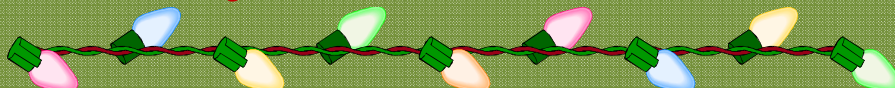




INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S SURGICAL FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

'Everyone Was Born To Smile'



Vol. 4 No. 3

ICSF SERVES SEVEN MISSIONS IN THE THIRD QUARTER

ICSF's donors enabled ICSF medical teams to provide sixty-nine children with free surgery in the Philippines, Bolivia, Peru and Mexico in the third quarter (July-September). "Our donors are unusual and rare folks," says Dr. Williams. "Every time I see a child with his or her mother after surgery, I think of our donors making all of this possible. It is humbling to see how much folks care about poor kids in distant lands."



ICSF KEEPS PROMISE TO JAYSON



Jayson

Jayson was just one of a number of children who did not receive surgery by ICSF in the May Philippines mission. He, and 130 other children, had registered for the mission in Dipolog, but the ICSF team was unable to accommodate all who came, in spite of working past midnight on several occasions. Dr. Williams explains, "With this large number of kids who showed up to be treated, we could have remedied the problem by cutting down on quality and performing the surgeries quickly. This, however, would have been against ICSF's principles. Or, we could have simply apologized to those left over and not treated them. Instead, we did what only ICSF is known for doing. We scheduled an impromptu, follow-up mission six weeks later and gave every child, including Jayson, a surgery date for that time."

It was challenging, but ICSF kept its promise to come again to Dipolog on July 6, six weeks after the previous mission. Upon arrival, however, the team was greatly disheartened to see that Jayson, in spite of his eagerness for surgery, had not returned for his treatment. The team went ahead and worked throughout the week, treating the other kids who had kept their appointments. After a long week of work, including many late nights, the team finished all of the surgeries by 5 p.m. on Friday. As the exhausted team was preparing to pack up and leave, lo and behold, Jayson appeared! His family had been confused about the team's return date but had heard that same morning, that the team was at the hospital. Jayson and his family raced to the first bus in an effort to make it to the hospital in time.

When Dr. Williams asked the tired team if they were up to doing Jayson's surgery, Dr. Majong, the Filipino ICSF anesthesiologist said, "Why not? That's what we are here for!" Jayson underwent blood tests and then was transferred to the operating room where the team labored with all the painstaking care that Jayson deserved. Jayson's operation was finished, complete with his new smile, just after midnight.

Jayson hours after his surgery



CUB SCOUTS SURPRISED



When a Provo, Utah Cub Scout pack learned about ICSF and the chance to help kids with facial deformities in poor countries, they decided that they would do whatever was necessary to scrape up enough money for one child's surgery (\$250). They cleaned yards and did other odds jobs in their neighborhoods, explaining who they were trying to help; one child in a poor country. At the end of the project they put their collections together and were overwhelmed to see \$1,250, exactly enough for, not one, but FIVE children's surgeries! One scout named Seth commented, "I felt good to be a part to save these kids. Now they can have beautiful smiles."

Message from the President

I would like to pay a special tribute to some often-neglected but crucial players in the ICSF story; the *parents* of the children we treat.

To say that parents 'care' about their children is a gross understatement. Most parents would do anything within and even beyond their means to provide for the needs of their children--and when they cannot meet their children's needs, they suffer anguish and grief.

Parents in poor countries are inherently less able to meet the needs of their children, especially children with facial and other deformities. When a child with a deformity is born into a poor family in a poor country, a grieving process begins, accompanied by anxiety, and as time passes, a hopeless despair. Many parents, acting in what they feel is the best interest of their child, hide the child from society and keep the child from attending school. We have encountered many children in this regretful situation.

I have witnessed, upon the medical team's arrival, what could only be called a melee--a free for all, as mothers and fathers scramble for a place in line hoping that surgery will be scheduled for their child. I witnessed two Vietnamese mothers actually fighting for a place in line, underscoring the passion they have about their children's welfare. Thus, the parents are an indispensable link between their children and ICSF. Simply stated, without the parents, there would be very few children coming

to our missions--and very few children treated.



Vietnamese parents caring for their child after surgery

Although the tearful mother didn't know it, she was also squeezing the hands of ICSF's donors, the people behind the scenes who made it possible for us to change the life of her daughter and other children, some of whom have waited for many years.

May each one of you take pleasure and comfort in knowing that you were instrumental in relieving the Chinese mother's despair. Again, thank you for your support and joining us in our belief that "Everyone Was Born to Smile".

Sincerely,

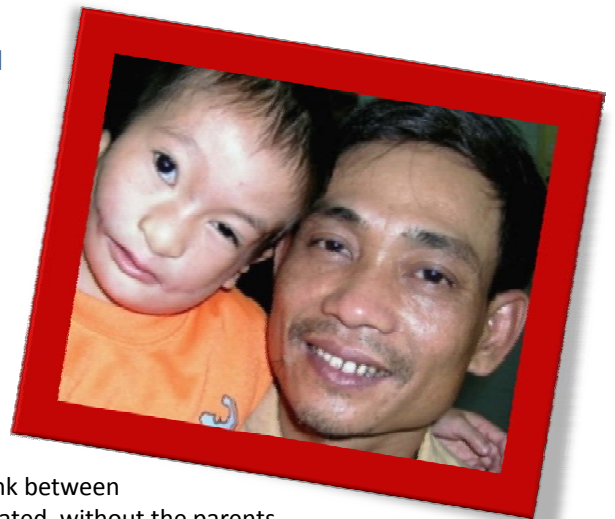
W. Geoff Williams, M.D.

President

"...parents are an indispensable link between their children and ICSF. Simply stated, without the parents, there would be very few children coming to our missions--and very few children treated."



On a recent trip to China, a mother illustrated exactly how parents feel when help arrives. After surgery was performed for her teenage daughter and the sleeping child had been delivered into her awaiting bed, the mother proceeded through a crowd seeking me out. As she approached I could see tears streaming down her cheeks. She came up to me, grabbed both of my hands with hers and began a long oration in her native tongue. She spoke loudly, in a trembling voice and intermittently squeezed my hands with nearly every word she spoke. After this poignant scene, I asked one of my Chinese friends to give me an idea of what the woman said. I was told that the mother was thanking me for treating her child and that she had waited many years for this moment.





Of all the gifts that can be given at this special time of the year, none is quite like 'the Gift of a Smile'.

Think of a child in a far-away land. Think of his or her mother and father and join ICSF in giving 'the Gift of a Smile' to a child this holiday season!



NEW ICSF WEBSITE UP AND RUNNING

Check out ICSF's new website at icsfoundation.org -created by Drew Bertola of Sunnyvale, CA and Melissa Ventura of Salinas, CA. "This beautiful website was given to us totally free by Drew and Melissa, allowing us to spend the several thousand dollars it would have cost--on the kids in poor countries. Because of folks like this, we have almost zero overhead at ICSF," says Dr. Williams.

melissa f. ventura
graphic designer



Marissa, our poster child, tries out her new smile just 5 days after surgery. Marissa's mother was told after her daughter's birth that surgery for the cleft lip would be very risky. Her mother, finally, after seven years of anxiety for her daughter's well being, decided to have ICSF perform the surgery. Marissa is now making many friends at school.

Please visit our website at
www.icsfoundation.org



I WANT TO HELP OTHER CHILDREN LIKE MARISSA!

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

(address required for receipt of donation)

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Enclosed is my tax deductible donation for:

- () \$6,500 to cover the cost of an entire mission.
- () \$800 to cover an entire day of operating.
- () \$250 to sponsor one child's surgery.
- () \$50 to pay for part of a child's surgery.
- () Other, in the amount of \$ _____



Please contact me, or send more information regarding:

- () Volunteering () Scheduling a Presentation
- () Other: _____

Please make checks payable to ICSF and mail to: P.O. Box 4594, Boise, ID 83711-4594

ICSF is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service as a 501c3 Public Charity. All donations are tax deductible.

Please direct any questions you may have about donating to director@icsfoundation.org OR call 208 . 375 . 8132

If you would prefer to receive your ICSF newsletter by email, please send your email address to director@icsfoundation.org