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Giving thanks for life-changing treatments

By Valerie R. Gray

It's the look of pure happiness, awe, and gratitude on the faces of parents and children in far-flung corners of the world that keeps Mark Price, MD, coming back to give more.

Dr. Price has made several medical mission trips through Interplast, an organization that sends volunteers and medical professionals around the world to provide corrective surgery and related care to impoverished patients. In countries where conditions like cleft lips and palates are considered signs of evil, Dr. Price has been able to work what are considered miracles by the rural community to undo deformities and restore the lives of those with little or no access to modern medicine.

“ There's a great moment of joy when you hand a mother back her baby with her lip repaired. ”

"There's a great moment of joy when you hand a mother back her baby with her lip repaired," he said. Dr. Price says he craves the rewards of serving deserving and underprivileged patients in far-off parts of the world, where a plastic surgeon's talents are rare and can be the gift of a lifetime.

Dr. Price has participated in four medical missions in the past 10 years. Most recently, he went to Ayacucho, Peru, a trip arranged by the Peruvian American Medical Society, a non-profit organization.

It's estimated that there is one doctor for every 12,000 people. When Dr. Price arrived in Ayacucho, patients had been camped out around the block for days, hoping for a chance to see mission physicians.

During the two-week mission, Dr. Price completed nine life-altering surgeries, and his team of medical volunteers saw 1,500 patients. He was accompanied on the trip by his wife, who served as photographer and had a chance to see firsthand the intricate rewards of his services.

Educated at Yale University School of Medicine, Dr. Price currently practices at our Napa Medical Offices, where he primarily works on reversing the negative effects of cancer surgery (such as reconstructing a breast after a mastectomy or repairing skin tissue removed because of melanoma), and the full range of cosmetic surgical procedures.

Dr. Price started going on medical mission trips during his days as a resident at Stanford University Medical Center and says he's been bitten by the desire to serve.

Dr. Price is already looking to go on another medical mission.

"The tremendous rewards you get from offering these life-changing services to people who need them just can't be described."



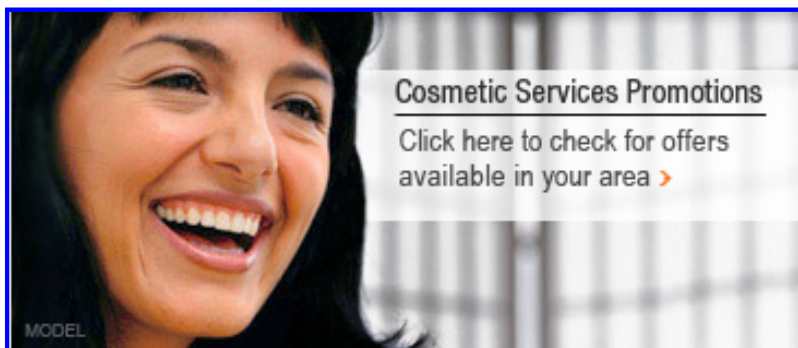
Learn more about Dr. Price:

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Photo(s) of model(s) shown, not actual patient(s).