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Suffolk Plastic Surgeons Doctor Prepares for Healing the Children Mission to Zamora, Ecuador

(East Setauket, NY) Dr. Stephen F. Coccaro, of Suffolk Plastic Surgeons, PC, along with 25 other local doctors, nurses and support staff are making final preparations for their mission to Zamora, Ecuador, set to depart on Friday, September 29th.

Dr. Coccaro joined with the international nonprofit, *Healing the Children*, to organize a trip to Zamora for the purpose of performing free plastic surgery on the children there. Coccaro, like the other half dozen doctors, has paid his own way. Private donations totaling \$20,000 were raised by the participating organizations (\$3,000 by Suffolk Plastic Surgeons alone) to pay for medical supplies and the nursing staff which will accompany them on the seven-day trip.

Once they arrive in Zamora, the doctors will give evaluations to those already gathered to receive them. They will then carry out three full days of surgery. The physicians will also train Ecuadorian doctors to use donated medical equipment and supplies to perform laparoscopic gallbladder procedures. Dr. Coccaro will be performing plastic surgery on many children who have previously never had the care of a doctor. Some of the maladies he is expecting to encounter are cleft lips and palates. His services will also be used to treat burn and hand injuries and scar deformities.

Dr. Coccaro explained his motivation for going on this important mission: "It wrenches your heart to see these kids all over the world who need help when help is just unavailable. I consider myself fortunate to be able to go to Ecuador and bring a bit of hope to these families who are suffering. The hardest part, however, will be being unable to help everyone who shows up."

Itinerary and Media Opportunities:

The altruistic group will be meeting in the parking lot of John T. Mather Memorial Hospital, in Port Jefferson Friday night at approximately 6:00 pm. They will be traveling together by bus to Newark Liberty International Airport, in New Jersey, where they expect to arrive between 8:00 and 9:00 pm. The team will depart on their 7 hour long flight at 11:30 and will arrive in Guayaquil the next morning, where they will receive military assisted transportation to Zamora.

For more information on *Healing the Children*, visit www.htcne.org. For more information on this event, or Suffolk Plastic Surgeons PC, call (631) 751-4400 or visit them on the web at www.suffolkplasticsurgeon.com.

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Suffolk Plastic Surgeons, P.C. was founded by Dr. Hilton C. Adler and Dr. Stephen F. Coccaro in 1996. Since then, the practice has grown to include Dr. Kenneth C. Kneessy and is now the region's largest, all Board-certified group practice. Suffolk County Plastic Surgeons specializes in cosmetic surgery for women, men and children. Their doctors also hold periodic seminars on topics of interest, such as Botox and body contouring. The physicians at Suffolk Plastic Surgeons provide the latest in cosmetic surgery to many patients throughout the United States and their staff provides the highest standard of expertise and quality care. Recently, Suffolk Plastic Surgeons has relocated to their new office, which includes an ambulatory surgery facility and an on-site medical spa.