



# Fresh Start

Surgical Gifts

## Quarterly Impact Newsletter

2025

In October, November & December:




**366**  
DONATED  
VOLUNTEER  
HOURS



**43**  
CHILDREN  
IMPACTED



**114**  
MEDICAL  
TREATMENTS



**\$1,589,210**  
MEDICAL CARE  
PROVIDED



### The 34th Annual Butterfly Ball Was Out of This World!

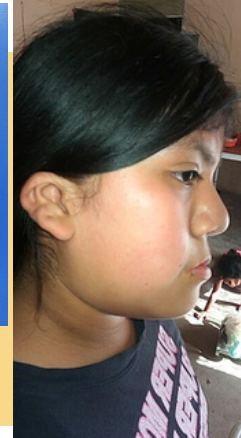
The 34th Annual Butterfly Ball took guests on an unforgettable journey at the San Diego Air & Space Museum. With fun costumes, space-inspired décor and an atmosphere full of excitement, the night was a true celebration of community.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters, volunteers and partners, the event was a tremendous success, raising vital funds to support life-changing surgeries for children in need. We were also proud to recognize our dedicated volunteers and celebrate our valued partnerships with [Rady Children's Health](#) and [San Diego Ronald McDonald House](#), who help make our mission possible.

A special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, [Axos Bank](#), and to our generous sponsors [Ronald McDonald House](#), [UCSD](#), [PC Housing](#), [Michael Brucker, M.D.](#) and the Dvorak Family for their support. [Click here for event photos.](#)



# BEAUTIFUL OUTCOMES



## Love to Golf & Make a Difference? Join us for the 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Golf Classic Hosted by Alfonso Ribeiro

**Sunday, March 8: Pre-tournament Dinner at Hilton Del Mar**

**Monday, March 9: Tournament at La Valle Coastal Club**

This event is more than just a day of golf – it's an experience! Guests will have the opportunity to golf alongside a celebrity while enjoying a lively day on the course featuring local breweries, restaurants and businesses stationed at holes throughout the course, creating a fun, social atmosphere for golfers, celebrities and supporters alike.

Click the link below for dinner tickets, sponsorship opportunities and golf foursomes. 100% of proceeds directly supports Fresh Start Surgical Gifts' mission to provide life-changing reconstructive surgeries and related medical care at no cost to families.

👉 [Click here.](#)

**Save the Date**  
2026  
**34<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebrity Golf Classic**  
Hosted by Alfonso Ribeiro

<b>SUNDAY, MARCH 8</b> Pre-Tournament Dinner Hilton Del Mar 15575 Jimmy Durante Blvd Del Mar, CA 92014	<b>MONDAY, MARCH 9</b> Golf Tournament La Valle Coastal Club 5690 Cancha de Golf Rancho Santa Fe, CA 92091
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For more information, contact Brandy Schwab at [Brandy@FreshStart.org](mailto:Brandy@FreshStart.org).

## Patient Highlight: Danna's Transformation

At Fresh Start's Chicago location, in partnership with [Comer Children's Hospital](#), 9-year-old Danna received life-changing care for microtia, a condition where a child is born with an underdeveloped ear. For the first time, Danna can feel new confidence and comfort. Before surgery, simple things many of us take for granted were daily challenges – she couldn't comfortably wear sunglasses, and putting her hair up made her self-conscious. Today, those struggles are behind her. With heartfelt thanks to [Russell Reid, M.D., Ph.D.](#), and the volunteer medical team at Comer Children's, Danna's future is brighter than ever.



Click the button to watch her journey! 👉



## Volunteer Highlight: Izabela Tarasiewicz, M.D., FRCSC



Izabela Tarasiewicz, M.D., FRCSC



We are grateful for Dr. Izabela Tarasiewicz, a board-certified pediatric neurosurgeon who volunteers her expertise to support Fresh Start Surgery Weekends in San Antonio.

Dr. Tarasiewicz earned her medical degree from Université de Sherbrooke in Québec and completed her neurosurgery residency at Université Laval. She is board-certified in both Canada and the United States and specializes in treating complex congenital and neurological conditions in children.

Thank you, Dr. Tarasiewicz, for sharing your skill, compassion and dedication to help our patients receive the care they deserve.

## Surgery Weekend October, November & December 2025



Our October, November and December Surgery Weekends brought life-changing care to children and families across San Antonio, San Diego and Chicago. From cleft-related procedures and scar revisions to craniofacial, hand and eye surgeries, each child received critical reconstructive care at absolutely no cost – opening the door to improved confidence.

These Surgery Weekends were made possible through the extraordinary generosity of our volunteer medical teams. In San Antonio, we are deeply grateful to [Ahmad Masri, M.D.](#), [Juan Berner, M.D.](#), and [Izabela Tarasiewicz, M.D., FRCSC](#), for their dedication to caring for children in need. In Chicago, we extend our sincere thanks to [Russell Reid, M.D., Ph.D.](#), for his continued commitment to serving Fresh Start patients.



Our San Diego Surgery Weekend was supported by an exceptional team of volunteer providers. Our surgeons included [Jeffrey Umansky, M.D.](#), [Christopher Heichel, M.D.](#), [Melissa Kanack, M.D.](#), [Anthony Magit, M.D.](#), [Asa Morton, M.D.](#), [Michael Brucker, M.D.](#), [Janet Chao, M.D.](#), and [Kate Hinchcliff, M.D.](#) We are also deeply grateful to our anesthesiologists, including [Steve Yun, M.D.](#), [Chien Chow, M.D.](#), [Scott Gillin, M.D.](#), [Mark Landon, M.D.](#), [Sandra Saw, M.D.](#), and [Sheila Rajashekara, M.D.](#), whose expertise and compassion ensured safe, high-quality care for every child.

From all of us at Fresh Start, thank you for turning Surgery Weekends into powerful moments of healing and hope for families across the country.





## Welcome, Tiffany Anchondo!



**Tiffany Anchondo**  
Social Media Specialist

We're excited to officially introduce Tiffany Anchondo to the Fresh Start Surgical Gifts team. Tiffany brings experience in social media strategy, community management and digital storytelling with a strong background in nonprofit work, brand partnerships and campaign execution.

As our Social Media Specialist, Tiffany plays a supportive role in shaping how our community experiences Fresh Start in the digital world. From highlighting patient journeys and volunteer impact to building meaningful partnerships and driving engagement, her mission is to ensure Fresh Start's work reaches the people who need it the most.

Outside of work, Tiffany is a creative. She enjoys content creation, film photography, live music, writing, cooking and spending time with her teenage son. As a San Diego native, she's deeply connected to her community and is always finding ways to blend storytelling with purpose. **Please join us in giving Tiffany a warm Fresh Start welcome!**

## Are You Ready for Some Trivia?

Fresh Start is thrilled to partner once again with [Coomber Craft Wines](#) in Oceanside for another fun-filled trivia night, this time with a Valentine's twist. Our upcoming trivia night is "For the Lovebirds," featuring all love songs in celebration of Valentine's Day.



Join us on Thursday, February 12, from 6:30-8:30 PM for an evening of great wine, friendly competition and meaningful impact. Whether you're coming with a partner, friends or flying solo, it's a perfect way to enjoy the season of love while supporting children in need of life-changing medical care. [Click here to learn more or make a donation.](#)

## Please Like, Follow & Share on All Social Media!

