

SUMMER

Smile Report



INSIDE

We're Going Back

Two countries we're returning to, thanks to you

Deeply Touched

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Your support ignites their passion for change

A Cleft-Free Honduras

See how you're making the dream a reality

A FATHER'S LOVE

MADAGASCAR, MARCH 2018

Four-year-old Brunel recovers from surgery in her father's arms. When she wakes up she'll see her new smile for the first time. Canadian donors have helped fund three of our missions in Madagascar. We'll keep going back until every child like Brunel is healed.

DR. RODRIGO NEIRA SPEAKS TO OUR DONORS FROM THE HEART

WE DON'T GET TO CHOOSE WHERE OR HOW WE ARE BORN. OPERATION SMILE HELPS THOSE OF US WHO NEED IT, ANYWHERE WE ARE.

I JOINED OPERATION SMILE IN 1991 when I was a plastic surgery resident back in Colombia. Operation Smile was much smaller back then, and I had the opportunity to get to know and work alongside Bill and Kathy Magee. In them, I saw an incredibly capable and determined couple who wanted to help people in the way they knew best. I saw an organization that was doing effective work and being led in the right direction. After that, it took little convincing for me to go on as many missions as I could.

On every mission I'm a part of, I'm deeply touched by the gratitude of the families we aid.

This work is very different than the regular reconstructive work that I do in my practice at home in Canada. Canadian kids born with these kinds of malformations are usually spared the feeling of being different, as we have a developed health system where they are almost always dealt with at birth. In developing countries, many people never receive medical attention. When I meet these kids, they are used to looking different, and suffer the effects of social ostracization. The parents often take it worse.

Nothing beats seeing the faces on the kids and their families when, in a simple procedure, I can change their whole outlook on life. It's an incredible moment.

If you think about it, I get way more back than what I put in by volunteering. To this day, I'm shocked by how much of an impact I can make with just a



Dr. Neira (pictured right) operates on a young patient in during our June 2018 mission in [city, country].

45-minute procedure that transforms people's lives, bringing happiness and hope to families, giving them a second chance.

We don't get to choose where or how we are born. Operation Smile helps those of us who need it, any-

"I'm deeply touched by the gratitude of the families we aid."

— Dr. Rodrigo Neira

where we are.

As someone who was born and grew up in a developing country, I've witnessed firsthand how, by accident of birth, one can end up with wildly different health options. I was lucky, but others were not. So I'm happy to do my part, with the skills I have, to help those who need it.

Thank you to all of our Canadians supporters for turning dreams and hopes into reality, being good examples and inspiring us to continue building a better world.

Sinceramente,

Rodrigo Neira

— Rodrigo

Dr. Neira is a Canadian plastic surgeon who has volunteered on over thirty Operation Smile missions.

TEARS OF GRATITUDE

— Mark Climie-Elliott,
CEO, Operation Smile Canada

Imagine that priceless moment after cleft surgery, when a child looks into the mirror for the very first time and sees their new smile. Beside that child you'll find overwhelmed parents shedding tears of joy and gratitude.

Those tears of gratitude are for you.

At Operation Smile Canada, we promise to connect you with the children and adults whose lives we transform, such as through the Smile Report you're reading right now. This issue also highlights the philanthropic spirit of generous people like you, people who share your love of humankind.

We're working hard to ensure that everyone who receives new smiles around the world knows they have a friend in Canada who loves them.

Every child has a right to smile. And thanks to you, they will.



A GIFT FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

MOLLY-JEAN HAS HELPED YOUNG CHILDREN TO GROW AND BLOSSOM HER ENTIRE LIFE.

Raised in the UK, she spent her career as a childcare professional, with a particular love for premature babies. Her work brought her to several countries, including Canada, which she has called home for many decades.

Today, Molly-Jean lives in quiet retirement. She attends church regularly, keeps in touch with friends overseas, loves to read, and enjoys her long morning walks.

Like many folks her age, she budgets carefully. She has a very kind heart, and continues to support her favourite charities whenever she can. Operation Smile Canada is one of them.

"I understand the need to help these innocent children born with cleft conditions, no matter where they happen to be from," says Molly-Jean.

She has been deeply moved by the

global mission of Operation Smile and the dedication of its medical volunteers. When it came time to write her will, she remembered, and chose to make a lasting commitment.

"I have included a residual bequest to Operation Smile Canada Foundation in my will to help those who would otherwise endure a lifetime of suffering," she explains.

Knowing that she'll be forever transforming the lives of future generations of children brings Molly-Jean peace of mind. It's something special for her to treasure, on her long morning walks, in the years to come.

ForeverSmiles
Club



Molly-Jean wearing her Forever Smiles Club lapel pin.

The Forever Smiles Club honours our donors who've chosen to make a lasting gift, such as remembering Operation Smile Canada in their will. For more information, please call Ken toll-free at **1.844.376.4530**.

COMPASSION AND FAITH IN NIAGARA FALLS

GLORIA IS THE FRIENDLY, SMILING OWNER OF THE GOSPEL SHOPPE, a Christian gift and book store near Niagara Falls, Ontario. Her business has brought great joy and blessings into her life. **"This is my ministry,"** she says, **"but my customers have given me so much back, too."**

One day, while watching an Operation Smile program with her husband Jeff, Gloria learned about how children with cleft conditions in the world's poorest countries suffer from lack of access to surgery.

Having grown up with a cleft con-

dition herself, she immediately understood: "As a child, I was in and out of hospitals so much, they became my second home. I know exactly what it's like to be young and treated differently, to not be accepted."

"This is a lifelong challenge that still affects me, especially psychologically," she explains.

Moved by her compassion and faith, Gloria made a very generous gift to Operation Smile. Thanks to her kindness we can heal more children in need around the world.

After raising three children of their



Gloria Walter standing next to her store sign

own, she and her husband have plans that include retiring to cottage country in the not-too-distant future. Her plans also include continuing to support the life-changing work of Operation Smile.

DID YOU SEE US ON TV?

On June 20th, Global News - Making a Difference aired a segment on Operation Smile, featuring Canadian pediatric plastic surgeon and Operation Smile volunteer Dr. Vivek Panchapakesan, along with our CEO, Mark Climie-Elliott, who were both interviewed by Susan Hay.

In case you missed it, you can still see the video by visiting www.operationsmile.ca.



Your support enables us to fund medical missions around the globe. Here's where we'll be operating in the second half of 2018.



Anesthesiologist Team Leader Dr. Calizaya of Bolivia smiles at baby Melina during our international mission there this March, funded 100% by Operation Smile Canada donors.

BOLIVIA: **MAKING GREAT STRIDES**

We have a proud track record of progress in Bolivia after years of work. In fact, Operation Smile is one of the few well-supported nongovernmental organizations currently operating in the country. We've responded to this warm reception by ramping up our comprehensive care programs in speech therapy, dentistry, psychology and physiotherapy. We're doing well and we're going back in October.

SEPTEMBER

-  PARAGUAY
-  DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

OCTOBER

-  PHILIPPINES
-  BOLIVIA
-  BRAZIL
-  PANAMA




NOVEMBER

-  MEXICO
-  MEXICO

DECEMBER

-  MOROCCO
-  INDIA
-  BRAZIL

AWAITING SCHEDULING

-  RUSSIA
-  ECUADOR
-  NICARAGUA



8-month-old Rakibul received surgery during our 2017 mission in Durgapur, India. He has his whole life ahead of him, and will never have to suffer as an outcast.

INDIA: **BUILDING INROADS**

Thanks to you and other incredible global supporters, Operation Smile is able to take the crucial first steps toward our elephant-sized goal of a cleft-free India. We've established a national partnership with the Indian government's Ministry of Health, and we're creating a care centre in Kolkata to serve as a strategic education and training hub. We're building this foundation as a model to follow across the country in the coming years, allowing us to heal the thousands of Indian children who are currently waiting for surgery.



Longest Day of SMILES

ON JUNE 21ST, THE LONGEST DAY OF THE YEAR, Operation Smile Canada hit the streets of Toronto to kick off its inaugural Longest Day of SMILES campaign. The day, which was all about awareness for our cause, began before dawn with an interview on The Weather Network, featured a public photo smile booth in the financial district, and culminated with a sunset Facebook Live session.

Thanks to everyone who participated in the Longest Day of SMILES campaign by posting to social #longestdayofsmiles. We challenge our supporters to keep the momentum going by posting about what makes you smile to social and tagging #longestdayofsmiles and @operationsmilecanada as we gear up for a Canada-wide Longest Day of SMILES on June 21 2019.

To see more photos of the day, please visit www.longestdayofsmiles.ca.



BAMBURGH DENTAL 30TH ANNIVERSARY

A HEARTFELT THANK YOU to Bamburgh Dental Office in Markham, Ontario, who celebrated 30 years of service to their community. In celebration of this milestone, Bamburgh Dental hosted a gala night in support of Operation Smile Canada on May 23rd, raising \$100,000 to help provide smiles to waiting children living with cleft conditions.



CANADA'S STUDENT LEADERS

THIS JULY, ten Canadian high school student leaders joined hundreds of other students from around the world at Operation Smile's 27th Annual International Student Leadership Conference in Seattle.

At this week-long event, our Canadian student leaders listened to motivating speakers, engaged in discussions about safe surgery, met new friends and developed fundraising plans for next year. All of our students learned so much and are now mission-trained and passionately motivated to heal the world, one smile at a time.

Through our Operation Smile Student Programs team, which organizes the conference each year, we've built a global network of thousands of students from dozens of countries to build awareness, raise funds and educate others about our core values of commitment, leadership and volunteerism.

"Canadian students have been involved with Operation Smile Canada from the beginning. They're at the heart of our organization because of their drive and passion to help provide new smiles to kids born with cleft conditions. During the upcoming school year, we're excited for even more students to engage with us and become Operation Smile student leaders!"

— Hilary Kellam, Volunteer Coordinator



SWING FOR SMILES

THE 4TH ANNUAL SWING FOR SMILES, hosted by long-time Operation Smile fundraiser Jim Richardson, was held on June 2nd at Glendale Golf and Country Club in Hamilton, Ontario. With 100 golfers in attendance and the support from sponsors, volunteers and local radio station Y108, the day was a huge success, raising over \$14,500. Congratulations to Jim and team on a successful year. Thank you!



5K WALK/RUN HALF-MARATHON MARATHON

Join us on
October 21st, 2018

Take part in the Charity Challenge and run with Operation Smile.



Contact us for information:
mysmile@operationsmile.org
(647)696-0600

Register and start fundraising today at
www.operationsmile.ca/runforsmiles

OUR STUDENT PROGRAMS AT A GLANCE:

1985
YEAR STARTED

18,000
STUDENTS

44
COUNTRIES

900
STUDENT CLUBS

CALLING ALL STUDENTS AND TEACHERS!

Email us at ca-students@operationsmile.org if you're an elementary, high school, university, college student and/or teacher interested in learning more about Operation Smile Student Programs.



HAVE AN EVENT IDEA?
Want to raise funds for Operation Smile Canada? We'd love to hear from you!

Email us at
mysmile@operationsmile.org
or call us toll-free at
1.844.376.4530



THE POWER OF BECOMING A SMILE PARTNER:

A CLEFT-FREE HONDURAS

OUR MONTHLY SMILE PARTNERS provide a steady flow of sustained funds that we can count on to help the thousand of children still waiting for their surgery. They enable us to fund vital programs such as our national care centres—powerhouses of healing.

Operacion Sonrisa Care Centre in Honduras is a beacon of hope to the world. This critical hub provides surgery for cleft conditions along with education, training and research programs for the entire country.

With the commitment of our donors, and after years of hard work, strategic partnerships and community engagement, **we have effectively ended the national waiting list for cleft surgery in Honduras.** This means we no longer have to turn away Honduran children who need our help for lack of resources. We can now treat and offer comprehensive care programs like speech-language therapy, giving them an even brighter future.

This is a tremendous victory, demonstrating that together, we can realize our vision of a cleft-free world. It's assuring to know that we can count on our monthly Smile Partners to sustain this essential program every day of every month of the year.

SMILE PARTNER

“I was a Smile Partner even before having the privilege to serve you here at Operation Smile Canada. If you haven’t already, I hope you’ll consider joining me as the newest member our Smile Partner family.”

— Mark Climie-Elliott, CEO of Operation Smile Canada



From top:

A young girl chats excitedly with Operation Smile dentist Carmi Rivera; The playground and front entrance of our care centre in Honduras; Operation Smile doctor Jennifer Cerna examines a toddler while his grateful mother looks on.

You can become a Smile Partner by calling us toll-free at **1.844.376.4530** or visiting www.operationsmile.ca/smilepartners.

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