

## Alexander's Story

Contributed by Vito C. Quatela, M.D.

Alexander's parents sought medical consultation for his Microtia when he turned to 2. They were told the cost of corrective surgery would be \$10,000. This far exceeded their means. Alexander would be forced to live with his deformity and face an uncertain future in a culture which viewed him as a pariah. His father could not cope with these pressures and abandoned the family. As Alexander grew older, children and adults shunned him.

When Alexander was 6, his mother heard about the HUGS program. In time, she scheduled her son with our team. Shortly after his 9th birthday, we were able to correct his Microtia in less than one hour.

Now 2 years later, Alexander is enrolled in the 5th grade. He loves to play soccer and has many friends. Asked what he wants to be when he grows up, Alexander, without hesitation, beams and answers, "I want to be a doctor."