# FOOT Foundation Newsletter

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### Shop Now and Smile!! Amazon.com will give back to the FOOT Foundation



The Foot Foundation is a registered charity at AmazonSmile. Please scan the QR Code here to go directly to smile.amazon.com. For each purchase you make, Amazon will donate 0.5% back to the FOOT Foundation. So now you can shop and give at the same time! Remember...it only works if you are on Amazon Smile.



### Local Groups and Businesses Help Us Continue Our Mission

It is a privilege and honor to acknowledge several groups for their ongoing support to the Foundation and our mission. These organizations bring new meaning to helping others and because of their support, over 100 children have renewed hope in humanity. We are deeply THANKFUL to each of these groups that help us Improve Lives, One Person at a Time!

Friddles Orthopedics
Grace Prosthetics
U.S. Orthotics

Forest Hills Presbyterian Church Southeastern Fishing Tackle Liquidators Ye Notorious Krewe of the Peg-Leg Pirates



### On the Horizon...Grant Seeking!

As we grow, we have seen the need to expand our efforts! We are excited to announce that the FOOT Foundation will be seeking grants starting January, 2016. It was with dedication and perseverance that Lisa completed a Grant Writing course from the prestigious University of Notre Dame and is now an official grant writer for the Foundation! First, Lisa will be tackling the task of obtaining grant funds for a Mitochondrial Disease Family Camp, and to expand our humanitarian efforts in Guatemala. During her intensive educational journey with Notre Dame, Lisa decided to enter a class contest for the best grant proposal. The prize was a \$500 donation to the charity of choice. Guess who won? Lisa's Mitochondrial Camp proposal was selected and we were awarded the donation in her honor!

### Corporate Help Needed!

If you or your company would like to sponsor a "Dress Down for Charity" day, Happy Hour or holiday event to help raise funds, please contact the FOOT Foundation for further details. We will provide Foundation information, a presentation and/or provide details that support the mission of the FOOT Foundation for your event. You have the power to make a difference so please help now! And remember...EVERY dollar you give is tax deductible!

### Social Media Updates

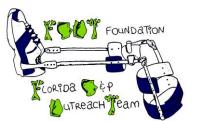
Please visit the FOOT Foundation webpage (www.footfoundation.org) as we continually update our site and list upcoming events. Like us on Facebook (FOOT Foundation) or follow us on Twitter (@FOOTFoundation1) to receive updates!

Contact us: footfoundation2007@yahoo.com





# FOOT Foundation Newsletter



The mission of The FOOT Foundation - Florida O & P Outreach Team is to provide orthotic and prosthetic services to children and adults of impoverished countries. The Foundation is also committed to giving back to local community charity organizations and to increasing awareness for Mitochondrial Disease.

Florida O&P Outreach Team: Improving Lives One Person at a Time

#### 2015 Clinical Team Helps Improve Lives, One Person At a Time! (by Dino Scanio)

It's so hard to believe that the FOOT Foundation just completed our fifth trip to Guatemala. This year, we saw more children than ever before! Nearly 50 children were fit with prosthetic and orthotic devices that will greatly improve their quality of life. Tears were shed by parents who watched their children walk for the first time. Families traveled by bus, by foot and even by horse for many hours to attend the clinic and receive much needed care.

I want to take a moment to thank my incredible team members. Mike Hanson, Bryan Sinnott and Kevin Johnson, you again made me proud to work beside you and call you my friends. Because of your personal commitment to volunteerism, you each made a difference in the lives of these children and their families. I also want to thank Julio Duarte and his family who continues to go above and beyond to host us and care for each one of my team members. The FOOT Foundation Guatemala Clinic could not continue without your passion and dedication.



September, 2015



A very special thank you to the Ronald McDonald House in Guatemala for providing meals to the FOOT Foundation clinic. We hope to partner with this caring organization on future trips to provide even greater love and support for the families in Guatemala.

We are already looking forward to our 2016 trip and know we will do even more good work because of our supporters. Without their donations, help and prayers, none of this would be possible!





For all pictures, media articles, and more information on this wonderful trip, please visit our website.

www.footfoundation.org

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# Mitochondrial Disease Awareness



### Cookies for a Cause

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual "Cookies for a Cause" was a great success. Lisa is very well known for her Italian Wedding cookies, that melt in your month and that is apparent by her increasing orders each year. The 'Cookies for a Cause' event marks the start of Global Mitochondrial Awareness week each year. Her love for baking has turned into a passion for raising awareness for a cause! Together, we are all working towards a cure for Mitochondrial Disease. Because of your generosity, we delivered 38 dozen cookies, 18 rum cakes and 9 candy bouquets. Funds generated from this event will be used for local mitochondrial educational awareness projects. Knowledge is power, and that Knowledge will eventually lead to a cure!

### Father and Son Trip to Speak for Mito Patients (by Lisa Scanio)

Raising awareness for mitochondrial disease and for the challenges that children with special needs face is one of our priorities. My husband Dino and our son Giovanni traveled to Washington, D.C. on June 16, 2015 for a weeklong trip. They were enthusiastic advocates for our younger son, Gianluca, who faces a mountain of medical obstacles due to his battle with Mitochondrial Disease.





This trip was a great success for us on Capitol Hill, as was presenting to congressmen and senators of Florida on July 18. Dino and Giovanni captured their attention and opened the eyes of the legislators. Dino spoke about the effects of mitochondrial disease and how it has affected him as a father and as an orthotist. Giovanni talked about his little brother with love and pride and was poised well beyond his 9 young years! We hope that this trip becomes an annual event as we continue to advocate for awareness and a cure for Mito!



# **FOOT Foundation Newsletter**





#### Local Charity Support - The IAmMore Foundation (by Lisa Scanio)

We were honored to be able to purchase these much needed items for this deserving cause in Tampa, Florida. The IamMore Foundation is committed to help reinvent the self identities of children who have been diagnosed with a debilitating physical ailment or medical illness. We applaud Kat Leibbrandt for her courage and vision, and wish her continued success with her foundation.







#### Clinical Team Spotlight (by Dino Scanio)

Over 8 years ago, my dream came true and the FOOT Foundation was born. The success of the FOOT Foundation was not achieved by one individual person, but a collective effort of great human beings. I am excited to launch this new section of our newsletter by spotlighting someone who has helped make this dream a reality. Mike Hanson is the Foundation's Senior/Lead Clinical Technician and has been a part of our team since 2010. He is responsible for all aspects of fabricating the custom orthotics and prosthetics in our Guatemala clinic. Mike also assists in planning, clinic logistics and consults on a regular basis about our Guatemala clinic.



Mike said, "I was excited and somewhat intimidated not knowing what to expect on his first trip in 2010. I had never done any humanitarian O&P work before. The first trip is always the most memorable and there is always a great team to work with. It's a total eye-opening experience to what it truly means to provide something as important as O&P to those in need. It's amazing how thankful and grateful the families and children are in Guatemala, Something that is sorely missing in the insurance and money driven world of O&P here in the states."

It's a true honor to have Mike Hanson as part of my team. He is a remarkable person with amazing skills and over 18 years' experience in the field. Mike is a valuable asset to the FOOT Foundation but more importantly, a great friend! THANK YOU Mike for your dedication and commitment to making a difference!



# Bay News 9 Everyday Hero Award

Dino Scanio was recently named as an "Everyday Hero" for the Tampa Bay Area by Bay News 9 and was interviewed by the news station. During his interview, Dino spoke about all the good work of his foundation, the Florida O & P Outreach (FOOT) Foundation. He also talked about what it's like to be a parent to a special needs child, as well as his involvement with various mitochondrial awareness projects. He explained how he and his wife Lisa make such a GREAT team, and have been able to care for two kids while still giving back to the community for many years. Tune in to Bay News 9 on September 28, 2015. It will also be available on their website.