



For more information, contact:

Dr. David Hoffman or Cori Jensen: 718.226.1251

The upcoming May Medical Mission to Neiva, Colombia, is in its unprecedented 25th consecutive year, the longest running program of its type. We will celebrate this milestone with a special “Colombia Night at the Copacabana” in New York City on May 12th, 2018.

This year’s mission will again be performing surgeries and bringing expert care to needy children. It will also continue its close educational ties with Neiva Hospital and its staff in the areas of cleft lip and palate, orthopedics, and plastic surgery, and to strengthen the foundation for the longer term care of patients.

Please help our cause, buy some tickets, and tell a friend!

Colombian Coordinator Carlos Fajardo has been the driving force in making the **Healing the Children** Neiva missions a reality and so successful. He has been spearheading this program since its inception.

- **More than 4,000** children have been operated on in the past 23 missions.
- This year’s 50-member team will come from four different countries, including Colombia.
- Several surgical specialties are performed: **cleft lip and palate, palate/lip, sequelae of burns, and pediatric orthopedics.**
- Orthopedics focus on two conditions: club foot and hip dysplasia.
- Each year, more than **800** children are evaluated.
- **200 surgical procedures are performed in 5 days!**
- Healing the Children, in association with New York’s Columbia University, has an ongoing genetic study of cleft lip and palate deformities.
- This year, **bilingual speech therapists** will be working with local specialists to focus on follow-up care and treatment.
- The mission often attracts children from bordering states because of its established reputation.
- The mission is promoted on Colombia media by the Chamber of Commerce and is a highly anticipated event throughout Colombia’s Huila Province.
- Many of the travel expenses for the children and their parents are underwritten by the Chamber of Commerce, local police departments, the military and Healing the Children.
- **There is no charge to the patients!**

