



helping children smile

Smile of the Day

THE NEWSLETTER OF OPERATION SMILE BECAUSE WE CARE FOUNDATION

President's Message



Since its inception, Operation Smile Because We Care Foundation has taken strides towards achieving its mandate - *helping children smile.....one smile at a time.*

The Foundation has been working closely with B.C. Children's Hospital (BCCH) in fulfilling its goal. Recently, the Foundation donated a piece of specialized speech diagnostic equipment that is designed to provide the child and the speech therapist important bio-feedback during speech therapy sessions - the NASOMETER.

The value of this equipment is approximately CAN\$5,000.

The Foundation is also working with BCCH and plans are under way to sponsor anywhere from 6 to 10 families who have children suffering from facial deformities and are unable to get dental coverage for their child. The cost per child could run from \$500 to \$1,000 per child, per year.

Again, all this is only possible from the support that the Foundation has received and continues to receive from families, friends, business associates and the community at large.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank each one of you and look forward to your continued support in the various fund raising events that the Foundation is coordinating for 2003.



Lorine Scott

Thank-You,
Operation Smile Because We Care Foundation
From the Cleft Palate/Craniofacial Program at
BC's Children's Hospital
Prepared by Lorine Scott RN BScN



Smile at That Special Face!

Ever felt 'different'? Imagine that you joined a new club, and walked into the room for the first meeting only to find you don't know anyone; your friend is late; everyone is dressed in a special uniform and you are not. Would you feel conspicuous? Would you feel uncomfortable? Would you feel alone? A person smiles at you, a friendly face, you introduce yourself and the awkward situation is behind you. All of us have probably experienced these feelings at one time or another.

Now imagine you have a facial difference. 'Standing out' in a crowd can be an every day occurrence. The question of 'will my child be accepted' is one of a parent's greatest fears. If their child is unable to develop skills to cope with social encounters, and continues to be faced with situations where they feel shy, awkward, conspicuous, and not included, social isolation, damaged self-esteem and very hurt feelings can often be the result.

Often, situations where we encounter people who may look different from us make us feel uncomfortable; we don't know how to act or what to say; we are very curious but don't want to ask questions. Most often we look away or move away to avoid contact; anything to avoid the awkwardness that we are feeling. Sometimes we stare. None of these behaviors are helpful and they do nothing to ease the situation for anyone. They do cause hurt feelings and do contribute to society stigmas.

The great news is that each and every one of us has the power to change the situation. No matter how young or how old, we all possess the most amazing means. **Our Smile!** This simple 'at the ready' tool is easy to use and requires no practice. It encourages, coaxes, reassures, and above all shows acceptance. Our smile makes the child feel welcome and is especially welcomed by parents and family members as it indicates our wish to include them. Our smile sends an instant message that we are friendly and open to striking up conversation. **When we smile at someone, we instantly get a smile back.** Wow! Never underestimate the power of your smile. Get out there and smile! You may make someone's day very special, just a little bit easier and you may make a new friend.

The Cleft Palate/Craniofacial program at BC's Children's Hospital provides services for children with facial differences and their families on issues like teasing, peer relationships, school integration, etc and in association with Aboutface (an international support group) works with local schools to incorporate the acceptance program 'Facing Differences' into the school curriculum.



Pub Night

Our Pub Nite was held on Sat, May 3, 2003 at CALIFORNIA CLUB BAR AND GRILL 7677 - 134 Street, Surrey, B.C.

First and foremost, we must thank Al Turnbull of California Club Bar and Grill for his generous donation of food and a drink for everyone. We also acknowledge the great service from his staff.

This event was attended by a diverse group of friends and family and all had a fun evening. There was karaoke, dancing, and over 30 door and raffle prizes were handed out. We also had guest performers Dal Hoti and Shades of Soul. Dal Hoti wowed the crowd with his amazing voice while everyone moved to the singing of the dynamic trio of Shades of Soul. Their participation in our fundraising was much appreciated and we wish them all the best in their future endeavors

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the prize donors, as it is with their generous contributions that we were able to raise over \$2,100.

The event was a great success and we thank all who attended and look forward to seeing you and your friends in our next pub nite scheduled for the fall of 2003.



Calendar of Events

- Aug 9, 2003 Annual Golf Tournament
- Fall, 2003 Pub Night
- Oct, 2003 Annual Banquet
- Nov, 2003 Auction/Fashion Show

How to contact us:

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Charitable Registration #: 86370 6727 RR0001

Membership Application

Name _____
Surname First

Address _____
Street City

_____ Province Postal Code

Phone _____ Fax _____

Email _____

Spouse _____
Surname First

Signature _____

Date _____

Annual Membership

- Single \$20 Family \$30
- Senior (65+) \$10

Donation Pledge

- \$10 \$20 \$30 \$40 \$50
- \$100 Other

