

## Riobamba, Ecuador

### Surgical Mission 2016



### Summary

We are excited to report that from February 25th to March 5th, 2016 The Healing Hands Foundation completed its second annual mission trip to Riobamba, Ecuador. Working with staff at the Hospital de Brigada Galapagos, as well as with local volunteers who provided logistical support, we were able to provide care to Ecuadorians who suffer from healthcare disparity. Indigenous, low-income, and rural households particularly have difficulty accessing the services they need. Our surgical team feels privileged to have met and provided care to these patients.

### Surgical Care



Surgeries improve the daily lives of our patients. For instance, after a syndactyly repair (separation of fused fingers) a child's hand becomes fully functional.



Similarly, cleft lip and palate repairs have profound effects: allowing normal speech, enabling good feeding and growth, and preventing social stigma.

We accomplished 52 surgeries on 47 patients.

Ages ranged from 3 months to 55 years.

70 % of our patients were under 18 years old.



Surgeries included:  
Cleft lip/palate repairs  
Syndactyly repairs  
Hernia repairs  
Cyst removals  
Scar revisions  
Correction of ear and nose deformities



## Location



## Hospital de Brigada Galapagos



Our home during the trip was in the Andes. The mountains run North-South through Ecuador. We enjoyed the landscape of this region with multiple picturesque volcanos surrounding us. In fact, Tungurahua put on a show, spewing ash in the air throughout our stay.

## Volunteers



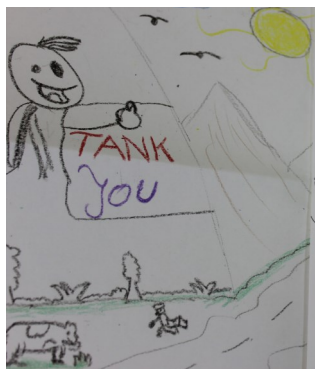
Twenty-four talented volunteers from eight different states were organized into teams to provide pre-op, anesthesia, surgical, post-op, and non-medical support services. Their dedication and good nature made this mission a pleasure.

## Building Community

We had fun spending time at a local orphanage for children with special health needs. Our volunteers loved giving out toys and supplies to the children.



## Future Plans



The Healing Hands Foundation will return to Riobamba in April 2017. We eagerly anticipate meeting new patients as well as reuniting with patients who will be returning for the next stage of their surgical care. We look forward to collaborating again with the staff of Hospital Brigada Galapagos as well as the multiple Ecuadorian volunteers who supported us in this mission, including Mayor Napoleon Cadena and his wife Veronica, the mayor's office staff which was led by Fanny Osorio, Jorge Jara and Family, Maria Luisa Guijarro and family, Jazmin Ramirez and family, Maria Jose Bonilla, and Dr. Mauricio Vaca. Many thanks to all who participated in this mission. Your hard work was the key to its success. See you next year!