

preliminary draft - not for release

Bradenton Rotary to sponsor lifesaving cardiac surgery for 2 year old El Salvadorian girl

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Bradenton, FL, June 2, 2010 – The Bradenton Rotary, through Gift of Life International (GOLI), will sponsor Lixi Johana Ramirez Ascencio as she travels from El Salvador to Florida for lifesaving cardiac surgery.

Lixi was born in El Salvador, November 11th 2007, with a congenital heart disease. Her family of 8 has a total household income of about \$3.00 per day. Lixi is unable to gain weight, becomes tired easily and does not have the energy required to play with her siblings. Due to her heart condition, simple tasks such as eating cause fatigue.

Tim Milligan, of Bradenton Rotary, said "Our club came forward to reach out to the child and her family, we are sponsoring her surgery and will look after Lixi and her family while they're in town". The cardiac surgery is not available in El Salvador and without it she would perish.

The Ramirez Ascencio family will arrive in Tampa on June 15th. Services are donated by surgeons, staff and the All Childrens Hospital in St. Petersburg, FL. During the same time period GOLI has arranged for more than 40 El Salvadorian children to receive cardiac surgery at other hospitals throughout the world.

"This is just the beginning", said Tim, "The final phase of the GOLI program (named *Our Hearts Are In El Salvador*) is to develop a sustainable pediatric cardiac surgery program at a hospital in El Salvador.

ABOUT THE ROTARY CLUB OF BRADENTON:

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide who provide humanitarian service and help to build goodwill and peace in the world.

Gift of Life International is based upon the network of Rotary Clubs and Districts which spans the world.

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A digital press kit is available at <http://www.bradentonrotary.org/gift>

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