The Healing Hands Abroad Team returned to the Cayo District of Belize for a weeklong mission working with the staffs of the San Ignacio Community Hospital and the Western Regional Medical Center in Belmopan. The Team performed primarily cleft lip and palate surgery which is not readily available to children in need throughout the country.

Many thanks to all those who donated in support of our mission, enabling us to provide life changing surgery and positively impact so many lives.

This is Della Solomon from the small town of Spanish Lookout in Cayo, Belize. Della is 5 months old and was born with a cleft lip and palate. The Team was able to help her by performing the 1st of 4 surgeries she will need to reconstruct her lip, palate and nose.

This is Alfonso Galvez, a 23 year old man from the town of Santa Elena in Cayo. He sustained a left upper arm injury from a rotating saw four years ago that lacerated his radial nerve. It was never repaired and now he cannot extend his wrist, thumb and fingers. The Team performed forearm muscle and tendon transfers which after a 6-week recovery will allow him to get back to work doing construction.

This is Jayby Tzub and his mother, Delmei. Jayby is 7 months old and was born with a severe cleft lip. His mom brought him to see us and the Team was able to repair his cleft lip this week before they head back to their home in Stann Creek, Cayo.

The Western Regional Medical Center in Belmopan is the secondary receiving center for all of the smaller community hospitals and clinics throughout all of the Cayo District. It maintains a large clinic system, Emergency Room, two operating rooms, and an adult, maternity, and pediatric ward totaling 40 beds. The HHA Team was fortunate to partner with the doctors and staff there doing our work.

This is 5 year old Osvin Garcia with his Mom and Dad. They are from the Frank’s Eddy Village in Belize. Osvin had his cleft lip and palate repaired when he was younger. Unfortunately, he developed an opening in the roof of his mouth afterwards (palatal fistula) that results in liquid and food in his mouth coming out his nose when he ate. The Team was able to repair his palate this week and in a short time get back to eating normally.