



INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S SURGICAL FOUNDATION

"Everyone Was Born to Smile"

VOLUME 6 NO. 3



ICSF SERVES TEAM MISSIONS TO TWO NEW LOCATIONS IN SECOND QUARTER

Due to very good continued donor support to ICSF, two new team missions were carried out in April (Hai Phong, Vietnam Children's Hospital) and in May (Cebu, Philippines Children's Sanitorium). This brings the total of locations where ICSF serves team missions to seven.

As mentioned in ICSF's first quarter newsletter, team missions, although they are more expensive, are more capable of treating all who come hoping for surgery. A total of eighteen doctors and nurses from four countries volunteer on a regular basis to staff ICSF's team missions. Dr. Williams also served solo surgical missions to Xian, China, in May and Toluca, Mexico, in June.



Toan (above, before and after surgery) was a patient of ICSF's first team mission to Vietnam.



Six-month old Anthony (above) was one of several orphans treated by ICSF in Xian, China. Following surgery (right) he will stand a much better chance of being adopted



James Carl of the Philippines before surgery (far left) and after (near left) had a particularly severe bilateral cleft lip, which an ICSF team repaired.



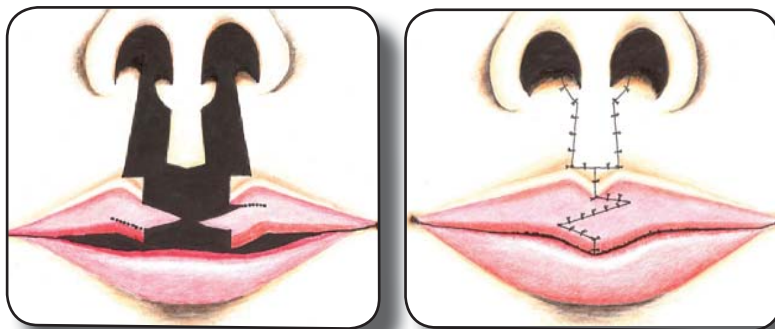
ICSF TEAM MISSIONS *(Continued from page 1)*



Two members of the surgical mission team, Dr. Curtis Rigby and Dr. Mike Foutz, evaluating patients after surgery at Hai Phong Childrens' Hospital, Vietnam.

Dr. Williams Presents New Cleft Lip Technique to American Cleft Palate Association

For four years, Dr. Williams has been using a surgical technique he developed to create more beauty in the lips of bilateral cleft lip patients. He presented details about the technique at the American Cleft Palate Association's 68th Annual Scientific Meeting in San Juan, Puerto Rico, April 4-9. "The presentation was well-received, and afterward a number of surgeons were interested in implementing the technique," reports Dr. Williams. "I owe a lot to ICSF and its supporters, too," he adds. "Without them, I would not have had an opportunity to develop this new technique, which I hope will be a blessing to cleft patients around the world."



Dr. Williams' surgical technique slides that he presented at national ACPA meeting.



Remember the GIFT OF A SMILE this holiday season. For \$240 you can give the gift of a smile, the gift that will last a lifetime for a poor child in a poor country.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

'I saw her face many times in my mind'

It saddened me greatly to think that I might never see her again. It was four years ago that she had come to the Hai Phong Children's Hospital at age ten hoping to have her surgery redone. She had had her bilateral cleft lip treated previously by another team, but the surgery had resulted in a significant deformity. Unfortunately, I was not able to fit her onto the schedule due to limited availability of personnel at the hospital. Every year since then, I had hoped to see her in the group of patients gathered by the hospital for my visit, but my hope was always in vain. I saw her face many times in my mind. It was a sad but accepting face that had seared itself into my memory. Although I hoped, year after year, that I would see her among the patients coming for surgery, I worried that even if she did come, there might be too many children in need of surgery who had never had surgery—and the hospital would want them to receive priority. The basic problem was that there were not sufficient hospital personnel available for me to do more than one or two surgeries per day. This had been a perennial problem during each of my visits at the hospital, and there seemed to be no good solution.



During my 2010 visit, however, an idea popped into my head: Add Hai Phong Children's Hospital as an ICSF team mission site! I would be able to commit to the hospital leaders with confidence, knowing that ICSF could now handle the more expensive team mission without question—thanks to the generosity of our donors. I was gladdened when the hospital leaders okayed my idea. I called previous ICSF volunteer anesthesiologist Dr. Curtis Rigby, who enthusiastically agreed to be a part of the team. Dr. Mike Foutz, a Boise physician fluent in Vietnamese, also agreed to come. (See their photo on page 2.) The team was rounded out by ICSF nursing coordinator for Southeast Asia Flor Moya, Philippine-born American nurse Amelia Flaherty, and ICSF-trained Philippine nurse Noime Infante. As I anticipated ICSF's first team mission to the Hai Phong Children's Hospital, I thought again about my young friend whom I had turned away four years before. With our ICSF team, I knew there would be time to treat her . . . if she came. Neither I nor the hospital knew the girl's contact information or even her name, and so all I could do was hope and pray (which I did).

On the first morning of the mission, as we entered the large parent and patient-filled room, I immediately scanned around to see if the girl from four years ago was there. I did not see her—but then why would I expect her to come after four years? And then my eye caught a familiar face. I stared at the face momentarily. I could not believe my eyes—it was her!—after four years of seeing her in my mind only! By my stare, she knew I had remembered her, and her facial expression turned to brilliant anticipation. She smiled and waved shyly. When it was her turn to be examined, the sad eyes I remembered from four years before were now eyes of gladness and hope.

It would be a long operation and I would have to take a small piece of her rib for a nose graft. The difficulty was inconsequential to her. She had wanted the surgery four years ago and felt even more adamant now, as she likely had experienced increasing social embarrassment in recent years as a young teenager. As we gave her the surgery date she smiled a smile that only a doctor working with disfigured children in poor countries knows. I was glad the interpreter had taken over, because I developed a frog in my throat as I realized my prayers had been answered. A miracle was sitting in front of me!

The six-hour surgery to fix the nose and completely redo the lip went well. Dr. Rigby's anesthesia was flawless. In the recovery room as I approached my patient who had waited so long, she could not smile, but her cheeks quivered, which was all the smile I needed. When I first entered her hospital room the next day, she was looking intently at her new nose and lip with a small mirror. I explained that the surgery would look better when the swelling went down and the tape came off. She understood and indicated that she could wait.

I thought I should share with you this story of waiting, mixed with sadness, but ending in a little miracle—a miracle made possible by you, our ICSF donors. You do more than you will ever know. You do more to cheer little faces and change little lives in far reaches of the world than you can comprehend. Thank you, our donors. You and ICSF are truly creating a world where "everyone was born to smile!"



Dr. Geoff Williams

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Marine Sergeant Treks for ICSF

Most American soldiers, after completing a tour of duty in Afghanistan, return home to pursue the lives they dreamed of when they were in the battlefield—and well they should. They have put life and limb on the line for the ideals of freedom. Relationships, school, and family are the goals of nearly all as they return home—except 26-year-old Marine Sgt. Winston Fiore, that is.

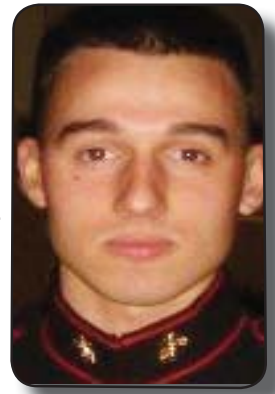
Sgt. Fiore had had an eye-opening experience while serving in the war zone. One day while his platoon was on patrol, they encountered a young village boy with a cleft lip. Sgt. Fiore and his fellow soldiers felt sorry for the boy and tried to arrange transport for the boy to go to Kabul for treatment. However, military regulations did not permit the transport, and ultimately the sergeant had to say good-bye to his unfortunate little friend.

Upon returning to his home, Sgt. Fiore could not forget the boy and decided that he wanted to help children with clefts in poor countries—he just didn't know exactly how. He looked up several organizations, but nothing clicked until his father pulled out a Bloomington, Indiana, newspaper clipping he had saved from several years earlier. The article was about an organization that treated children with clefts in poor countries—but with a unique emphasis on quality in the care of patients and also on long-term training of local doctors and nurses. The article was about the *International Children's Surgical Foundation*.

Sgt. Fiore felt right about ICSF. Eventually he began a special trek, beginning in the southern United States and progressing west. He met with Rotary clubs, arranged interviews with newspapers and with TV and radio stations, all to promote and collect donations for ICSF. In his interviews, he described ICSF's uniqueness and the high standard of medical care the organization delivers to children in poor countries. He also told of ICSF's goal of empowering local doctors to treat their own patients.

In August, he traveled to Lima, Peru, to video record ICSF at work in the Lima Children's Hospital, for a documentary about ICSF for fundraising, as he continues his trek in Asia. With a fundraising goal of \$50,000 for ICSF and the children it treats, he is currently in Asia, gathering pesos, bat, yuan, song, and other currencies for ICSF to use in treating children.

You can read about Sgt. Fiore at his blog, **Smiletrek.org**.



Sgt. Fiore before his deployment



Sgt. Fiore makes a presentation about ICSF (left), and joins the ICSF team in Lima, Peru, (right) to record video for a documentary. Shown here with Dr. Geoff Williams, ICSF president.

