



2025
WINTER

Smile Report

Operation  Smile
Canada

*Andrews, 9 months old,
from Peru*

A New Beginning: Andrews' Journey with Operation Smile

How Hope and Care Transformed into Joy

When Valery learned during pregnancy that her son, Andrews, would be born with a cleft lip and palate, she was overwhelmed with fear and uncertainty. Though she sought reassurance online and spoke to a psychologist, she found little comfort.

The reality of his birth hit her hard. Once Andrews arrived, Valery knew the family couldn't afford the costs associated with multiple surgeries. They didn't even have the money to cover their travel.

It wasn't until her baby boy was born that Valery found hope. She discovered Operation Smile Peru through their website, and after reading positive stories of life-changing surgeries, she took action. Valery called to quickly arrange an evaluation for Andrews. At the appointment, Andrews was evaluated, and Valery was informed about an upcoming surgical program that was just a short distance from their home. This was a turning point for the family, offering them the chance to receive the care they desperately needed.

On the day of surgery, Valery's anxiety was mixed with hope as Andrews underwent his procedure. The surgery was a success, transforming his smile and giving Valery a sense of relief she hadn't felt since his birth. Nine months later, Andrews returned for surgery to repair his palate. This, along with speech therapy, marked a critical milestone

in his development and brought the family one step closer to their dream of a bright future.

Our programs are life-changing for children like Andrews, especially in places like Peru, where nearly half of the children served live below the poverty line. We not only address immediate medical needs but create brighter futures for children and families. Through continued awareness and support, we can ensure that every child born with a cleft condition, like Andrews, has the opportunity to thrive, while strengthening communities across the globe.

*Andrews, one year
after surgery*





Making Smiles Possible

The Power of Your Support

The success of each of Operation Smile’s surgical and comprehensive care programs rely not only on the expertise and commitment of our volunteers but also on the generous support of our donors. It’s through you that we are able to provide the tools, resources, and funding needed for these life-changing surgeries and programs that deliver the best results for our patients.

Your support ensures that our volunteers, from medical professionals to logistical teams, have everything they need to carry out their work with excellence. It also makes it

possible for patients to travel to program sites, receive the necessary nourishment, and be cared for throughout their entire cleft journey.

From the first pre-operative evaluation to surgery to post-surgery follow-ups, your generosity provides a full circle of care, bringing hope to families and giving children the opportunity to grow up with confidence and the ability to smile. Thank you for being an essential part of this incredible transformation.

We simply cannot operate, or smile, without you.



Mark Climie-Elliott,
CEO & Chief Smile Officer

A Bright New Start for Sabine

How Your Support Gave This Family Hope, Healing, and a Brighter Future

Mariana’s heart raced when she learned her newborn daughter, Sabine, was born with a cleft lip and palate. The doctor reassured her that surgery was possible, but the worry didn’t fade. The uncertainty of what lay ahead weighed heavily on her and her husband, Ricardo. Then, their pediatrician mentioned Operation Smile—a glimmer of hope in an overwhelming moment.

Determined to find the care Sabine needed, the couple researched the organization and quickly felt a sense of relief. With support from family and friends, they knew they had to act fast. Sabine’s condition couldn’t wait.

The day of surgery, anxiety filled the air. But when they met the team, their fears began to ease. They knew Sabine was safe as she was brought into surgery.

When the procedure was over, Mariana and Ricardo’s emotions poured out as they saw Sabine’s new smile. It was a moment of pure joy and disbelief—the transformation they had hoped for was real. They held her close, overcome with



gratitude and relief, knowing this was the first step toward the bright future their daughter deserved.

Back home, family and friends gathered, sharing in the celebration. Sabine’s journey had only just begun, but thanks to you, her path is now filled with promise.

Scan the QR code:

Visit our website to read more stories of children who now have hope for a brighter future.



Training Surgeons for a Better Future

What is the Cleft Surgery Training Program?

Access to surgery is limited in many low- and middle-income countries, where there aren't enough trained doctors to meet the need. Operation Smile is working to change that by training local medical professionals through our Surgical Training Program.

Our program helps surgeons improve their skills with personalized, hands-on training that focuses on their individual needs to learn and grow, helping them provide better care for our patients.

By training surgeons locally, we make sure that people can get the care they need long after the program ends. The surgeons we train also share their skills with others, spreading knowledge and improving healthcare in their communities.

Together, we are closing the gap in surgical care and creating a future where children everywhere can grow up with the smiles they deserve.

30 Surgeons Recruited from
13 Countries



A New Smile, A New Beginning

How Nutrition Support Helped Farida's Dream Smile Become a Reality

When Farida was born with a cleft lip, her mother was filled with fear and sadness. The condition had been undetected during the prenatal ultrasound, leaving her uncertain about what the future held. But after seeing photos of children who received surgery through Operation Smile, her hope began to grow.

At Koforidua Hospital, Farida's mother met the Operation Smile team and felt reassured, but there was one challenge left: Farida was too small for surgery. She needed to gain weight first. Without the right nutrition to reach the ideal weight, surgery would have to wait.

Thanks to Operation Smile's Nutrition Program, Farida received the essential supplements she needed to grow strong and healthy. The support gave her a fighting chance, opening the door to the surgery her family couldn't afford.

When Farida finally underwent surgery, her mother was overwhelmed with joy as she saw her daughter's new smile. It was a life-changing moment—one that ended the isolation and hurtful comments they had feared. Farida's future is now full of promise.

“Thank you so much for everything Operation Smile has done for us. I could never have afforded this surgery. Now, I'm so happy for my daughter.”



Transforming Lives, One Program at a Time

You're Changing Lives Around the World

Thanks to the incredible generosity of our donors, July through September 2024 marked a powerful start to what's shaping up to be our biggest year yet! In just three months, we supported 55 programs across 22 countries, changing lives and spreading hope to children and families around the world. The stories below from Bolivia and Mexico are just a glimpse of the life-changing impact you've helped make possible—together, we're achieving extraordinary things!



55 Programs across **22** Countries



July 2024

Monterrey, Mexico

The Monterrey Surgical Program was a resounding success, providing life-changing surgeries to 76 patients. This program, made possible by a dedicated team of medical professionals and volunteers, transformed the lives of children and families, giving them the opportunity for a brighter future.

In addition to the surgeries, the hospital staff created a welcoming and joyful atmosphere with creative space-themed decorations at the evaluation stations, featuring the program's slogan, "Giving smiles out of this world." This thoughtful touch helped make the experience even more memorable for both patients and volunteers.

We are deeply grateful for your partnership in helping to bring smiles and hope to children in need. Because of you, 76 patients now have the chance to grow up with confidence and a renewed outlook on life. Thank you for being part of their transformative journey!

August 2024

Santa Cruz, Bolivia

Operation Smile launched a transformative surgical program in Santa Cruz, where 37 children received life-changing surgeries. Over three days, our dedicated team of medical and non-medical volunteers worked tirelessly to deliver hope and new smiles to these families.

One of the families was Serapio's. His mother, who first learned about us when he was just one month old, expressed her gratitude: "My son grew up with Operation Smile. I am so thankful for the support that made his surgery possible. Even when I lost my phone, you found a way to reach me. Thank you!"

With each surgery, families like Serapio's are given the gift of a new smile and a brighter future, all thanks to the dedication and compassion of our volunteers and supporters.



At The Forefront of Innovation

How AI Technology Transforms Patient Outcomes

As an established partner in 37 program countries, Operation Smile has always focused on the delivery of quality, safe, effective and timely surgery. Quality is paramount, and our research teams are always at the forefront of innovation and technology.

One way we are innovating is by piloting artificial intelligence (AI) technology in our monitoring and evaluation processes. This exciting development helps healthcare providers set clear expectations for families regarding their child's cleft condition, the number of surgeries needed, and recovery times. With this information, families can navigate the treatment journey more easily.

Our use of AI allows us to make objective assessments of surgical outcomes, which is especially important in areas where specialized cleft surgeons are not available. This technology ensures that every surgery is evaluated based on consistent and measurable criteria, maintaining high-quality care. By helping families understand the severity of the cleft and what to expect, we equip them with knowledge and support.

We invite you to watch our recently released film, produced by BBC StoryWorks, to see how we are transforming cleft care through innovation and compassion.



Scan the QR code:

To watch the full video, where you'll meet Adolphe and his family from Rwanda.



Adolphe's New Smile

A Smile Renewed, A Future Transformed

When Adolphe was born, Nikuze instantly knew he was different. Diagnosed with a cleft lip, doctors explained that Adolphe would face challenges with eating, drinking, and even smiling. "No mother wants to be told their child can't smile," Nikuze shared, her voice filled with resolve. Despite the emotional toll and the difficult stares they often received, Nikuze and her husband, Twitegurumukiza, were determined to find a way to give Adolphe a better future.

In March 2024, at just six months old, Adolphe underwent surgery through an Operation Smile program in Musanze, Rwanda. Hopeful for a fresh start, Nikuze and Twitegurumukiza anxiously waited while Adolphe was in surgery.

When they saw his new smile, their joy was overwhelming. It was a moment they had longed for. Now, with this life-changing surgery behind him, Adolphe has a chance to grow up without the limitations he might have faced without access to free cleft care.

Ways to Give

From making a donation over the phone, updating your contact information, changing your credit card or banking information, to creating lasting change with a gift made through your will, we're always so pleased to hear from you.



Scan the QR code to
Make your gift today

Become a SMILE PARTNER

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

Donate your Points

Donate your Aeroplan points to help medical volunteers travel to our program countries.

Plan your Giving

Call us at **1-844-376-4530** to get started.

Wills and Estates

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

Gifts of Securities

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

Give through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF)

Your grant will directly contribute to funding surgery, comprehensive care, research and education.

Fundraise for Us

Call our Engagement Specialist at **1-844-376-4530** to get started.

Participate in Cycle for SMILES

Register now to get fit, have fun and raise funds for new smiles. Cycle on your own or as a team.

Fundraise for SMILES

Help us raise more SMILES by hosting your own event and inviting your friends and family to donate.

Students for SMILES

Become a Student Ambassador – raise funds, deliver smiles, and make a lasting impact.

Lia, age 3,
from Guatemala



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