

A close-up photograph of a woman with dark hair, wearing a white top, holding a young child with dark hair in a ponytail. The child is wearing a white shirt and looking towards the camera. The woman is looking down at the child with a gentle expression.

Operation  Smile


**LEGACY**

A Lasting Gift In Your Will  
Can Help Change The World

# YOUR GIFT HELPS TRANSFORM LIVES

It is estimated that every 3 minutes a child is born with a cleft condition. Depending on the type and severity, a cleft condition can create serious health issues if not corrected. If the cleft lip or cleft palate is left un-repaired, nine out of ten children will die before their 20th birthday.

## Since 1982, Operation Smile has...



450,000+  
surgeries  
performed



33Care  
Centres have  
been built in 13  
countries

### What is a cleft lip and cleft palate?

A cleft is an opening in the lip, the roof of the mouth or the soft tissue in the back of the mouth. A cleft lip may be accompanied by an opening in the bones of the upper jaw and/or the upper gum.

A cleft palate occurs when the two sides of a palate do not join together, resulting in an opening in the roof of the mouth. A cleft lip and cleft palate can occur on one side or both sides. A child can suffer from a cleft lip, a cleft palate or both.

### What causes cleft conditions?

The exact causes of cleft lip and cleft palate remain unknown. We're continuing to work with research partners to answer why cleft conditions occur so we can prevent them from happening.

### How frequently does cleft lip and cleft palate occur?

Cleft lip and/or cleft palate occurs in approximately 1 per 500-700 births, the ratio varying considerably across geographic areas or ethnic groupings.

**World Health Organization International Collaborative Research on Craniofacial Anomalies.**

A young child with a cleft lip is crawling on a light-colored floor. The child is wearing a red top and a pink cloth draped over their shoulders. They are holding a green toy car in their right hand. The background is blurred, showing other people in a bright, indoor setting.

## WHAT IF THIS WAS YOUR CHILD?

Some of us take for granted the surgical care we may have available. But for too many families, safe surgery is not even an option.

**At Operation Smile, we believe every child deserves exceptional surgical care. All children deserve to be treated as if they were our own. That is what drives each and every one of us.**

We direct funds to programmes that bring the highest standards of care to people living with cleft conditions. By **training and credentialing local medical professionals**, we empower them to deliver world-class care in communities where they live.

For **patients and families**, facing financial hardship in order to attend our programmes, we cover the costs of transportation, lodging and food. By **partnering with national governments** and other organisations, we're working toward long-term health system improvements.

It's our honour to participate on the world stage of surgical innovation and excellence to raise awareness about cleft conditions, safe surgery and the need for more equitable health services globally.



# OPERATION SMILE IRELAND

Operation Smile Ireland was founded in 2003 by Irish doctors and volunteers and is part of the Operation Smile family which has a global presence in more than 60 countries through its network of volunteer surgeons, paediatricians, doctors, nurses and students.

**Since 1982, Operation Smile has been dedicated to finding families affected by cleft and providing them with safe surgery so that they can live happy and healthy lives.**

In an ideal situation, a paediatrician and a plastic surgeon work with a child's parents soon after the child's birth to choose the

best timing for surgery. Most doctors agree that a cleft lip should be repaired by the time a baby is 3 months old and that a cleft palate should be repaired between the ages of 12 and 18 months.

For many families in low- and middle-income countries early surgery may not be an option due to lack of financial resources, qualified medical staff and barriers to care.



Most of us don't like to think about the end of our lives, but making a Will gives us a chance to think about what we want to leave behind.

**Operation Smile Ireland relies on generous donations and the goodwill of our volunteers to make a real difference to children's lives.**

Leaving a gift to Operation Smile in your Will means we can continue our work to help give more children the opportunity to smile, to laugh and to avail of the same opportunities as everyone else.

Before making a Will, we would encourage

you to discuss your wishes with those you are close to and may be responsible for.

We recommend that you seek independent advice from a practicing solicitor or legal advisor. This is important as mistakes can mean that your wishes are not carried out. If you already have a Will, you can still leave a gift to Operation Smile with a Codicil. This is an addendum that allows you to make changes to your Will, such as adding a gift to a charity. Your solicitor will be able to advise you on the correct wording to use.

## How you can make a lasting difference?



Fixed sum



Property



Items of value



Donate

There are many ways in which your Will can be used to support Operation Smile:

Leaving a gift of a **fixed sum of money** (a pecuniary legacy)

Leaving a **share of your property** (gift of residue)

Leaving specific **items of value**; e.g. jewellery, furniture, property (a specific legacy)

Ask for **donations** to Operation Smile instead of flowers at your funeral (gifts in memory)

# WE BELIEVE THAT LOVE IS BEING THE SOLUTION TO SOMEONE ELSE'S PROBLEM

Our volunteers, donors, students and staff refuse to accept a world with inequitable access to quality surgical care.



**“** *You could tell he was overwhelmed. He had never left his home before, never been to a hospital or been examined by a doctor.’*

Reynaldo Ortiz  
Operation Smile Videographer, Venezuela

## VIRGILIO'S STORY

**Virgilio was 22 when he received cleft surgery. He suffered terrible torment and pain with his cleft condition and had trouble staying in school. His mother never gave up hope that one day he could realise his true potential.**

Operation Smile changed Virgilio's life, but also gave his family something to smile about. His mother's heavy heart is now filled with pure joy as she looks at her grateful son.



“The real power of Operation Smile is the metaphor that is created through a child's transformation: involvement creates change. Each of us has skills and talents that can be used for the betterment of our families, our fellow workers, our communities, and our world. It is merely a matter of recognizing that there is a higher purpose in doing what we do every day. That purpose is to help one another.”

**Dr. Bill P. Magee Jr.,**

CEO Emeritas & Co-Founder,  
Operation Smile

**For advice on how you can make or change your Will to include a gift to Operation Smile, please contact our Legacy Manager, **Natalie Madden:****

by phone: **01 667 66 59**

or email: **[natalie@operationsmile.ie](mailto:natalie@operationsmile.ie)**

If you decide to leave a gift to Operation Smile in your Will, please include the following details:

**Operation Smile Ireland CHY 15661 / CRA 20054588**

**We are grateful for any gift, big or small and thankful for those who have supported us in the past through their Will or in memory of a loved one.**

# CARING NEVER STOPS

Now, more than ever, we must rely on each other to act with kindness, compassion and empathy. At Operation Smile, it's our charge to safeguard health and well-being around the world.

**Your legacy will help us build upon our expertise in delivering cleft surgery and care in resource-limited settings as well as our history of improving health and dignity to those we serve.**



*At Operation Smile we know that one 45-minute surgery that costs €180 will change a child's life, forever. Imagine what a legacy can make happen.*

Clodagh Judge

**Country Manager, Operation Smile Ireland**

Operation  Smile

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