making the journey. Patients from surrounding villages had already been prescreened and were waiting for surgical care when we had to make this devastating announcement.

In conjunction with humanitarian relief organization *Partners In Surgery*, we are determined to keep our commitment to care for these patients. We plan to send a small surgical task force in Summer 2021, to treat these families left without care, and limit the potential Covid exposure of a full size mission trip.



Above: Medical volunteer Laurie Hanna in Peru 2019
Center, Right: Dr. Ryan Osborne with patient in Peru, 2019