Hastings physician, Dr. Michael Nosanov, and Pennock Health Services provide Dominican boy needed surgical care

In response to a request from Healing the Children, local Otolaryngologist, Michael Nosanov, Pennock Services, and Hastings Anesthesiology collaborated to provide surgical care to a boy from the Dominican Republic.

Randy Rosario, an elementary-aged boy from the Dominican Republic, had suffered from repeated ear infections and hearing loss since a young age. In need of a tympanomastoidectomy, a surgical procedure to remove growths, diseased tissue and rebuild the ear drum, his family was unable to secure the needed surgery and treatment at home so they turned to Healing the Children.

Healing the Children is an agency committed to meeting the healthcare needs of children worldwide. They connect children and their families from around the world with physicians and hospitals who are able to help them. The group also sets up host families near the hospital and expedites visas for the children arriving for treatment.

Dr. Nosanov became involved with Healing the Children by pure happenstance. Traveling for a national meeting, he found himself seated next to Helen Salan, Executive Director of the Michigan–Ohio Chapter of Healing the Children. Just six months later Helen approached him with a child in need and that started his more than 10-year relationship with the organization.

Once Healing the Children secures the needed paperwork, the process proceeds very quickly and the healing can begin. Left untreated, Randy would face chronic infections, increased complications and possibly even irreversible hearing loss or more severe complications due to the infection. “The first goal is to take care of the chronic infection,”
remarked Dr. Nosanov. “Once the infection is controlled, we can then focus on treating and restoring the hearing loss.”

The Rosarios can rest assured that their child is receiving the best possible treatment and care. Not only is the surgery provided, but also the services of the surgical team, nursing staff, anesthesiologists at Pennock all are given as part of the treatment of these children.

This is a team effort. “Kids often come to this country speaking no English at all. Fortunately, we have staff at Pennock who are able to step in, explain what is happening and help the children feel comfortable through the process,” Dr. Nosanov stated. While at Pennock, Martha Elsing, RN was able to serve as a liaison between family, patient and physician. Her ability to speak fluent Spanish helped Randy feel at ease and helped him to understand what medical staff was doing throughout his stay at Pennock. “The host family was so impressed with Martha’s ability to put the young boy at ease. It made such a difference to both the young patient and his host family to have someone like Martha right there with them,” remarked Sue Kolanowski, Manager of Patient Experience at Pennock Health Services.

Dr. Nosanov said that Randy’s surgery went well and that he is recovering nicely. The average stay for these young patients is 3 to 4 weeks before going home, but the stay can be up to a few months, depending on the child’s condition.

“It is quite simply mission work, done locally,” commented Dr. Nosanov. “It feels good to know that when I can’t travel on a mission trip, I can accomplish the same thing by providing care right here at Pennock.”