Fresh Start Surgical Gifts

Quarterly Impact Newsletter

2026

In July, August, September:

710 DONATED VOLUNTEER HOURS

61 CHILDREN IMPACTED

149 MEDICAL TREATMENTS

$1,441,684 MEDICAL CARE PROVIDED



Out On the Course, Making a Difference!



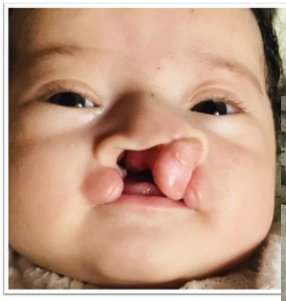
This summer, the Spanish Hills Charity Golf Tournament in Camarillo brought golfers and community supporters together to benefit Fresh Start. Thank you to Spanish Hills Club, Institution Ales, Fisherman's Catch, the Sweet Tees, and the many other sponsors and golfers who made the day possible. Your generosity is helping transform lives!

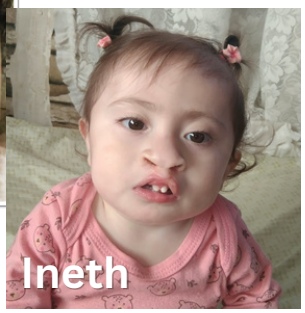
The 6th Annual All Crew Classic brought golf, music, and community spirit to Shadowridge Golf Club in support of our mission. A special thank-you to United By Bass, Brandon Garva, Tyler Rosier, Shadowridge Golf Club, and all of the sponsors for their time, energy, and dedication. We're grateful to everyone who joined this summer tradition and helped introduce Fresh Start's work to new supporters!

BEAUTIFUL OUTCOMES









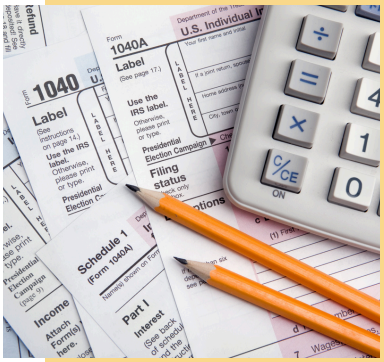


Emma received her fresh start through strabismus surgery to align her eyes.



A New Tax Benefit for Your Generosity

Beginning in 2026, eligible donors who take the standard deduction may also deduct up to $1,000 in qualifying cash donations, or $2,000 for married couples filing jointly. Qualifying gifts made **January 1–December 31, 2026 are eligible, including your year-end gift!** These limits apply to total qualifying donations across charities—not each gift.



Your support helps children receive medical care at no cost to their families. Save your receipts and consult your tax advisor about eligibility. **Learn more from the IRS.**

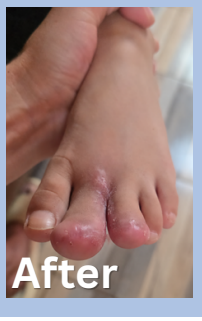
Patient Highlight: Jan Luca's Story

At just four years old, Jan Luca faced challenges with activities many children take for granted—running, playing soccer, and finding shoes that fit. He was born with megadactyly, a rare condition that caused toes on his foot to grow disproportionately large. On August 29, **Dr. Steven D. Gibbons** performed reconstructive surgery at **University Health in San Antonio** through its partnership with Fresh Start Surgical Gifts. His surgery was tailored to improve function and help him participate more comfortably in the activities he enjoys.

Thanks to our volunteer medical professionals, hospital partners, and generous supporters, Jan Luca received this specialized care at no cost to his family. Their generosity helped him take an important step toward a childhood with more opportunities to run, play, and explore.







Volunteer Highlight: Tita Diaz



Tita Diaz
Registered Nurse

For more than 15 years, Tita Diaz has shared her nursing experience and compassion with Fresh Start Surgical Gifts. Her journey began when Fresh Start first partnered with Rady Children's Health in 2009. After retiring from her career as a registered nurse, Tita chose to continue volunteering, staying connected to her passion for caring for others.

For Tita, the most rewarding part of volunteering is seeing the difference medical care makes in patients' lives. Witnessing their transformations and knowing she has played a part in their care gives her a deep sense of purpose and fulfillment.

Her dedication is a reminder that retirement can mark the beginning of a new chapter filled with compassion, service, and meaningful connections. We are grateful to Tita for sharing her time, expertise, and caring spirit with Fresh Start's patients and families.

Surgery Weekends: July, August & September 2026













In San Diego, our Surgery Weekends, in partnership with Rady Children's Health, made specialized care possible for children with ear differences, scars, eye conditions, cleft lip, and hand differences. Procedures included staged ear reconstruction for microtia, scar revision, strabismus correction, a corneal transplant, cleft lip repair, and hand reconstruction.

We extend our heartfelt thanks to volunteer surgeons **Gregory Ostrow, M.D.**, **Melissa Kanack, M.D.**, **Michael Brucker, M.D.**, **Kate Hinchcliff, M.D.**, **Amanda Gosman, M.D.**, **Jeffrey Umansky, M.D.**, and **Christopher Heichel, M.D.**, and anesthesiologists **Sandra Saw, M.D.**, **Gloria Hwang, M.D.**, **Daniela Perez-Velasco, D.O.**, **Susan Alaei, M.D.**, **Sheila Rajashekara, M.D.**, **Steve Yun, M.D.**, and **Alyssa Brzenski, M.D.**

In San Antonio, our partnership with University Health continued to connect families with specialized surgical care and ongoing support. We are grateful to **Richard Thomson, M.D.**, **Joshua Stone, D.D.S., M.D.**, **Dr. Steven D. Gibbons**, and the medical professionals who support our patients throughout their treatment journeys.

Behind every Surgery Weekend is a team of nurses, surgical technicians, surgical assistants, and support staff whose preparation and compassion make this care possible. Thank you!



Save the Date, November 14th 35th Annual Butterfly Ball

Believe it or not... One night can transform a child's future. Join us for the 35th Annual Butterfly Ball on Saturday, November 14, 2026, at the San Diego Air & Space Museum. This magical evening will bring together supporters, our medical volunteers, and friends of Fresh Start Surgical Gifts to celebrate 35 years of transforming children's lives through life-changing medical care. Join the celebration!

👉 **Click to Reserve Your Tickets!**



Your Monthly Gift. Their Next "I Can."

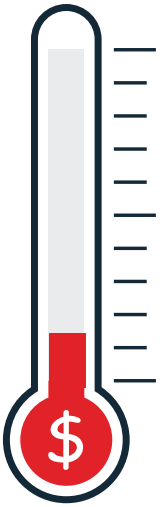
"I can run." "I can play." "I can smile with confidence." For a child receiving reconstructive medical care, these everyday moments can mark extraordinary milestones.

You can help kiddos just like little Del, pictured here, receive their fresh start. Join our monthly donors who provide steady support for Fresh Start's patients. Starting at just $5 a month, your gift helps children access surgery and related care at no cost to their families.

Our goal is $10,000 in monthly giving, built through people choosing to give what they can, every month. And 100% of every monthly donation supports our patients and medical programs.

Give a little each month. Be part of a child's next big moment.

Join our monthly giving community today and help provide hope, healing, and a fresh start—one child, one month, and one gift at a time.



Click to sign up!

Please Like, Follow & Share on all Social Media!

SANFORD Children's · Rady Children's Health · University Health · Pedia Clinic · CMML Centro Medico Mae Lewis · Hospital Metropolitano · Children's Medical Center UMass Memorial Health UMass Memorial Medical Center · At the forefront of Kids Medicine UChicago Medicine Comer Children's