

# Central Palm Beach County

MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR: DR. MARC RONERT, 38

## Doctor helps provide free surgery to patients in Peru

Foundation helps children who suffer from a loss of skin.

By **Mary Thurwachter**  
Special to The Palm Beach Post

In December, Dr. Marc Ronert was one of 17 medical professionals, led by the Care for Skin Foundation, who flew to Peru to offer reconstructive surgery to children who have suffered skin loss from accidents, tumors, burns, scars or genetic abnormalities.

A plastic and reconstructive surgeon, Ronert and others donated their time and experience.

Ronert, 38, is the president and medical director of the Care for Skin Foundation.

While in Peru for two weeks, doctors met with 130 patients, most younger than 5. Seventy were able to receive treatment, he said.

"We had to triage the



Dr. Marc Ronert, 38, was among the plastic surgeons who went on the trip to Peru to offer plastic and reconstructive surgery to children who have suffered a loss of skin because of accidents, tumors, burns, scars or genetic abnormalities. Ronert, who was born in Germany, is one of the founders of the Care for Skin Foundation, a charity that raises money to fund these kinds of trips to help kids. He is standing inside his Image Skin Care offices in Lantana.

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patients and determine whom we could operate on with adequate time for follow-up while we are there," he said.

"Using my skills as a plastic surgeon on patients who are unable to afford necessary treat-

ments is one of the most gratifying moments in my profession," he said. "Often, with simple reconstructive surgical procedures we are able to change someone's life within just a few minutes. To not offer this to pa-

### Q&A

**What are your hobbies?**

Playing tennis, skiing and painting.

**What is the most unusual item you own?**

We have a section of the Berlin Wall in our garden (at our home in Berlin).

**What event in history would you have liked to witness?**

The moon landing.

**What is your favorite childhood memory?**

Skiing with my parents in Germany, Switzerland, Austria and France.

**What do you do to get away from it all?**

I never want to get away from it all. But we do like to get to our second home in Berlin six or seven times a year.

tients in need would be unthinkable."

Born in Germany, Ronert said he had wanted to become a physician since he was 3.

"I remember dissecting fish," he said. "I had a little doctor's kit."

His decision to specialize in reconstructive surgery came in medical school when a professor

influenced him. "I became one of his residents."

A graduate of the Heinrich Heine University School of Medicine, Ronert received medical training and education abroad and in the United States.

His wife, Joanna, is president, founder and CEO of Image Skincare, an international company with its 40,000-square-

foot corporate headquarters in Lantana.

Ronert is the company's director. The two met at an international conference where he was a guest speaker. They live in Palm Beach Gardens with their 3-and-a-half-year-old twins Zurich and Milana. They have a second home in Berlin.

Founded in 2011, The Care for Skin Foundation's goal is to provide reconstructive surgery to those in need and to donate money to organizations such as Resurge and SmileTrain, which coordinate medical missions to third world countries where doctors perform surgeries on patients with cleft lips, burn wounds and hand deformities, as well as other operations.

Although the Peru project was the first mission trip for the Care for Skin Foundation, plans are already under way for more trips. For more information, visit [www.careforskinfoundation.org](http://www.careforskinfoundation.org).