

How Giovanna Lost Her Leg

Giovanna Davila is the mother of Alessandra of the Peruvian Cycling Team. Giovanna lost her leg in a collision with a truck while she was driving the support motorcycle during a cycling race last May. I was able to meet with Giovanna several times during October and see her progress as she was learning to walk with her new leg that pivots at the knee. She is very spunky and making good progress.

Alessandra told me the details about her mother's motorcycle accident. Her mom's upper thigh was 90 percent cut through by the corner of the chrome bumper on the truck. Where the accident occurred there was a motorcycle repair shop nearby that was able to slow down the bleeding with an old inner tube wrapper around her upper thigh.

The rescue squad took her to the hospital with a dangling leg. The hospital stopped the bleeding but she had already lost half her blood and almost died.

The next day the doctors gave her some generic blood and removed her leg. She had a reaction to the generic blood and had a heart attack but stayed



alive. When the surgery was over the doctor wrapped up the leg and gave it to Alessandra to take home. Alessandra said she did not want it...where would she put it?

Alessandra saw the operating table cover with blood. The clean up crew rolled the table outside while it was raining and washed it under the rain down spout. Alessandra said all the blood washed down the street. She said it was a traumatic site.

Her mom needed some high powered 1,000 mg pain pills. The hospital and pharmacies were out of stock and did not have any of what she needed. The hospital gave Alessandra the name of a person who had bought some pills the week before. Alessandra went over to their house and was able to buy some pill back from them. The drug policies in Peru are pretty laid back.

Before the next operation to close the leg wound area the surgeons needed to get the rare B- blood for her mom so they put ads on the radio and all over town. They collected 20 liters from 10 people during the next two weeks. Alessandra stayed in contact with the donors. The accident happened on May 6. One month later by June 6 three of the donors has died from accidents or natural causes.

After all the surgeries and problems her mom is fortunate to be alive. She is in Lima now learning to walk with a temporary type leg. I saw a video of her walking this week and she can walk across the room now. Her dream is to

get a new hydraulic type leg with a bendable knee joint that is more stable and smoother to walk with. The cost of the hydraulic leg and get it fitted is about \$5,000 from the medical supply store in Lima, Peru. We are starting a fund to buy Giovanna a new leg. We hoping to collect enough finds to buy her leg before next summer.

Tax Deductible Donations can be sent to:

F.P.C. Global Outreach

P.O. Box 303

Sharon, WI 53583