

In 2003, Rochester-based facial plastic surgeon Dr. Vito C. Quatela founded the HUGS Foundation, Inc. with a simple goal in mind; he wanted to change the lives of children using a team of skilled surgeons to correct congenital facial deformities. Dr. Quatela's philosophy that "every human being has a fundamental right to the opportunity to grow and develop socially and intellectually without being ostracized or rejected due to physical abnormality" has led him to head the multi-specialty team of experts that provide free surgery to children and adolescents suffering from deformity or conditions that are remedied or alleviated through plastic surgery.

The HUGS Foundation supports yearly medical trips for children deprived of a healthy and joyful life due to their deformity and lack of medical care. Were it not for the gift of surgery, these children would be rejected by their peers, community, and sometimes even their own families. The surgery not only enables them to have an enhancement in their appearance and function, but now they are afforded opportunities they would not have otherwise, such as assimilation into a family, a chance for a better education, and a hope for a new life.

Over the past eighteen years, teams of world-class doctors, nurses, and volunteers from across the United States and around the world have dedicated their time, knowledge, and passion to help Dr. Quatela change children's lives. These missions are performed in developing countries including Vietnam, Guatemala and Ecuador. Many of these children are literally salvaged from dumpsters, and the HUGS team is fortunate to see the direct impact these surgeries make on their lives.

Since the foundation's inception in 2003, our medical mission teams, along with Dr. Quatela himself, have gone on 35 mission trips and have performed over 1800 surgical procedures. Before HUGS was founded, Dr. Quatela traveled with another organization for several years as well.

Dr. Quatela is a recognized leader in the field of facial plastic surgery and founded the Quatela Center for Plastic Surgery, Q the Medical Spa (with two locations: in the Lindsay House on East Avenue and in Victor), and the Quatela Center for Hair Restoration. He is double board-certified by the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery and the American Board of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery. He is the past president of the American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery (AAFPRS) and the current president of the International Federation of Facial Plastic Surgery Societies (IFFPSS).

With a deep commitment to family and tradition, Dr. Quatela resides with his wife Laura and has three grown children; Olivia, Chase, and Francesca. In his spare time, he enjoys fly fishing and is an avid wine collector and audiophile.