



# SMILE!

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

Volume 2 Number 1

March 2006

## Operation Restore Hope Changing Lives

### Analyn gets to smile on her graduation

Analyn came to us at age 7. The oldest of two children, Analyn was blessed that despite her poverty and disability (both a bilateral cleft lip and palate that made both speech and feeding difficult as well as bringing social unacceptability) her parents had the strength of conviction to make sure that she attended the local public school.

#### **Operation performed later than usual**

Analyn, now 8, had her lip repaired by us when she was 7 in 2005 and her palate in 2006 at age 8. While we weren't introduced to Analyn earlier to help her as an infant, we are thrilled



that she is now a lovely, confident girl who brought tears of joy to our eyes when she presented us with a signed copy of her

graduation picture from elementary school. We will continue to follow Analyn's progress as she enters junior school and are thankful we could bring a smile to this little girl's face.

*Top: Analyn before surgery  
Middle: Analyn after surgery  
Bottom: Analyn now a confident Elementary School graduate!*



### *A Letter from Dr Hodgkinson*



#### **Operation Restore Hope 2006 – Success at a price!**

As our 22 weary Surgeons, Anaesthetists and Nurses boarded their various flights at Manila in February 2006 after a ten day mission in Calocan, Manila, performing 82 cleft lip and palate operations, their weariness and fatigue reflected the extreme commitment they had made.

We were all touched by the many happy smiling children who only a few days after their surgery were thanking us with flowers and hugs and even singing to us. These are precious memories.

Only three weeks later in March another ORH team was at work at Vicente Sotto Memorial Hospital in Cebu. We have carried out four missions in less than six months, having completed two further missions in November 2005 in Cebu at Lapu Lapu District Hospital.

*(continued overleaf )*

## Letter from Dr Hodgkinson

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We now support three hospitals with this unique charity, providing care for the children of these communities, not only doing primary surgery and secondary surgery, but providing necessary dental and orthodontic treatment as well as medical treatment which often includes the treatment of tuberculosis and anaemia. Our long-term commitment to these communities allows us to follow our patients from infancy to adult life. We provide the hope for a normal life without the damning stigma of a facial deformity or the inability to communicate.

### Training of local surgeons vital

Our training of Filipino Surgeons, Anaesthetists and Nurses allows for ongoing treatment of these children between our visits. There are however, just not enough trained medical personnel in the Philippines to deal with the large number of children who suffer from these deformities. The support of our Aussie Filipino committee members is essential to our team. Thank you to all of you and we hope you continue your active support.

Our success in operating on more than 150 children each year and performing nearly 200 operations comes at a cost. We have



*Oliver the day after surgery; he wants to be a doctor when he grows up to help other children*

grown over the years from one mission per year to three or more in recent times. However, the funds raised are not keeping up with the work to be done. We cannot perform any of these surgeries under \$500 each. Hence, we need nearly \$100,000 per year to survive as a charity.

### Funds nearly exhausted

Operation Restore Hope has nearly exhausted its funds and will not be able to mount more surgical missions without your support. We need more members and we need more funds. Everyone receiving this Newsletter is challenged to sign up five new members at \$20 each as we need Members. If you have not renewed your membership please do so now or consider the new option of lifetime membership for \$100. We have only 70

members now and we need 200 – 300 members at least. Without these membership levels, Aus-AID will not grant us the tax deductible status that would assist us in gaining corporate sponsorship.

### Need to raise funds to continue

Both team and committee member give generously of their time and their expertise to help these special Filipino children. We need more people to find ways to give generously as well. If every member raised a few hundred dollars, we could continue this unique work. There are so many ways of raising funds. The ten year old daughter of one of our surgeons showed our video to her school headmistress, who devoted six months of mufti days and bake sales to Operation Restore Hope with a \$4,000 result.

The challenge is in your hands: will we continue to go forward in caring for these special children or do we leave behind what we have worked tirelessly to build over the last fifteen years?

Operation Restore Hope is your charity. It is unique and desperately needs funds to survive. Please fill in the form below now to help and become a member.

 "Smile" is sponsored and printed by  
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The cost to Operation Restore Hope to repair a facial cleft is approximately \$500 AUD per operation. The more donations we receive, the more children we can help.



**MEDICAL MISSION** No funds received are spent on administrative, accounting, advertising or infrastructure costs. All membership fees and donations are spent directly on surgeries performed.

The Operation Restore Hope ANGELS Club offers you and your friends/workplace/family the opportunity to change one child's life by paying for their individual surgery. ANGELS Club members are sent an official certificate of thanks.

You can also become a Life Member of Operation Restore Hope or just join for a year. Your fee or donation will help fund the cost of a child's surgery.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed is my \$500 ANGELS Club fee

Enclosed is my \$100 Lifetime Membership fee

Enclosed is my \$20 Annual Membership fee

I also wish to make a donation of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL PAYMENT: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Method of Payment:**

Cheque enclosed (to Operation Restore Hope)

MasterCard  Visa

Credit Card No. \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_