

Smile Report

SUMMER 2026



You sparked something powerful

Your generosity in action

When Paulina was born with a cleft lip and palate, her family knew she would need specialized care — and they knew exactly where to turn. Operation Smile Honduras offered not just hope, but a clear path forward for Paulina’s future.

Paulina received her **first cleft surgery at just six months old**, an important early step that helped set the foundation for her health, development and confidence. With continued follow-up and care, her journey didn’t stop there.

In **February 2026**, at **16 months old**, Paulina returned to Operation Smile for her **second cleft surgery in Tegucigalpa**, where she was **one of 110 patients** to receive life-changing surgical care during that program. The timing made the moment even more meaningful.

“What a beautiful way to celebrate Valentine’s Day by demonstrating our commitment and dedication to each of our patients,” said **Rosa Mencía, Program Manager, Operation Smile Honduras**.

Surrounded by skilled medical volunteers and fueled by your support, Paulina’s surgery marked

Paulina, from Honduras

another milestone in her transformation. Today, her bright, confident smile reflects more than successful procedures — it speaks to the power of consistent, compassionate care.

Paulina’s story also carries a quieter, full-circle connection. Her grandmother had previously volunteered with Operation Smile Honduras, helping support children born with cleft conditions. And inspired by the care Paulina received, her grandmother has chosen to volunteer again, extending that same compassion to other families walking a similar path.





Because of You...

Care reached further.
Smiles marked new beginnings.
Lives were changed — forever.

Your generosity sparked something powerful — hope in places where it was needed most, and momentum that carried care across communities and borders.

Because you chose to give, children received the life-changing cleft surgery and complete care they need, families found reassurance and relief, and volunteers were able to bring their skills where access to care can be life-altering. Your generosity carried our local teams and volunteers, helping even more children smile brighter.

What started with your decision to give went beyond a single moment. It reached operating rooms, training spaces and homes around the world — creating progress that will be felt long after a surgery ends.

Hilfan, from Tanzania

What follows is the story of your gift in motion.



Michael Bezuhly
MD, MSc, SM, FRCSC, FAAP
Board Chair



Mark Climie-Elliott
CEO & Chief Smile Officer

Together, We Build Hope.



Your Gifts at Work

Beyond individual stories, your generosity also strengthens entire programs — returning health care to communities and building capacity for the future.

Iringa Surgical Program, Tanzania

Thanks to you and other caring Canadians, children and families in Iringa, Tanzania received life-changing cleft surgery and care. Your support made it possible for a surgical program to return to the region, expanding access to safe surgery and strengthening care where it's needed most.

During the program, 32 patients received their cleft surgery — surpassing the original goal and bringing renewed confidence and hope to families. Your gifts also supported hands-on learning and collaboration, helping strengthen local surgical capacity so care can continue long after the program concluded.

By making this second surgical program possible, you didn't just help deliver surgery — you helped build opportunities, partnership and lasting momentum.

Programs like this also create space for Canadian volunteers to bring their skills where they're needed most.



Jenifer,
from Tanzania



Vaileth,
from Tanzania

Patti's Story:

Serving with Skill and Compassion

Patti Gulliver is a dedicated Operating Room Nurse whose focus is always patient safety and care. From preparing surgical tools to mentoring local volunteers, Patti's expertise helps ensure quality care continues closer to home.

"The minute the patient comes through the door, they are our first priority," she says. That's one more way your support is translated into life-saving care.



Surgery Begins

Sherlin's Journey in Dominican Republic

When Sherlin was born prematurely with a cleft lip and palate, her family was unprepared but determined to find the right care. After initially seeking treatment elsewhere, her mother found reassurance and confidence with **Operation Smile**, where she felt supported by experienced, compassionate medical volunteers.

Sherlin's journey included **reconstructive lip surgery**, followed by **palate repair**, and later a **bone graft**, all part of a long-term, carefully coordinated treatment plan. Each milestone required patience, discipline and unwavering family support — and each brought Sherlin closer to thriving.



Sherlin, from Dominican Republic



Today, Sherlin is a joyful, confident young girl who loves dancing, playing volleyball and expressing herself through her unique style. Her story is a powerful reminder that **generosity from partners like you and dedication from medical volunteers make lasting transformation possible** — helping children like Sherlin grow with confidence and hope.

Fiona's Story:

From Donor to Volunteer

Fiona Oliveira has supported Operation Smile for over 15 years — long before she stepped into an Operating Room as a volunteer nurse. *“Who knew that I would be on the other end eventually, doing the wonderful work I read about,”* she says.

Today, Fiona's care and compassion are part of the reason children around the world are growing up with confidence — made possible by your support, opening doors for skilled volunteers to serve.



Care Continues

Duván's Journey in Colombia

Duván's journey began **11 years ago**, when he was born with a cleft condition at the Regional Hospital of **Sogamoso**. There, a hospital psychologist connected his family to **Operation Smile Colombia**. His mother, Nelly, initially felt sadness and blamed herself, but with psychological support, confidence replaced fear.

From early guidance on feeding with a **special bottle** to years of coordinated follow up, the family committed to regular travel so Duván could receive consistent care. Over time, he underwent **three surgeries**, including a **bilateral lip repair** and **two alveolar bone implants**, delivered with the warmth and high-quality care his family deeply values.



Duván, from Colombia



Today, Duván is active, intelligent and thriving. He enjoys **swimming, playing chess**, excelling in school and sharing life with a small but meaningful circle of friends. He's now experiencing a happy childhood, thanks to you.

Dr. Polidoro Saavedra: 27 Years of Care with Operation Smile

For nearly three decades, caring Canadians have made it possible for medical professionals like Dr. Polidoro Saavedra to care for patients with dedication and empathy.

As an anesthesiologist with Operation Smile, Dr. Saavedra ensures every patient feels safe and cared for throughout surgery. His message is simple yet powerful: *"Dedicate part of your life and your work to transforming the lives of others."*



Together, We Build Hope

You are the spark behind smiles that last a lifetime.

Your generosity has already changed lives in extraordinary ways. Every smile you help create is a story of hope, confidence and a brighter future. There are even more ways you can continue making a difference – whether through monthly

giving, honouring a loved one with a tribute gift, or considering a legacy gift. Each act of kindness brings us closer to a world where every child can smile with hope, dignity and pride.

Ways to Give



Scan the QR code:

operationsmile.ca/please-give



Gifts of Securities:

Donating gifts of publicly listed securities helps deliver new smiles for children, and you will smile over the tax savings.



Become a Smile Partner:

Giving monthly is an easy, budget-friendly way you can help children all year long.




Wills and Estates:

Transform more lives with a gift made through your will, estate, RRSP, life insurance and more.



Victoria, from Guatemala

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