

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Operation Smile Inc.



Operation Smile Inc. is a non-governmental charitable organization head-quartered in the United States, which provides free corrective facial surgeries to children suffering from cleft lip and palate deformities. It also provides education and training for local health care professionals and comprehensive medical services to its patients through Care Centers around the world. Operation Smile Inc. was founded in 1982 after Dr. William Magee and his wife traveled to the Phillipines, where they discovered a large number of children and young adults born with facial deformities who were not receiving any treatment. Following the setting up of Operation Smile Phillipines, they expanded their work to include other developing countries and Operation Smile Inc. is now present in 51 countries.

Operation Smile Vietnam

Operation Smile Vietnam (OSV) is a member of Operation Smile Inc. with the mission: Throughout the world, Operation Smile volunteers repair childhood facial deformities while buiding public and private partnerships that advocate for sustainable heathcare systems for children and families. Together, we create smiles, change lives, heal humanity.



Established in 1989, OSV now has offices in Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, as well as a Comprehensive Care Centre in Hue. It partners with local hospitals and government agencies to conduct monthly free surgeries to children and young adults with cleft lip, cleft palate and other facial deformities throughout the country.

There are an estimated **3,000 new patients** born every year in Vietnam with cleft lip and/or cleft palate deformities (based on a 1: 500 birth rate). This adds to the large backlog of an estimated **13,000 untreated or under-treated children** throughout the country. Most of the children live in rural areas with many social disadvantages. The surgery provided by OSV is not cosmetic; without it these children cannot breathe, drink, eat, or speak as normal children, and often suffer deafness or blindness through associated infections.

Unfortunately two out of every three children are still turned away because of lack of funds and facilities. A surgery normally takes **45-60 minutes** and cost approximately **\$150US** for medicine, hospital fees and financial support to patients for meal and transportation during the mission period. This cost does not include training and management expenditure.

Since 1989, thanks to the support of the government, hospital partners, medical volunteers and especially the generosity of our sponsors, OSV has helped more than **14,000** children and adults with cleft lip and palate deformities through local and international surgical missions.

2009 marked the historical 20th anniversary of Operation Smile Vietnam with the “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, which included 8 Cleft missions (of which one was in Laos with a Vietnamese medical team), 1 Burn mission, 1 Cranial-facial mission, 5 Dental missions, and 1 Education conference. This largest charity medical program in the history of Operation Smile Vietnam and the region has brought 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 this miracle in the year of 2009.

Moving forwards, OSV hopes to continue receiving support from individuals and organizations to maintain sustainability and to increase the number of children treated in the future. The goal for the future is to give new lives to all children born with this correctable deformity within a medically acceptable period, enabling work to commence on reducing the backlog as well as helping newly born patients.

All contributions, no matter small or big, will make a difference and will help us realize our mission and bring new life to the children of Vietnam. You can make a donation in cash to our offices or by bank transferring (with your full name on the bank transmittal) via our bank account as details below:

Bank: Citibank N.A
15/F, Sun Wah Tower
115 Nguyen Hue Street
District 1, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Account Name: Operation Smile Vietnam
Account #: 0- 200035 - 046 (VND Account)
or: 0- 200035 - 003 (USD Account)
Swift Code: CITI VNVX

To learn more about Operation Smile Vietnam or how you can help to change children's lives, please visit our website www.operationssmile.org.vn or contact our offices:

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