



SMILE!

The Newsletter of Operation Restore Hope
website: <http://www.operationrestorehope.org>

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Operation Restore Hope celebrates 10 years and more than 1,000 children helped

Operation Restore Hope recently returned from the third of three recent missions: 2 to Lapu Lapu in Cebu and 1 to Caloocan City in Manila – both in the Philippines.

These missions combined were able to carry out surgery on nearly 200 children over the three weeks of operating.

10 years of service

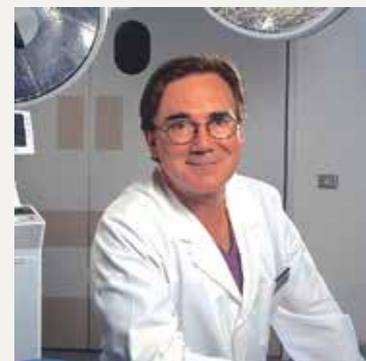
All three of these missions were landmarks for Operation Restore Hope. The two missions in Cebu marked 10 years of Operation

Restore Hope being of service to this community in caring for their less fortunate children with cleft lip and palate as well
(continued overleaf)



Alia Cortes, an ORH patient, before and after 1998 surgery, and in 2005 singing with Nurse Maureen Eddison, our Cebu Coordinator whose first mission was 1998 when Alia was treated.

A Letter from Dr Hodgkinson



Operation Restore Hope Manila Mission 2005

The ORH 2005 Manila Mission performed 67 successful cleft lip and palate operations during our week in Manila in February. It was especially encouraging that we developed a strong relationship with the medical faculty of Manila Central University, especially in the fields of Anaesthesia and Otolaryngology. Members of both faculties assisted our international team on a daily basis as well as being involved in tutorial teaching experiences.

The university is keen to continue and expand their relationship and next year we will have a fourth operating room running manned totally by the Filipinos working in conjunction with us. Our plan is to empower the local Filipino surgeons and anaesthetists to perform charitable cleft lip and palate surgery, not
(continued overleaf)

Operation Restore Hope celebrates 10 years

(continued from page 1)

as other birth defects and deformities. Besides the "high" that our volunteers get from working as part of an international medical team as well as the overwhelming gratification of changing these children's lives, the highpoint of the mission was the tenth anniversary celebration. The celebrations, hosted by Rotary Metro Cebu who have been helping Operation Restore Hope in Cebu since its foundation, were very emotional. Guests of honour were many of the children whom we have treated over the years.

Tear-filled reunions

The evening brought tear filled reunions as well as a chance both for the children to express their gratitude in song, speeches and hugs and the team to see first hand how meaningful their many years of effort have been.



5 day old baby and mother already registered as part of ORH's community screening and education program



Landmark initiative

The Caloocan City mission also proved a landmark for us in that we were able to launch a community health initiative to screen children from birth in the local immunisation

centres. This allows us to educate the parents as to the special care of these children as well as to ensure that the children get assessed by paediatricians and receive the preliminary health screening and nutrition required prior to surgery.

Our dream: no child begins school lip or palate unrepaired

With this initiative, our goal has become that we will be able to identify the children in the communities we are working in so that no child will begin school with their cleft lip or palate unrepaired. We have garnered the support of local paediatricians, dentists and other allied health and community services to hopefully make this dream a reality.

Letter from Dr Hodgkinson

(continued from page 1)

only when we are in Manila but throughout the year. It was also exciting to launch the Brian Horan Fellowship in Anaesthesia.

In addition, a Community Health Centre initiative which first began

in October 2004 was officially launched with a seminar attended by local physicians. ORH will be visiting most of the 46 Health Clinics and continuing the educational process year long: children born with cleft lip and palate in Caloocan will be directed to the hospital where Paediatricians will be monitoring their progress and

supporting these children until they can have their elective surgery between 6 and 12 months of age.

These community and educational initiatives have resulted in us gaining a firm commitment from the City of Caloocan and the Chief of hospital. Already, our mission for next year has 30 patients confirmed for their second stage of surgery. The program is working so well that we also have babies as young as 5 days old registered.

A personal thanks to all my team members, the Nurses, Administrators, Anaesthetists, Co-Surgeons and our Ladies Committee who all dedicated their time and generously provided services for those less fortunate than ourselves.



Become a Member of Operation Restore Hope

To: Operation Restore Hope,
PO Box 1185, Double Bay 1360
Please send me an application form for membership of Operation Restore Hope:

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