



Smile of the Day

helping children smile

THE NEWSLETTER OF OPERATION SMILE BECAUSE WE CARE FOUNDATION



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

Wow...Look at me!

A 10 year old boy paddles a kayak across the lake in the afternoon sunshine. There is a big smile on his face and he yells "look at me, Mom". His mother stands, a bit anxiously, on the dock and watches proudly. Not an unusual picture unless you happen to be a 10 year old boy who was born with a very rare craniofacial syndrome called Apert's Syndrome.

In a newborn infant the bones of the skull are separated by "sutures" at birth; this allows for molding of the skull during the birth process and allows for the baby's brain to grow and expand in the first year of life. You can tell the sutures are "open" in a new baby when you feel the "soft spot" on the top of the head. These sutures fuse together at about 1 year of age. Normally, the bones of the eye sockets, cheeks and upper jaw grow with the child until growth is complete in late teen-age years.

In Apert's Syndrome, a very rare genetic condition, there is premature fusion of the skull bone sutures and of the bones forming the eye socket and cheeks/upper jaw, and there is fusion of the bones of the fingers and toes. Often there are abnormalities of the shoulder joints as well and many children with Apert's Syndrome have a cleft palate. This condition affects facial appearance, vision, hearing and hand/foot function. So, all those things that most of us take for granted are often not so easy for a child or adult with Apert's Syndrome. In British Columbia there are about 20 people who have Apert's syndrome and the syndrome affects approximately 1 in 200,000 children each year.

So what does this mean for a child like Josh? Well, he had his first operation to release the fused sutures in his skull when he was only 4 days old. Since then he has had many operations to address the issues with his fused skull sutures, the fused bones in his hands, his cleft palate and his hearing. He will require more surgery as he grows. Final facial reconstruction is often not complete until late teen-age years. Josh's eyesight is affected and he has worn glasses since he was an infant. He has been using a computer/keyboard since entering school, as it is still difficult to use a pencil easily. To correct Josh's dental bite, he has been in orthodontic treatment since about age 7 years and can look forward to several more years of braces and orthodontic treatment.

The support that Operation Smile Because We Care Foundation provides for the Cleft Palate/Craniofacial Program at BC's Children's Hospital is greatly appreciated. This support allows our program to "make things just a little bit better" for children born with craniofacial conditions through the purchase of new equipment, educational materials, or supporting dental care for families who cannot afford it. Your support makes a difference for the kids!

Thank You!



President's Message



Operation Smile Because We Care Foundation is all about "*helping children smile...one smile at a time*".

Children are very special and dear to all of us. The children we have chosen to support are especially dear to our organization.

These are children suffering from facial difference. This group of children will deal with many psychological and social issues as they try to fit into society. They may need surgery to correct their facial difference or plastic surgery to improve a facial difference. Some children will require speech therapy and dentistry regularly.

Psychologists and social workers may play an integral part in the lives of these children and their families. They are forced to deal with discrimination at an early age when all they really need is unconditional acceptance and belonging.

Operation Smile Because We Care Foundation has established a strategic alliance with B.C. Children's Hospital. We have donated a Nasometer – a speech therapy bio-feedback equipment valued at \$5,000. This past year we donated \$10,000 towards the purchase of a 3-D Digital Camera and software having a price tag of \$70,000. This special 3-D Digital Camera is used to take accurate measurements of the planes and with the aid of the software, surgical and orthodontic planning is formulated prior to the child having surgery performed.

We are proud of our achievements however, we cannot dwell on these for there is much more to be done and accomplish. It's gratifying to know we are not in this alone. We have the support of our families, friends, business associates and our many sponsors and donors. Together, we can overcome any obstacle however, to continue providing services for children with facial difference we will need your ongoing support.

Operational Smile Because We Care Foundation will continue on its mission to support the provision of medical services, equipment and treatment for children with facial deformities where medical funding may be limited or unavailable and to that end for 2005 we have planned a Silent Auction, Charity Golf Tournament, Pub Night to mention a few fund raising events.

You can help us help children with facial difference by supporting these fundraisers. Come be part of us, make new friends, enjoy the events and in the process we can achieve our common goal, "*helping children smile...one smile at a time*"

- Michael Kumar



...one smile at a time

Pub Night

Our Pub Nite was held on Sat, Jan 29th, 2005 at
CALIFORNIA CLUB
7677 134th Street, Surrey, B.C.

The theme for the evening was Island Nite and everyone who attended had another fun evening. The food was delicious and drinks were plenty. Live music by Dal Hotti and his friend Jas kept the dance floor hopping. The Limbo contest and Hula-Hoop contest were a hit.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the prize donors, as it is with your generous contributions that we were able to raise \$1,600.

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 2005.



Calendar of Events for 2005

Jan 29 th	Pub Night
Apr 29 th	Silent Auction
Aug 13 th	Annual Golf Tournament
Nov	Fall Pub Night
Dec 4 th	Volunteer Appreciation Evening

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 14th, 2004 at the Swan-E-Set Bay Resort & Country Club in Pitt Meadows.

A record 136 golfers, super prizes, excellent weather conditions and of course, the tremendous support from the business community by way of hole sponsorships, merchandise donations made the Golf Tournament a success.

The following were winners:

Low Gross (69)	-	Matt Palsenberg
Low Net - 1 st Place (69)	-	Ron Musa
Low Net - 2 nd Place	-	Bill Silvester
Low Net - 3 rd Place	-	Reed Arkinstal
Low Net - 4 th Place	-	Bill Litt
Low Net - 5 th Place	-	Barry Nicholson
Longest Drive (Men's)	-	Matt Palsenberg
Longest Drive (Ladies)	-	Arlene Loverin
Closest to the Pin (Men's)	-	Bob Prokop
Closest to the Pin (Ladies)	-	Krista Gallinger
Most Honest Golfer (136)	-	Dianne Bacha
Putting Contest Winner	-	Peter Jansen Terry Guptell

The event raised \$7,600 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.

This year's annual charity golf will be held on August 13th, 2005 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