



DISCOVERY CHANNEL DOCUMENTARY: *QUITO, EQUADOR*

On our mission to Quito in August, 2006, a team from the Discovery Channel traveled with MMFC to film a documentary on cleft lip and other corrective procedures performed by our team.

On site, they witnessed the great need of the local communities, seeing that despite the mountainous terrain, some families travel for two or three days to wait in line at Fundacion Tierra Nueva Hospital, with the hope of finding reconstructive care for their children. During the seven days spent in Quito, 96 corrective surgeries were performed. The program follows the stories of two children: Anderson and Dianna.

Two-year old Anderson had a complete right cleft pallet and lip. As a result, Anderson was severely malnourished and weighed only fifteen pounds, one-third less than most children his age. The MMFC team completely repaired his cleft lip and nostril. Now Anderson's mouth is symmetrical and he is able to feed himself and get the nourishment needed for healthy growth. This year the team will return to Quito and repair Anderson's pallet.

Five-year old Dianna had a lop-ear deformity in both her ears, which is a wide over-projection of the ears. This created an enormous impact on her emotional and social development. The MMFC team performed an otoplasty and created an antihelical fold in each ear, bringing them back into a normal position. Dianna now has a new sense of confidence in herself and no longer retreats during social situations.