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“20 Years of Smiles– A Journey of Miracles”
Commemorates the 20 Anniversary of Operation Smile Vietnam in November 2009

The largest charity medical program in the history of Operation Smile Vietnam and the region took place simultaneously during the past 10 days at 15 different sites throughout the country and one more site at Pakse, Laos to bring free dental treatment to 5,709 children and families and new smiles to 856 others.

Nearly 1,000 volunteers from Vietnam and more than 20 countries all over the world have together created miracles in the year of 2009, marking the historical 20th anniversary of Operation Smile in Vietnam and its commitments in the consecutive years.

Việt Nam. – To mark 20 years of providing new smiles for children and young adults throughout Vietnam, Operation Smile Inc. and Operation Smile Vietnam undertook “20 Years of Smiles – A Journey of Miracles” from 4 to 14 November 2009. To highlight the diversity of the programs offered, 16 missions including surgical missions and free medical treatment took place simultaneously from Hanoi to Can Tho and Champasak Province, Laos to provide surgery to children with cleft lip/cleft palate, dental treatment and reconstructive surgeries for burns and facial anomalies.

From its inception, Operation Smile has strongly believed that, together, we can change the world with smiles. This historical surgical program, therefore, has been realised thanks to the generous donation of time and talent from more than 400 international medical volunteers from the United States, The Philippines, the UK, Canada, India, Japan, Korea, Norway, Hong Kong, China, Ireland, Australia, Brazil, Belgium, Italia, Cambodia, Sweden, Venezuela, Colombia, South Africa, Laos, Kenya... and hundreds of medical and non-medical volunteers from Vietnam. The volunteers worked tirelessly at 16 different mission sites under very special conditions and objective challenges because of the 2 hurricanes in the area right before the Journey.

Over just 10 days, the volunteer mission teams were able to provide screening for 1,346 patients, surgeries for 856 children and free dental treatment for 5,709 others. Apart from surgeries and medical treatment, more than 500 medical professionals, including doctors and nurses also had access to advanced training on surgical and treatment methods through seminars and technical exchange forums which were held in Hanoi, Hai Phong and Can Tho. This success, far exceeding anyone’s expectations, is clear evidence of the power of concerted efforts and the direct and positive impact on the awareness of an entire society which could not have been achieved by the efforts of one person acting alone.

In addition to the above special achievements, the 20th Anniversary of Operation Smile Vietnam was also highly acclaimed for its kick-start fund-raising Gala Dinner at the Intercontinental Hanoi Westlake Hotel, with the participation of representatives from Ministries, Departments, Vietnam and US Government authorities, Operation Smile International Smile Ambassador – Sir Jackie Chan (Thành Long), donors and members of its organization coming from different corners of the world. The event was followed by two Thank You Dinner events in Hanoi and Ho Chi Minh City on the last day of the Journey. Over 1,000 people attended the 2 events at Sumvilla in Hanoi and White Palace in Ho Chi Minh City, honoured by the presence

of OSV Youth Ambassador - Mai Phuong Thúy (Miss Vietnam 2006), OSV Smile Ambassador 2009 - Lý Nhã Kỳ as well as other special guests including Singer Mỹ Tâm, Singer Đàm Vĩnh Hưng, Singer Phan Đình Tùng, Singer Hoàng Bách, Singer Đăng Khôi, Actors Minh Tiệp, Model Vũ Nguyễn Hà Anh and Miss Vietnam 1998 – MC Ngọc Khánh as MC of the event.

Ms. Nguyễn Thị Xuyên - Vice Minister of the Ministry of Health of Vietnam, who took part in the 20th Anniversary of Operation Smile Vietnam, praised Operation Smile's great contributions to the well-being of Vietnamese children and people and called for all sectors of the community to continue supporting the partnership programs between the Ministry of Health of Vietnam and Operation Smile in general and Operation Smile Vietnam in particular, in order to bring more new smiles to less fortunate children in Vietnam.

Mr. Vũ Xuân Hồng - Chairman of the Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO) - Member of the Standing Committee of the Committee for Foreign NGO Affairs in Vietnam, made positive remarks on this signature event and encouraged "Operation Smile to continue seeking resources and accelerating its support to remote and needy regions in Vietnam, and at the same time, increasing cooperation with local organizations and partners to maintain the good momentum of this meaningful program". Mr. Vũ Xuân Hồng also re-enforced the commitments of the Union and the Committee for Foreign NGO Affairs in Vietnam in maintaining their bilateral cooperative relationships with Operation Smile to boost the projects and programs for children, in support of the objective of socializing care for communities in Vietnam.

On this occasion Operation Smile, together with its Co-founders, was awarded with a Friendship Medal by The Chairman of the Social Republic of Vietnam for its special contribution to Vietnam in the past 20 years. In addition, Operation Smile International Ambassador – Sir Jackie Chan, Regional Vice Presidents and Development Director of Asia Pacific – Mr. Richard Vander Burg and Mr. Nguyễn Việt Phương were presented with a Medal for Peace and Friendship between people by the Committee for Foreign NGO Affairs in Vietnam.

Headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia, U.S.-based Operation Smile was launched 27 years ago by Dr. Bill Magee, a plastic surgeon, and his wife Kathy Magee, a former nurse and clinical social worker, to help children with devastating facial deformities. Today, Operation Smile has a presence in 50 countries in addition to Vietnam, where its history began in 1989 when Operation Smile sent a medical team to Vietnam to help 100 children. Nowadays in Vietnam, Operation Smile is able to provide diverse health care services including reconstructive facial surgeries, dental treatment, micro surgeries, cranio - facial surgeries with at least 14 local missions per year, thus helping to change the lives of thousands of less fortunate children and training for hundreds of local and international medical professionals.

According to Dr. Magee, "When we first went into Vietnam in 1989 we did so because we believed that children are the only language we all have in common. Twenty years later, in Vietnam and in all of our partner countries around the world, we still believe that uniting people across cultures and borders for the sake of a child in need is what helps us heal the wounds of the past. We are proud of what we have accomplished together and extend our best wishes to our friends in Vietnam as they launch a new era of programs to care for more Vietnamese children every year."

Planning for this historic program has been underway for more than a year and was made possible thanks to generous donations and support from first time ever partners in Vietnam including: Abbott, VMS Mobifone, Dat Viet VAC Group Holdings, P/S, Unilever, HSBC etc and in the U.S. by generous foundations, corporations and families. We would also like to express our heartfelt thanks to The Vietnamese Government, The US Government, Ministry of Health of Vietnam, the Committee for Foreign Non organizational Affairs (COMINGO), Vietnam Union of Friendship Organizations (VUFO), The People's Aid Co-ordinating Committee (PACCOM), the U.S. Embassy to Vietnam, the Vietnamese Embassy to the US, news agencies, local and international press and television and thousands of volunteers.

About Operation Smile (www.operationssmile.org)

Our Mission: Operation Smile mobilizes a world of generous hearts to heal children's smiles and transform lives across the globe. Founded in 1982, Operation Smile, headquartered in

Norfolk, Virginia, is a worldwide children's medical charity whose network of global volunteers are dedicated to helping improve the health and lives of children and young adults. Since its founding, Operation Smile volunteers have treated more than 135,000 children born with cleft lips, cleft palates and other facial deformities and the organization has a presence in 51 countries. In addition to contributing free medical treatment, Operation Smile trains local medical professionals in its partner countries and leaves behind crucial equipment to lay the groundwork for long-term self-sufficiency.

About our key partners

- Global Pharmaceutical: Abbott
- Strategic Partner: VMS Mobifone
- Media Partner: Đất Việt VAC Group Holdings
- Gold sponsor: Unilever - P/S Brand
- Silver sponsor: HSBC
- Transportation sponsor: Vietnam Airlines - Mercedes Benz
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- In-kind sponsors: Nguyên Tâm Company - FOCl, V.O Advertising, Nhất Thống Printing Company, Coca Cola, Diageo, Gannon (Budweiser), Fiulink Design & Printing, Lu Nhạc, Ngân Lượng & Chợ điện tử, Red Apron, RMIT, international schools in HCMC and Hanoi (SSIS, BIS, ISHCMC, UNIS, ABC), UPS, UTS, Webtretho, Westcost International Dental Clinic, Song Nam Advertising Company, White Palace, Helene Kling (artist), Bui Huu Hung (artist), Tran Gia Tung (artist) and Gallery 54 Traditions.
- Medical Partners: The Ho Chi Minh City Hospital of Odonto – Stomatology – Ministry of Health of Vietnam, Vietnam – Cuba Friendship Hospital, 108 Military Hospital, Ministry of Defense of Vietnam, Medical University of Hanoi, Việt Đức Hospital and other general and specialty hospitals at mission sites in the Journey .