



INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S SURGICAL FOUNDATION

"Everyone Was Born to Smile"

VOLUME 5 NO. 3

ICSF Serves Four Continents in Third Quarter

The Philippines, Mexico, Peru and Kenya all benefitted from ICSF surgical missions from July through September. Arising from these missions came two new invitations for ICSF to serve, in Kenya and the Philippines. Dr. Mario Judith of Cadiz District Hospital in Negros, Philippines, commented recently: "ICSF is getting a reputation here in the Philippines

because of the excellent work in cleft lip surgery—the results are beautiful, and families are bypassing other missions to wait for ICSF. Dr. Williams adds: "These kinds of comments are coming because of the time we take with each child. There are no rushed surgeries in ICSF missions. We strive to do the very best we can for each child. This attitude makes us unique among volunteer organizations."

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*Adrian, age 18 months,
before lip surgery in the
Philippines*



*Adrian, one year after lip
surgery and immediately
after palate surgery*



*Lacy, age five years (left), had foot
contractures from an untreated
burn that occurred three years
earlier. Following surgery by an
ICSF team, she was recovering
from the release of the
contractures.*



(continued from page 1)



Irene, an 18-year-old Kenyan girl, with an untreated cleft lip (left), and following surgery (right).

A TIME FOR GIVING



A boy in Pakistan, shown with ICSF President Dr. Geoff Williams, has a bright future after burn treatment.

Holidays are a time for sharing our blessings. Please log on to our Website: icsfoundation.org and make a tax-deductible donation, or use the enclosed donor slip to send a check today, so that we can continue to provide "The Gift of a Smile."

Sometimes, the gifts are more than a smile, such as the help given to burn victims. For example, your generous gifts recently made it possible for an ICSF team to perform surgery on a young Peruvian boy suffering from untreated third-degree burns on his leg.

ICSF's surgical team gives the precious gifts of careful surgery and follow-up treatment, so they can be sure that the outcomes do bring the brightest smiles. Your gift will help these dedicated professionals bring hope to children and parents around the world.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The Gift of a Smile

What, exactly, is a smile? A smile, scientifically speaking, is a highly-coordinated facial expression involving nearly all of the paired muscles of mid and lower face, facilitated by the seventh cranial nerve and its center or "nucleus" in the brainstem. Smiling is one of the first complex, voluntary movements that a baby can perform. It is common for a baby to smile much sooner than he or she can walk or even crawl. It is thought by anthropologists that a baby's smile is crucial in developing a strong mother-child bond. A child's ability to smile is likewise as important in his or her social development and in forming bonds with siblings and other children. A smile is a signal to other children that "I want to be friends with you." As a child matures, smiling becomes an all-important method of communicating with virtually all individuals he or she comes in contact with. A smile can convey what no word can. It can instantly solve an interpersonal conflict, thwart aggression, or provoke feelings of love and understanding. A smile is a very powerful thing!

What then becomes of those who have a broken smile, as in a cleft lip? Their lives are greatly affected. The earliest of all communications is interfered with. Bonds that could have been formed—go unformed. Some children with cleft lips actually dream of being able to smile normally and make friends.

ICSF is in the business of creating smiles. We members of the medical teams have the great pleasure and honor of seeing many, soon after surgery, smile for the first time in their lives. I am always awed by how infectious first smiles are. The patient's mother is usually the first to be infected. We know that each of those first smiles will be followed by many, many more, and that a life is transformed and doors are opened.

In the holiday season, giving is an important theme. While it is important to give gifts to those we love and honor during the holiday season, there is no greater gift than **the gift of a smile** to one in a far-away land. In this case, the initiator of the giving process, the donor, will likely never meet the boy or girl recipient. But then, isn't it true that some of the best gifts are given anonymously?

To our donors: We at ICSF thank you for the many smiles you have helped create around the world—smiles that would have only been dreamed of without you. We know that you, like we, believe in **the gift of a smile** and that, indeed, "everyone was born to smile."

Dr. Geoff Williams

President, ICSF

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*The smiles of ICSF patients,
parents, and doctors*

ICSF Schools for Smiles Report

Richland, Washington, High School Breaks Record

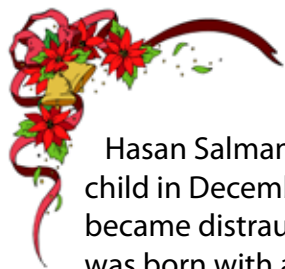
"No one has more empathy for disfigured kids in poor countries than kids here in America", reasoned Richland High School Principal Gordon Comfort after reading about ICSF in the news media. He soon learned of ICSF's Schools for Smiles fund-raising program and immediately turned to model student Devonte Rhea.

Devonte promptly went to work organizing a Schools for Smiles campaign hoping to pay for several children's surgeries in the Philippines. Little did he and others at Richland High School know that their efforts would net more than \$5,000, nearly enough for an entire ICSF cleft palate mission!

ICSF salutes and thanks Mr. Comfort, Devonte Rhea, and the other students of Richland High School for helping change children's lives. **Let your child shine**—invite your child to initiate a Schools for Smiles project in his or her school today.



Devonte Rhea



ICSF Patient Makes YouTube

Hasan Salman of Lahore, Pakistan, witnessed the birth of his first child in December 2008. However, Hasan and his wife, Shela, became distraught when they saw that their daughter, Hareem, was born with a very wide complete unilateral cleft lip and palate. One day Hasan was searching for help on the Internet and stumbled across an article about Dr. Williams in *Reader's Digest*. Hasan and Shela wondered if the American surgeon would make a special trip to Pakistan to treat their daughter, not knowing that Dr. Williams had already been traveling to Pakistan an average of two times per year, including their home town of Lahore.

Hasan was elated when he emailed ICSF and got the quick reply that Dr. Williams already had a mission scheduled to Pakistan and that he would be delighted to treat Hareem. Hareem was one of thirty children receiving free cleft lip/nose surgery by ICSF in Pakistan in June 2009. She again underwent cleft palate surgery by Dr. Williams in 2010. She is now beginning to talk with normal palate function. Her family was so elated that they put a video on YouTube. Navigate a Web browser to www.YouTube.com, enter **hasanrazi75** in the search box, and click on "For Doctor Geoff Williams.mov" to see Hareem after surgery, talking and entertaining.



Hareem before surgery