



FAITH IN PRACTICE

Choosing Life
A JOURNEY OF HOPE

August 2012

Join us at the 2012 Gala as we honor **Dr. Fernando Stein** for his lifelong commitment to children.
[Reserve your Gala 2012 table or tickets.](#)

Faith In Practice in the Top 1%

Faith In Practice earned Charity Navigator's 4-Star Rating for fiscal responsibility for the 8th consecutive year. Only 1% of all charities rated received this honor.
[Learn more.](#)

Night of Comedy



Thank you Balfour Beatty and the hilarious Hammerheads for raising over \$50,000 to benefit the mission of

Apolinario's Gift

Dr. Sean Boutros' surgical team worked furiously to save 17-year-old Jessica's life, but it took hours to stabilize her. And, throughout those agonizing hours, Apolinario Lopez, one of Faith In Practice's dedicated Guatemalan volunteers, sat with Jessica's mother. Throughout the night, Apolinario sat vigil. Together they prayed for Jessica, told stories of Jessica. Apolinario never left her mother's side, all night long.

Apolinario was present, because he knew all about waiting. His young son, Leopoldo, was born with a cleft lip and palate in November 2006. First, Apolinario waited to bring his tiny baby to a Faith In Practice clinic led by Dr. Bob Burton and Wendy Robinson. The clinic was held in the Peten, one of the poorest and most remote areas of Guatemala. And, then he waited again for Faith In Practice surgeon Becky McGraw-Wall to operate on Leo. And, then again for the second surgery needed to complete the repair.



Apolinario Lopez

But, rather than simply saying 'thank you' to God and Faith In Practice for the miracle of his son's surgeries, Apolinario decided to say 'thank you' with his actions. He became a Faith In Practice volunteer. Now, when not farming his small field, he organizes medical clinics for Faith In Practice. And, then he travels with those who need a surgery to either Las Obras in Antigua or Hilario Galindo in Retalhuleu. And, he sits with them and worries about them, as if they were family.

Apolinario had traveled with 25 patients from the Peten during the week when Jessica received her surgery. And, yet, every single patient received his gentle care and concern. It is hard to imagine what it would be like to travel from your home in Peten with your sick child, not certain of what lay in store. But, with Apolinario at your side, fears are calmed, worries soothed.

Faith In Practice.

[Read more.](#)

Share The Mission

As we close another season of healing, **Thank You** to all our volunteers and donors who joined us in Share The Mission.

[See the top fundraisers of the season.](#)

Donate Now



Faith In Practice
Life Changing, Medical Mission

[Make a life changing gift](#)

To volunteer in this way requires personal sacrifice. In Apolinario's case, the sacrifice is particularly great, because he can neither read nor write. But, that does not stop him from being there for others, helping to ensure that they receive the care they need. It does not stop him from being with them in the waiting, in the most private and tender moments of their lives as their son or daughter receives a much needed surgery. Nothing stops him from serving in thanks to God and to Faith In Practice for the gift his son received.

Little Leo was born with a cleft lip and palate -- a life-threatening birth defect. And, yet, through this seeming tragedy God has brought forth new life and hope not only for Leo, but for Apolinario and those he now serves. New life and hope born as Apolinario sat quietly throughout the night giving comfort to Jessica's mother. New life and hope in moments yet to come. All to God's honor, glory and praise.

Rev. Linda L. McCarty

Please join us at our upcoming [Gala, Choosing Life](#), to hear Apolinario speak. Leo, the little miracle who led Apolinario to his vocation of service, will also be in attendance.

[Make a Life Changing Gift to Faith In Practice](#)