



helping children smile

Smile of the Day

THE NEWSLETTER OF OPERATION SMILE BECAUSE WE CARE FOUNDATION



Lorine Scott RN BScN
From the Cleft Palate Craniofacial
Program at BC Children's Hospital

What a Team!

The Cleft Palate/Craniofacial team at BC Children Hospital wishes to express our sincere thanks for the Operation Smile Because We Care Foundation's generosity and support. The membership of OSBWCF has become our program's most enthusiastic supporter and we could not meet the needs of our patients without you.

What is a Craniofacial Condition and what does that mean for the child and family?

Children can be born with a craniofacial condition (sometimes called a birth defect) or they can acquire them through an accident, like a burn or a motor vehicle accident or through illnesses like cancer. No matter how the child is affected, the issues they face are complicated and the treatment plan takes place over most of the childhood, adolescent and early adult years. The most obvious issue for the children is the facial appearance, but in addition to having a facial difference, many of the conditions also affect the child's ability to speak, hear, see and eat. Some children face many learning challenges and concerns with self-esteem and self-confidence as well.

How many children in the BC are affected?

Currently in BC, there are approximately 1500 patients with a clefting condition and that means about 90 new babies are born each year with some type of cleft. In addition, there are approximately 270 patients living with a Craniofacial Condition and about 15 new babies are born each year with one of these very rare conditions.

Who is the team that looks after the children and their families?

To ensure that the 'whole' child is looked after and helped to become a successful adult, our specialized team of professionals includes plastic/reconstructive surgeons, oral-maxillo-facial surgeon, ear-nose-throat surgeons, pediatricians, speech-language pathologists, an audiologist, social worker and nurse clinician. All the doctors, nurses and other health professionals have additional special education in the field of craniofacial care.

How long does the treatment take?

Surgical treatment to begin to repair the physical defect may occur as early as in the first weeks of life. The treatment plan unfolds through the child's early years, teen-age years and is often not complete until early adulthood.

The Team

Here is our team! In this addition, you are introduced to the team as a group. Over the coming editions, each one of us will share our unique contribution to the care of these very special children. We rely on each other to provide the very best care for the 'whole child and their family'!



President's Message



As I write this message I can vividly remember the little girl from Abbotsford, B.C., named Vanisha Dayal who really became the catalyst in the formation of our foundation. Vanisha has undergone a series of surgeries to reconstruct her face in the last four years. Plans are underway for yet

another surgery this summer to be performed by Dr. Posnick in Washington, D.C. She is one young, courageous and determined individual who has defied all odds, we all are rooting for her and like to wish her well and look forward to a successful surgery.

Our Foundation has established a good working relationship with B.C. Children's Hospital. Recently, we donated \$10,000 to the Cleft Palate Craniofacial Program to purchase a 3-D Digital Camera and Software. The total cost of this equipment is \$70,000. Our Foundation is proud to be part of this purchase and look forward to providing further financial support to similar programs.

We look forward to 2004 as there are several fundraising events planned throughout the year. Banquet Night in May, Charity Golf in August, Silent Auction in November and so forth. Please check under the "Calendar of Events" for exact dates.

Raising funds for a good cause is possible with YOUR SUPPORT, without it, any fundraising cannot be successful. I personally urge each of you to give us that support and together we'll accomplish our goal to be in the position to provide further funding whether it be for the cost of reconstructive surgery, purchasing equipment or supporting the provision of medical services for children with facial deformities.

Michael Kumar



...one smile at a time

Pub Night

Our Pub Nite was held on Sat, Jan 24th, 2004 at
DONEGALS BAR
12054 96th Avenue, Surrey, B.C.

Everyone who attended our Pub Night had another fun evening. The food was delicious and drinks were plenty. Once again 'Shades of Soul' held our attention with their amazing voices and moves. Live music by Don and his friends kept the dance floor hopping well into the late evening. There were also countless door prizes, from beautiful romantic baskets to two nights accommodation in Whistler.

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 \$2,500.

The event was a great success and we thank all who attended and look forward to seeing you and your friends at our next pub night scheduled for the fall of 2004.



Calendar of Events for 2004

May 15 th	Banquet Night
Aug 14 th	Annual Golf Tournament
Sep 19 th	Walkathon
Oct 16 th	Pub Night
Nov 6 th	Silent Auction
Dec 4 th	Member Appreciation Nite

Please check our website @ www.operationsmile.net for details.

Annual Charity Golf

Operation Smile Because We Care Foundation Annual Charity Golf was held on Saturday, August 9th, 2003 at the Swan-E-Set Bay Resort & Country Club in Pitt Meadows.

Super prizes, excellent weather conditions and of course, the tremendous support from the business community by way of hole sponsors, merchandise donors as well as diamond, gold and silver sponsors made the Golf Tournament a success.

The following were the winners:

Low Gross (72)	-	Depesh Narotam
Low Net - 1 st Place (70)	-	Feroz Khan
Low Net - 2 nd Place	-	Bob McKeating
Low Net - 3 rd Place	-	Gordon Siddon
Low Net - 4 th Place	-	Bob Prokop
Low Net - 5 th Place	-	Kaushik Bhagat
Longest Drive (Men's)	-	Leigh McBain
Longest Drive (Ladies)	-	Neelam Kumar
Closest to the Pin (Men's)	-	Mike Takahashi
Closest to the Pin (Ladies)	-	Krista Pederson
Most Honest Golfer (136)	-	Dianne Bacha
Putting Contest Winner	-	Leigh McBain Joe Pearson

The event raised \$5,000 and OSBWCF would like to congratulate all the winners and thank all the sponsors, merchandise donors, volunteers and the organizing committee for a job well done.

The fourth annual charity golf will be held on August 14th, 2004 at Swan-E-Set. Hope to see you all there.

Mahend Mistry & Brian Dass
Co-Chairpersons

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...one smile at a time