Inaugural Medical Mission to Senegal Provides New Smiles

Operation Smile added a new partner country to its roster when a team of international medical volunteers worked in Thies, Senegal, from December 13-21. More than 40 Operation Smile medical and non-medical volunteer team members from Australia, Belgium, Canada, France, Ireland, Italy, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, Scotland and the United States worked in conjunction with Senegalese medical professionals at the Regional Hospital of Thies. Families from throughout Senegal, some from villages and towns many hours away, came to seek the help of the Operation Smile team. Throughout the week the team provided 164 physical examinations and 71 patients received free reconstructive surgery.

The mission was sponsored by and organized in coordination with the Ministry of Health of Senegal and made possible with the support of Minister of Health Dr. Safiatou Thiam Sy. Operation Smile received assistance in the planning and implementation of the mission from the Peace Corps in Senegal, UNICEF and Tostan, a non-governmental organization empowering African communities to bring about sustainable development and positive social transformation based on respect for human rights. This first mission was made possible by Accor, the European leader in hotels with the Sofitel, Pullman, MGallery, Novotel, Mercure, Suitehotel, Ibis, all seasons, Etap Hotel, Formule 1 and Motel 6 brands, as well as the Italian Soccer League.

(continued on page 5)

Collaboration in Haiti with Partners In Health Changes the Lives of 59

Also in December, Operation Smile returned to Hinche, Haiti, for the second mission in collaboration with Partners In Health (PIH), a non-profit active in the Caribbean, Latin America, Africa, Russia, and the United States that provides a preferential option for the poor in health care. The Operation Smile team of more than 30 medical and non-medical volunteers from Colombia, Norway, Russia, and the United States, worked with local Haitian medical volunteers at Saint Theresa Hospital to provide 86 patients with free physical examinations and free reconstructive surgeries to 59 children and young adults from December 7-14.

(continued on page 5)
Message from our Co-founders

We have often said that it is the combination of all our talents and differences that has made Operation Smile the unique organization it is today. This became even clearer during our World Summit held in January. Bringing together nearly 200 Operation Smile leaders from more than 30 partner countries was an amazing opportunity to share compelling stories and to collaborate on new ways to help more children worldwide suffering with facial deformities. You could really feel the energy of our global family. Together, we have a force that’s powerful and vibrant. The passion we all feel will take us into the next era.

One of the qualities that makes our organization unique is our set of core values — Compassionate, Driven and Exemplary — that were introduced at the Summit and provided a focus for each day’s activities. We began with compassionate—a universal quality best exemplified by Operation Smile’s thousands of volunteers. It was the drive of the Operation Smile staff at headquarters and around the world that made our 2007 World Journey of Smiles a reality. When we think of exemplary, many people stand out. One in particular was the determination and heart of our friend the late John Connor. He made Operation Smile’s first trip to Vietnam possible. He was an individual who demonstrated his concern and taught us about love. Everywhere John traveled, he told people about Operation Smile. Now in our 20th anniversary of work in Vietnam, we fondly remember John and sincerely thank him. These core values will continue to shape the organization and provide a platform for our future.

We’d like to share news about staffing that was announced in January. Howard J. Unger will lead the organization’s Planned Giving efforts as CEO and President of the Operation Smile Foundation and will also serve as COO for Operation Smile, Inc. The combination of Howard’s long-time volunteer service to the organization, including his serving as Board of Directors Chairman (2006-2008), and his strong business background will be vital for our future growth. Michael Harvey joined the organization and will serve in a newly created position of Vice President of Technology and Brand Globalization. And Lisa Jardanhazy has been named to the new position of Vice President and Chief Storyteller.

During the World Summit, Operation Smile’s new mission statement was introduced: Operation Smile mobilizes a world of generous hearts to heal children’s smiles and transform lives across the globe. The effect, which begins with a single surgery, reaches far beyond that of one child. It has a kind of ripple effect — which expands, spreads, and grows each time we transform a child’s life, beginning with their new smile. We believe this is what makes us unique – and is the foundation of our brand and our new mission statement.

So thank you once again. It is through your generous hearts that we are able to heal more children’s smiles around this beautiful world of ours.

- Bill and Kathy Magee

Message from our Board Chairman

At our World Summit in January, I set out three big challenges which we face as an organization over the next five years. These are globalization, broadening and deepening our volunteer base, and embracing new fund-raising techniques to maximize our impact.

More than 200,000 children are born each year with a cleft lip or cleft palate and less than half of these children currently have any prospect of access to the surgical expertise they need. To address this problem, we need to increase dramatically our volunteer capacity and financial resources.

This is our call to action. We are one team, with one mission. Globalization is about how we maximize our impact, and where we deploy resources and build the capabilities we must develop. As the financial pressures on all of us increase, we will need this long term, global perspective to establish our priorities.

This applies equally to our volunteer base, which defines us and differentiates us. We need to persuade others to join us if we are to meet the ambitious goals we have set for ourselves.

Finally, we face big financial challenges. The economic downturn has already started to impact our corporate and special events income. However, our direct response income from smaller but regular donors has remained very stable. This is one of our key strengths and something we need to replicate outside the U.S. where these innovative fund-raising techniques offer significant growth potential. But as we make these investments in building a global brand and donor base, we need to raise these funds without restrictions, so the funds can be deployed in the most effective way.

I look forward to working with you to meet these challenges and change the world in which we live.

- Jeremy Greenhalgh
Operation Smile hosted its **World Summit 2009** from January 15-18 at the Hilton Virginia Beach Oceanfront in Virginia. The four-day conference assembled nearly 200 of Operation Smile’s leaders and volunteers representing more than 30 partner countries. The Summit was held to discuss the organization’s growth, global fund-raising, and medical programs, as well as to develop strategies to equip Operation Smile partner countries with the tools they need to treat more children around the world. The theme for the Summit was “Building on the past. Preparing for the future.” Participants heard from world-renowned speakers including Leslie Crutchfield, Marci Shimoff, Bill Tancer, Patrick Thean, Jim Weiss, and Jerry White.

Viet Nguyen, Operation Smile Regional Development Director for Asia, said, “It’s a wonderful opportunity to be here with hundreds of people to discuss the growth of the organization and to really look back to what we’ve achieved in the past in order for Operation Smile to take the next steps to prepare for our growth in the future.”

Dr. Lucio Auler, Operation Smile Regional Medical Officer for Latin America and the Caribbean, added, “When you have everybody together, you feel the energy, and you feel that you are really a family.”

**For more go to: www.operationsmile.org/worldsummit**

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**Operation Smile Care Centers Continue to Expand Services to Patients and Families**

Operation Smile recognizes that meeting the needs of children means doing more than providing safe medical missions. Around the world, Operation Smile Foundations are investing in building care centers. Goals of the centers are to provide multi-disciplinary care, increase capacity for surgical care, establish a permanent base of operations for Operation Smile Foundations, and increase training and education opportunities. Currently, eight care centers are helping children in: Hangzhou, China • Bogotá, Colombia • Duitama, Colombia • Tegucigalpa, Honduras • Kolkata, India • Amman, Jordan • Casablanca, Morocco • Hue, Vietnam

In 2008, the care center in Bogotá, Colombia, provided 8,886 consultations for 1,369 patients. One-hundred-seventy-six surgeries were performed in the center last year and medical missions have been conducted at the site, treating an additional 450 patients. Another center in Duitama, Colombia, conducted 2,165 consultations in plastic surgery, pediatrics, speech therapy, dental and psychology in 2008.

In December, an Operation Smile Honduras multi-disciplinary team spent three days with an Operation Smile Colombia team at the care center in Bogotá to share ideas and best practices. The care center in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, provided 1,694 consultations to patients in 2008. Operation Smile Honduras Executive Director Giannina Guell said, “The exchange was very beneficial for both Foundations. We learned from one another and shared knowledge about the needs of volunteers in different areas of specialty in order to provide comprehensive patient care.”

Additional Operation Smile care centers are planned to open in the next two years in Brazil, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Paraguay, the Philippines and Vietnam.
Message from our Chief Medical Officer

Operation Smile’s Regional Vice President for Latin America and the Caribbean, and Dr. John Meara, long time surgical volunteer and currently Plastic Surgeon-in-Chief at Children’s Hospital Boston, we have built a solid association with an organization in Haiti, aptly named Partners In Health (PIH). Led by the extraordinary physician humanitarian, Paul Farmer, PIH has built a healthcare complex and ingenious delivery system in one of the most impoverished nations on earth. As heroic as their efforts have been, they have opened their arms to Operation Smile with the acknowledgement that our system of surgical services delivery can add greatly to their effectiveness in combating disease in this most forsaken environment. We, as well, recognize that through this partnership, we gain a new opportunity to help children in ways we could not have previously.

Another exciting collaboration is developing with a very special group of doctors, nurses and physical therapists who have built a successful model for providing efficient, safe and effective burn reconstructive services. These most desperate patients present extraordinary challenges and overwhelming needs, both in manpower and equipment. Enter Dr. Peter Rumbolo, a former plastic surgical resident who trained at Southern Illinois University Medical School with one of our most senior volunteer surgeons, Dr. Robert Russell. He and his team from St. John’s Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis, Missouri, have developed a remarkable approach to care for burn patients, proven now many times in the Ho Chi Minh City Medical Center, Vietnam, under the direction of Dr. Lam Phuong. With coordination from the logistics and credentialing teams in Norfolk, we are well on our way to another valuable partnership.

As we search out additional opportunities to deliver safe and effective life-changing surgical services, we believe Operation Smile, through solid partners such as the U.S. Navy, PIH, and Dr. Peter Rumbolo, can open the door for many more to serve and for many more children to receive care.

- Randy Sherman, M.D.

International Mission Report
SEPTEMBER 2008 - DECEMBER 2008

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Operation Smile Participates in Global Health Diplomacy Meeting

On December 12, Operation Smile participated in a Global Health Diplomacy Meeting in Miami sponsored by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Assistant Secretary for Health ADM Joxel Garcia, M.D., addressed the importance of global health diplomacy initiatives in Latin America and the contributions of the U.S. Public Health service in Operation Continuing Promise, a U.S. global health initiative that has delivered healthcare to Central and South America, the Caribbean and the Pacific Rim.

Operation Smile representatives included George Yarbrough, Regional Programs Manager for Europe, Middle East and Africa, and medical volunteer Dr. Rafael Gottenger. Yarbrough and Gottenger were part of an Operation Smile medical mission in Puerto Cabezas, Nicaragua, in August working with Navy personnel on USS Kearsarge. Thirty-six children received free physical examinations and 29 patients were surgically treated.
Inaugural Medical Mission to Senegal (continued from cover)

In preparation for the mission, Operation Smile medical professionals from Morocco and the United States conducted an inaugural Basic Life Support (BLS) training in August in Dakar for healthcare providers from three hospitals in Senegal; 67 received BLS certification. Operation Smile is authorized by the American Heart Association to function as a global and mobile International Training Organization (ITO) to provide BLS certification. This program also provided an opportunity to build important relationships with Senegalese medical professionals, paving the way for the December medical mission.

Collaboration in Haiti (continued from cover)

Dr. John Meara, Plastic Surgeon-in-Chief at Children’s Hospital Boston, served as the Field Medical Director during the mission. Also joining the medical team was Dr. Stephen Sullivan, Dr. Meara’s 2008 global surgery fellow. The fellowship was organized through Children’s Hospital Boston and PIH. The goal is to train leaders who will further promote surgical care, education, and research pertinent to global surgery.

On December 4 and 5, Operation Smile conducted Basic Life Support (BLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS), and Advanced Cardiac Life Support (ACLS) courses for more than 40 Haitian medical professionals. And on December 10, Operation Smile medical volunteers Dr. Kelly McQueen; Mary Dudley, CRNA; and Dr. Judith Brill conducted informative lectures.

U.S. Patient Gets a Second Chance Thanks to Operation Smile Volunteer

Jacqueline Weatherspoon was born with a bilateral cleft lip and cleft palate, which were repaired during infancy. As a child, she developed a palatal fistula, which affected her speech and allowed food and liquid into her nose when she ate or drank. Her nose was also severely deformed from her clefts. She was embarrassed by her nasal deformity, poor speech development, and difficulty eating and drinking. Jacqueline had given up hope of having these problems corrected, until she was 40 years old and heard about Operation Smile’s U.S. Care Network.

Through this network, Jacqueline was referred to Dr. Dan Shell, a plastic surgeon and Operation Smile volunteer located near her home in Memphis, Tennessee. Dr. Shell has volunteered with Operation Smile since 2006, participating on medical missions to Bolivia, Morocco and Vietnam. He was excited about the opportunity to correct the life-long facial defects related to Jacqueline’s clefts and sought the assistance of Saint Francis Hospital, which donated their facility and anesthesia team’s service. In November, Dr. Shell repaired Jacqueline’s palate and reconstructed her nose.

Dr. Shell said, “This has been a wonderful experience from beginning to end. Jacqueline is so grateful to Operation Smile and Saint Francis Hospital for making this dream come true!”

Now Jacqueline’s palate has completely healed, her speech has improved, and she is excited about her “new nose.” Jacqueline said, “I used to hold my head down, but now I hold my head up proudly. This surgery has built up my self-esteem.”

For more go to: www.operationsmile.org/us-care

In October 2008, Yveline receives a physical examination by Dr. Arash Babaoff

Nine months after surgery Yveline shows off her new smile to Dr. John Meara

In the operating room, anesthesiologist Dr. George Njogu of Kenya prepares seven-year-old Sofia Diyoup for surgery

Pediatric intensivist Dr. Martina Healy of Ireland examines a baby
Operation Smile Egypt Hosts RacingThePlanet Competitors

Operation Smile provided 96 patients with free reconstructive surgery during its inaugural mission to Cairo, Egypt, from October 23-30. RacingThePlanet sponsored this mission in conjunction with its Sahara Race 2008, which drew a record field of 163 endurance athletes from 30 countries.

The day before the race, Operation Smile Egypt invited the race competitors and volunteers to the Arab Contractors’ Hospital, while medical volunteers provided free physical examinations for children and young adults suffering from cleft lips and cleft palates. For every $240 donation made by a Sahara Race 2008 competitor, Operation Smile provided a medical wristband with the donor’s name on it to a child selected for surgery. The local impact of the Operation Smile medical mission on the patients and families in the Cairo region, coupled with high interest in the Sahara Race 2008, lent a ceremonious atmosphere to the start of the race.

Operation Smile India

Operation Smile Co-founder and President Kathy Magee (right) and Emily Ford Webb, Operation Smile Senior Coordinator of Global Development, with Dinesh Salunkhe of the Rajasthan Royals cricket team in India. The Rajasthan Royals won the first Indian Premier League (IPL) tournament, defeating the Chennai Super Kings by three wickets in the final played in June 2008. Team owners are Manoj Badale, Chairman of Operation Smile United Kingdom, and Ranjit Barthakur, Chairman of Operation Smile India. In Jaipur (Rajasthan, India), at an event announcing the new season’s plans, the Rajasthan Royals announced its support for Operation Smile’s work in the State of Rajasthan.

Operation Smile Nicaragua

In February, Operation Smile Nicaragua unveiled its first-ever billboard in Managua. The billboard was made possible through a donation from companies: Cadimo (David Cadia), Megaimpresiones (Martin Barcenas) and Publisol (Marcelo Teran).

Operation Smile Conducts Life Support Training in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital and Research Center, Operation Smile South Africa (OSSA) conducted free Basic Life Support (BLS) training courses for 104 doctors and nurses from February 2-8 in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). The program was conducted by Operation Smile volunteer trainers Jean Butler of South Africa and Anan Tawil of Jordan. The Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital and Research Center was opened in July 2007 by NBA star Dikembe Mutombo, whose Foundation is dedicated to improving the health, education and quality of life for the people of the DRC.

Mutombo said, “I am very happy that the training went well for the Congolese doctors at Biamba Marie Mutombo Hospital in Kinshasa. This is just the beginning of the long lasting relationship with Operation Smile and the hospital.”

Operation Smile is a proud partner of the Dikembe Mutombo Foundation and recognized Mutombo’s commitment to children by presenting him with its Wilt Chamberlain Award during its 2004 Los Angeles Gala.

OSSA thanks Dr. Mimi Kanda, Dr. Joyce Hightower, Dr. Jean-Pierre Kruwba, Dr. Dominique Mupepe and Mr. Richard Nyami who assisted with the preparation of this education program, as well as Hellman Worldwide Logistics for their support.
Baby from Romania has a New Smile and Bright Future Thanks to Operation Smile Italy

Allegra Cara David was born in August 2008 in Bucharest, Romania, with a cleft lip and cleft palate. Her mother Carmen said, “I want her to be normal. I want her to have a healthy and happy life.” Carmen and her husband Octavio’s friend, Patricia Gilbert from California, called Operation Smile’s headquarters seeking treatment for the infant. An Operation Smile Donor Relations staff member referred the call to the U.S. Care Network Coordinator who contacted Gianluca Biavati, Operation Smile Regional Vice President for Europe, Middle East and Africa.

Biavati made arrangements for Operation Smile Italy to provide surgery for Cara in Rome. Patricia Gilbert sponsored the travel for Cara and her parents. Working at Villa Flaminia Hospital, Operation Smile volunteers Dr. Domenico Scopelliti, a plastic surgeon and Operation Smile Italy Medical Director, and Dr. Marina Sammartino, Operation Smile anesthesia advisor for Europe, Middle East and Africa, provided free reconstructive surgery for Cara on February 9. She is recovering well and returned home with her grateful parents on February 19.

Following the surgery, Carmen said, “I am full of happiness and with my heart in peace. I want to thank each of you for making this possible. The operation is simply wonderful. She is now the most beautiful child on Earth, thanks to all of you!”

6th Annual Tour de Thailand Raises $30,000 for Operation Smile Thailand

The 6th Annual Tour de Thailand Charity Bicycle Ride, a 27-day adventure of 2,300 kilometers/1,438 miles through Thailand, was held December 9-January 4. The event began in Chiang Mai with riders from around the world joining for 2-4 weeks and local cyclists joining daily. Tour de Thailand raised $30,000 (1,000,000 THB) for Operation Smile Thailand.

Kevin Beauvais, Chairman of the Executive Committee and Board member for Operation Smile Thailand, said, “This event and the camaraderie, excitement and awareness created about Operation Smile was outstanding. I was so pleased to be able to ride in this event and look forward to next year being even more successful.”

Smile Ambassador Satcha Pretto Visits Honduras Care Center

Satcha Pretto, co-host of Univision’s daily newsmagazine “Primer Impacto: Fin de Semana” (First Impact: Weekend Edition), visited her home country of Honduras in February. Since March 2008, Pretto has served as a Smile Ambassador for Operation Smile and during her visit, she joined Operation Smile Honduras medical volunteers as they performed reconstructive surgery at the Foundation’s Cleft Lip and Cleft Palate Clinic.

“Each one of these children deserves the opportunity for a better life, which is why I urge the parents of these young ones to visit Operation Smile’s office in Tegucigalpa, so their children may be considered as candidates for corrective surgery, completely free of charge,” explained Pretto.

“It is a great responsibility that I take on with great pride,” stated Pretto to the Honduran press. “When I was selected in 2008 to take part in this great endeavor, I couldn’t believe it. I simply volunteered because I identify with the cause.”
Donor Spotlight:

Boeing is the world’s leading aerospace company and the largest manufacturer of commercial jetliners and military aircrafts. Since 1991, Boeing has been a dedicated supporter of Operation Smile, donating nearly $250,000. Boeing’s generosity has made an impact on hundreds of children throughout Asia and around the world by promoting and supporting Operation Smile’s work. Boeing provides key support of Operation Smile’s annual Physicians’ Training Program and fellowships in speech therapy.

Anne Roosevelt, Vice President of Global Corporate Citizenship, said, “Boeing is committed to the economic empowerment of vulnerable populations. By ensuring that all citizens have the healthcare they need, Operation Smile enables them to be contributing, rather than marginalized, members of their communities. We invested in the creation of a speech therapy program to provide training in countries, such as Vietnam, that presently have no trained speech therapists. In creating such a program, Operation Smile is building a local infrastructure that will ensure that each community can meet the health needs of its members and allow all citizens to be self-sufficient.”

John William, Global Corporate Citizenship Boeing India, added, “The success of Operation Smile in post-operative care and follow-up gives these children a powerful future. Their therapy, counseling and education is empowering a generation of children to become productive members of their communities. This program restores hope and provides children with real skills to contribute to society.”

Crest and Oral-B Partner with Operation Smile to See the Difference, Make a Difference

From January through March, Procter & Gamble brands Crest and Oral-B encouraged consumers across the country to pledge to see the difference in their own smile, while making a difference in children’s smiles worldwide. During a four-week study conducted by dental health professionals at the University of Florida, participants who used Crest Pro-Health Toothpaste and Rinse together with the Oral-B Vitality Precision Clean power toothbrush experienced up to 7x better plaque removal to help fight cavities and gingivitis. To celebrate this landmark study, Crest and Oral-B partnered with Operation Smile and made a monetary and product donation.

Procter & Gamble tapped “American Idol” host and Crest Plus Scope spokesperson Ryan Seacrest in a New Year’s Eve promotion for its Scope brand. Procter & Gamble made a donation to Operation Smile for every couple caught kissing on the Scope ‘Kiss Cam’ in Times Square during “Dick Clark’s New Year’s Rockin’ Eve with Ryan Seacrest” on ABC, raising $30,000.

Retired Farmer Bequeaths Nearly $1 Million to Operation Smile

Henry Smith was a farmer who owned and operated several farms in Chesapeake, Virginia, during the 1970’s through early 90’s. He delivered firewood and eggs to Operation Smile Co-founders Dr. Bill and Kathy Magee and developed a relationship with them, becoming aware of Operation Smile through a television news segment.

By 2003, Henry had sold his farms and retired. In February 2006, he was diagnosed with cancer and began making plans to donate most of his estate to Operation Smile. Smith said, “I hope Operation Smile is able to fix a lot of smiles. It’s nice to know the money will be spent in a good way.”

Henry passed away in October 2008, leaving approximately $1 million in cash and property to Operation Smile. Henry’s condo is available for sale to benefit Operation Smile. If interested in purchasing the condo at Cape Henry Towers in Virginia Beach, please contact Operation Smile’s headquarters at 757-321-7645.

Kathy Magee said, “We’re touched by the fact that this man of seemingly simple means would give us such a generous donation. His legacy will live on and help Operation Smile help thousands of children around the world.”
Coinstar, Inc. and CanDo Marketing Make it Easy to Donate Your Change to Operation Smile

Donate your change to Operation Smile at participating Coinstar Centers® throughout the country. Select “donate your coins” and enter identification number “1982,” deposit your coins into the machine and 92.5% of your change will be donated directly to Operation Smile, and you’ll receive a tax-deductible receipt.

In addition, approximately 50,000 Operation Smile change collection canisters, provided by CanDo Marketing and Smart Circle, will be in circulation to promote this campaign. Thousands of Operation Smile student volunteers across the country will be collecting change in these canisters and then donating the funds at Coinstar Centers.

Coinstar, Inc. is a multi-national company offering a range of 4th Wall® solutions for retailers consisting of self-service coin counting, DVD rental, money transfer, electronic payment solutions, and entertainment services. The company’s products and services can be found at more than 90,000 locations, including supermarkets, drug stores, mass merchants, financial institutions, convenience stores and restaurants. To find a Coinstar machine location near you, visit www.coinstar.com.

Honor Your Loved Ones with Gifts That Change Lives

With Mother’s Day, Father’s Day, graduations and wedding season approaching, here are some great gift ideas that will help transform children’s lives.

Operation Smile’s Gift Catalog includes life-changing gifts that will bring smiles to suffering children and joy to everyone on your shopping list. You can find gifts from toys and blankets for our young patients awaiting surgery, to medicines and supplies needed to complete cleft lip or cleft palate surgeries. Go to www.operationsmile.org/gifts. And with every item you order, you’ll receive a customized gift card to present to each person you’re honoring.

Go to www.giftback.com and for each gift purchased, 10% goes to Operation Smile. Choose from hundreds of gifts, some with same day delivery available. Your recipient will be notified via the card message that a portion of their gift was donated to support Operation Smile.
Newport News, Virginia

Nearly 400 people attended the third annual “Celebration of Smiles” event on October 25 at Kiln Creek Golf Club & Resort. Thanks to those in attendance and sponsors, $100,000 was raised to help children worldwide. Co-chairs were Dick and Terri Ashe, Jerry and Joann Hill, and John West, while 13NEWS Anchor Regina Mobley was the honorary chairperson. Golfers enjoyed the day and in the evening, guests dined on seafood and danced to party band Slapwater. Operation Smile Co-founders Dr. Bill and Kathy Magee thanked the crowd and Operation Smile Medical Officer Dr. Ruben Ayala shared a touching story of a patient from Mexico. The silent auction included sports memorabilia presented by Sports and More. “Celebration of Smiles” sponsors included Kiln Creek Golf Club & Resort, Riverside Paper Company, J.H. Seafood Company, Inc., Wachovia, Lower Peninsula Golf Alliance, Grafton Station Apartments, Southern Steel, Ashe Facility Services, David and Sherrin Ware, Big Top Entertainment, Sysco Hampton Roads, Peninsula Vending, Coca-Cola and many other longtime Virginia donors.

Morristown, New Jersey

The Operation Smile New Jersey Chapter held its seventh annual gala on October 24 at the Madison Hotel. This year's gala, themed “SMILES: The Universal Connection,” celebrated the spirit of volunteerism and how together, New Jersey friends and colleagues have changed lives globally. More than 200 guests attended the gala and helped raise more than $100,000.

The event was emceed by Rich Oelkers, while Vinnie Brand, a local comedian, served as the evening’s auctioneer. The Humanitarian Award was presented to longtime volunteer Tracey O’Brien, who has been an Operation Smile volunteer for 16 years and has served as Co-chair of the New Jersey Chapter for the past eight years.

The prestigious John Connor Humanitarian Service Award was presented by Kathleen Connor, John’s widow, to Mahendra G. Mehta, of Mumbai, India. Mr. Mehta founded the Ratna Nidhi Charitable Trust more than two decades ago and has dedicated his life to working toward children’s welfare and development by empowering them through education. Mr. Mehta’s leadership and support was vital to the formation of Operation Smile India, which has provided more than 2,000 children with cleft lip and cleft palate surgeries since 2002.

Hong Kong

Twelve brave volunteers from the finance community took part in the second annual Asian “Hedge Fund Fight Nite” held on October 30, raising $71,179 (552,224 HKD). Nearly 800 guests filled the stadium at the Indian Recreation Club. The dirty dozen slugged it out at the black tie event and were cheered on by their peers in the finance industry. The volunteers prepared for the boxing event by participating in a grueling five-month training program at JAB Mixed Martial Arts Studio. The sponsor of the event was IP Global, formerly Intellectual Property, and the organizer was Ironmonger Events. The great success of the event is thanks to the passion, dedication and energy of many Operation Smile volunteers, including Mandy and John d’Abo, Fiona and Todd Martin, and Lily and Andrew Riddick. “Hedge Fund Fight Nite” was established in 2007 as one of Hong Kong’s premier charity events.
New Orleans, Louisiana
The Louisiana Chapter of Operation Smile held its 16th annual golf tournament on October 26 at Chateau Country Club in Kenner, Louisiana, which raised nearly $65,000. The morning began with brunch and the sounds of violinists Kathleen Tyre and Operation Smile patient Jose Alberto Bravo. Golfers enjoyed an afternoon of golf, followed by an awards cocktail party. Jerry Carlisle served as master of ceremonies and special recognition was given to Mike Cassio and his company e2m, of Colorado, for their continued support at the tournament sponsor level.

Seattle, Washington
On November 1, the Washington State Chapter held its annual “Evening of Smiles” dinner auction. In the past, the event was a dinner cruise and auction, but this year’s event was held at a unique venue, the Seattle Mariners Safeco Field.

“Evening of Smiles” was chaired by Board Member Brenda McKelvie, with Board Members Rose Flaherty chairing auction procurement and Rick Shelby and Skip King chairing sponsorships. John Curley, host of NBC affiliate KING 5 TV’s “Evening Magazine,” served as auctioneer and was joined by emcee Jim Dever, reporter for “Evening Magazine.”

Two silent auctions and a live auction raised approximately $80,000 and helped increase awareness for Operation Smile in the Puget Sound area. The highlight of the evening was the popular “Buy a Smile” bidding frenzy, which alone netted $31,000 to help change the lives of as many as 125 children around the world.

New York, New York
On December 9, Salvatore Ferragamo and InStyle partnered to host an evening of exclusive shopping to kick-off the holiday season and benefit Operation Smile. Held at the Salvatore Ferragamo flagship boutique on Fifth Avenue in New York City, more than 300 New Yorkers attended the event to celebrate and support the children of Operation Smile. “Smile Event” Chairs Dabney Mercer, Jennifer Marsico Milo, Olivia Palermo, Maggie Rizer, Lacey Tisch-Sidney, Gillian Hearst Simonds and Vanessa Trump lent their support as hosts to help promote the upcoming “Smile Event” scheduled for May 7.

To buy tickets to the “Smile Event” go to: www.operationsmile.org/smileevent

Alexandria, Virginia
“An Evening of Smiles” gala was held on January 31 with dinner and dancing, as well as live and silent auctions with original artwork from Vietnam, raising more than $100,000. Dr. Anh H. Pham served as the Master of Ceremonies assisted by Christina Nguyen, the 2008 National American Miss Queen, and Adrianna Sgarlata, Miss Virginia 2006. The evening’s auctioneer was Jerry Bouchard. This event was hosted by medical/dental and non-medical Operation Smile volunteers led by chairperson Dr. Chuong Phan from Leesburg, Va. Dr. Phan and his wife Dr. Anna Vu Abel are both dentists who have volunteered on numerous Operation Smile missions to Vietnam. World renowned classical pianists Cuong H. Van and Dr. John Wulff performed. Kendra Nguyen, born with a cleft lip and cleft palate, received surgery as an infant during an Operation Smile international medical mission in Vietnam. Now 16 and living in Maryland, she shared her story. Supporters also heard from Congressman Trent Franks (AZ), who was born with a cleft lip and cleft palate. Congressman Franks has volunteered on an Operation Smile medical mission to Jordan.

To buy tickets to the “Smile Event” go to: www.operationsmile.org/smileevent
Operation Smile Featured on Univision’s “Sabado Gigante”

On January 3, Univision’s highly-rated show “Sabado Gigante” featured a segment where host Don Francisco spoke with guests Dr. Rafael Gottenger, an Operation Smile volunteer and plastic surgeon from Miami, as well as an Operation Smile patient, Andrea Denise Cervantes Cortez, and her mother, Georgina Cortez Robledo, from Guadalajara, Mexico. In 2008, Don Francisco participated in a briefing and tour aboard the USS Kearsarge in Miami, Fl., and was introduced to Operation Smile’s work through its Navy partnership.

(from left) Georgina Cortez Robledo, Andrea Denise Cervantes Cortez, Dr. Rafael Gottenger and host Don Francisco