

I want to share an amazing experience with you. I normally don't share personal items of this nature, but this time I felt compelled to do so.

Several years ago our youngest son, Emilio, suffered a skull fracture and was attended to at the Children Healthcare of Atlanta (CHOA) at Egleston. Many thanks to God and the physicians who healed him. Today, Emilio is perfectly fine.

We saw amazing things. The nursing staff was passionate. Physicians from all over the world and the members of the teams were very committed as well. Everything there worked like a Swiss clock. And because the kids are seriously ill, this is imperative. Some of kids were born there and even spent most of their first year there. Parents too, literally live there to be close to their children. We were so moved and grateful, that we decided to go every year to give something to the kids at the hospital.

This year was no exception. We went on Monday and were able to visit the rooms where the kids are staying instead of leaving the presents at the reception area. We spent about an hour delivering the presents. There are no words to express how we felt when the kids smiled when they received their presents. It was a great experience for our kids, and they were very happy just seeing the other kids faces. Everyone was happy with their gift and the parents were very happy too. The nurse staff was moved and even cried when they saw their patients smiling. Everyone said Merry Christmas, not Happy holidays.

One child, a little girl, she just looked at us without any expression and turned her face to the other side when we opened the door of her room. . The mom encouraged her to say thank you and take another look at us. She didn't. Anyway the mom said thank you, Merry Christmas and a tear came out from her eyes. We were approaching the elevator to go to another floor when the girl's mom stopped us to say thank you again. She said it was the first time the whole day (it was about 5 pm) her daughter smiled when she opened her present. The nurse, the mom and all of us cried.

There is a lot of need outside but the kids at hospitals are special. I encourage you to do something. Just a small donation or a gift during Christmas season is an obvious time to do this, but remember, there are kids that spend their birthday there, too, and with that small gift you can draw a smile to their faces, too.

Merry Christmas and a blessed new year 2012.

Luis & Anyer Morales