

# AHEAD OF THE CURVE

The Official Newsletter of The Setting Scoliosis Straight Foundation

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setting  
**SCOLIOSIS**  
straight

Supporting Discoveries in Spinal Deformities



***"Scoliosis is a particular kind of marathon, and you never know where the road is going."***

***~ Andres Gutierrez, Guada's Dad***



## **"Hope Is Everything in Scoliosis!"**

Guadalupe, or Guada for short, and her family faced the first of their big challenges when they had to leave their home in Mexico City and relocate to San Diego. Because Guada had severe scoliosis, she needed the expertise and care of Dr. Peter Newton at Rady Children's Hospital.

At two, Guada had the first of her surgeries. After 15 days in the ICU and 30 days in the hospital, while still in halo traction, Guada asked a simple request of her parents: she wanted to walk down a particular hallway in the hospital because she liked the purple floor. Guada's parents love her ability to see beauty when others might only see what's wrong. They say she's defined by her attitude and by her character, and those are strong!

Like Guada, her family has used scoliosis not as a roadblock but as a building block. Scoliosis has taught them how to have hope, how to be brave, and how to trust. Scoliosis has taught them how to appreciate what matters most in life. For Guada and her family, what matters most is family, love, and health. There is a light that shines in Guada, and that is why she was our Giving Tuesday Photo Challenge winner. To see her is to love her!

*To learn more about Guada's journey and the amazing work her family does in Mexico via Juntos por Guada visit our website at [www.setting scoliosis straight.org](http://www.setting scoliosis straight.org)!*

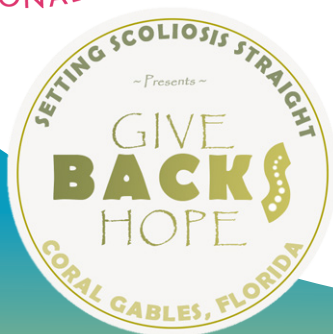
**We want to thank everyone who participated in 2016's Giving Tuesday drive, whether by photo or a pledge of support. And to all of our donors from 2016, we know we couldn't do it without you, and we thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Your kindness gives others hope!**



## Are You and Your Surgeon on the Same Page?

Every surgeon dreams of success—just like you. Your surgeon knows your spine is more than just six hours of surgery, four days in the hospital, or two years of your bones pressed tightly in a brace.

That's why, at the Harms Study Group's annual meeting during the first week of December, your surgeons met to discuss the future of scoliosis treatment and how your needs as a patient are being met. Your surgeons explored risk factors associated with back pain and complications (like infections). They shared how to lower blood loss from surgery, and they searched for ways to help patients combat low self-image. To you, a healthy back is the key to a happy life. Your HSG surgeon thinks so too!



## JUNE 3, 2017: MEET US IN MIAMI!

We're excited to announce that *Power Over Scoliosis*, our free patient education course, and Give BACKS Hope, a fundraiser honoring Dr. Harry Shufflebarger, will be in Miami this year! Pack your sunscreen and meet us there! If you have scoliosis questions, we have answers!

To register for the free course or purchase tickets for Give Backs Hope, please visit [www.settingscoliosisstraight.org](http://www.settingscoliosisstraight.org) or call Chloe at (619) 810-1430!

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**DON'T FORGET!** As a patient volunteer for the **Harms Study Group**, your continued help is essential. Please remember to make all of your scheduled follow-up appointments with your spine surgeon.

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