

D.O.C.S. Doctors Offering Charitable Services

Changing Lives Through Surgical Charity

A 501(c)(3) Non-Profit Organization EIN: 01-0642634

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LOCAL SAN DIEGO DOCTORS ON “THE OPRAH WINFREY SHOW” TODAY

San Diego, California. May 6, 2010. A local, San Diego-based non-profit surgical organization called Doctors Offering Charitable Services (DOCS) was featured on “The Oprah Winfrey Show” on Thursday, May 6, 2010. The show aired on CBS Channel 8 KFMB at 4:00 pm PST today.

Over the past five years, the DOCS team, in partnership with Scripps Memorial Hospital La Jolla, performed seven major surgeries on Ana Rodarte, the young woman featured in today’s *Oprah* segment, to treat facial deformities caused by the rare genetic disorder Neurofibromatosis-1. Ana’s courageous journey has not only changed her appearance, but she is also better able to see, hear, breathe, speak, and eat. Most importantly, her self-confidence has grown, and rather than secluding herself at home as she used to, she is now attending school to become a Cosmetologist.

DOCS founders, Dr. Munish Batra and Dr. Michael Halls, envisioned creating an organization to provide surgical reconstruction and continuing care to people otherwise unable to obtain treatment for disfiguring medical conditions and severe injuries. DOCS pioneered the concept of a “staged multi-specialty team approach,” which allows each surgeon to focus on what he knows best.

The DOCS surgical team is comprised of:

- Board Certified Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeons
 - Munish Batra, M.D., F.A.C.S.
 - Michael Halls, M.D., F.A.C.S.
 - Alfonso Camberos, M.D., F.A.C.S
- Board Certified Oral & Maxillofacial surgeon Andrew Chang, M.D., D.D.S.
- Board Certified Neurosurgeon Lokesh Tantuwaya, M.D.
- Board Certified Ophthalmic Plastic & Reconstructive Surgeon Don Kikkawa, M.D.
- Board Certified Cosmetic and Restorative Dentist James Tasto, D.D.S.

The entire organization is extremely gratified that their efforts are being recognized on “The Oprah Winfrey Show.” “Ana’s case not only shows how DOCS stays true to its mission, but illustrates how a medical condition which is so severe and so rare, can challenge surgeons and dentists to think beyond their education, training, and experience,” states Dr. Andrew Chang.

As a non-profit organization, DOCS is primarily supported by its own member doctors and Board, charitable donors, and community partners, including local hospitals that provide discounted use of operating rooms and facilities. Nearly 100% of charitable donations are applied directly to surgical related patient care, which can often exceed \$25,000 per case. The doctors donate their own services and are never compensated by DOCS.

DOCS hopes that any exposure received from “The Oprah Winfrey Show” will raise enough funds to finance administrative and post-surgical ongoing care costs for current patients, and assist potential future patients.

To learn more about DOCS and other patients they have served, please see <http://www.docscharity.com>.

For interviews, please reach Jeanna Zelin at 480.298.0928 / jeannazelin@mac.com or reach Lisa Loeffler at 602-319-5982 / lisa@lightboxpr.com

For images and media kit, please visit: <http://www.docscharity.com/docs-media-newsroom/>

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