

transformation

Find out how you transform the lives of children – Summer 2013

Oral Health, Orthodontics & Speech Therapy in Thailand



Nattanon is pictured here in Thailand in 2012.

Good oral hygiene and the work of dentists and orthodontists is critical in correcting the bite for healthy chewing, speaking and breathing.

In late 2012, we launched *Speech camps in Northern Thailand*, which provide innovative decentralized speech therapy, as well as oral care, healthy eating and brushing techniques for children and adults affected by cleft in the rural regions of Thailand and Laos.

This year-long project is being piloted by Smile Train and Transforming Faces, in partnership with Tawanchai Cleft Center at Khon Kaen University and the Northern Women's Development Foundation (NWDF).

The first speech camp took place in October 2012 at Chiang Rai YMCA, Thailand. This was followed by more

camps in Thailand and Laos, as well as home visits. In Laos, children's oral health is generally worse due to the limited human and financial resources available.

Esteban Lasso, Transforming Faces' Executive Director, visited Thailand in February 2013 and had the opportunity to meet with Nattanon Tangjai, who was born with cleft lip and palate in 2003.

Nattanon had his lip and palate repaired in 2004 and then he continued with ongoing treatment – such as speech therapy and dental checkups – at Overbrook Hospital in Chiang Rai, Thailand. He visited the speech camp in February to learn proper brushing techniques.

“It was great to see a patient who has been involved in our project for the last 8 years and see his progress,” said Esteban. “I think that’s what makes TF unique – we have the ability to really witness a transformation.”

Nattanon is now in grade 3 at Thamphatong School. Mrs. Anchalee Ruechanukul, his teacher, told us that Nattanon is a cheerful child. He loves to play with his friends and always has good grades in different subjects.

Esteban also visited a speech camp in Laos: “I was really pleased to see 15 kids from Laos who already had their cleft repaired *come back* for the dental

camp,” Esteban said. “It is sometimes difficult to engage with patients over the long-term because some, for instance, are coming from long distances. It was great to see their commitment to comprehensive care!”

Austin Chen, a staff orthodontist at the Hospital for Sick Children, also travelled to Thailand with TF to provide advice. He guided local staff in their cleft lip and palate orthodontic techniques and also helped Dr. Kamonporn Nanekrangsun, our local orthodontist, make treatment choices for some very difficult cases.

For more about our speech camps in Thailand, visit our blog: www.transformingfaces.org/tag/oral-health/

**BEYOND A SINGLE SURGERY:
THE POWER OF COMPREHENSIVE CLEFT CARE**

IT STARTS AT BIRTH

COMPREHENSIVE FOLLOW-UP

SPEAKING OUT

HEAR THAT?

A HEALTHY SMILE

Discover the power of comprehensive cleft care! Download our poster at <http://tinyurl.com/TFPoster>

Beyond a single surgery

2013 is off to a roaring start! I was able to see how our oldest partner is leading cleft innovations in Thailand and Laos during a visit in February. I also visited India, where I got to see our partners in action.

Then we were off to Orlando! Transforming Faces, as well as 20 of our partners from 7 projects, attended the *12th International Cleft Congress on Cleft Lip and Palate and Related Craniofacial Anomalies* from May 5–10, 2013 in Orlando, Florida. This allowed our partners to present their research, learn, and network with the international cleft community. TF's support also allowed non-surgical experts to have a voice in the Congress. For more, check out our blog: www.transformingfaces.org/tag/cleftcongress/

The best is yet to come! We are in the midst of creating a monitoring database to assist our partners in providing team care at the appropriate intervals.

TF recently committed to supporting Tawanchai Foundation's initiative to implement cleft lip and palate registration in 75 hospitals in Thailand. The registry will allow government officials to see the scope of cleft lip and palate incidence and it will also help medical staff ensure that timely surgery and on-going rehabilitation is properly co-ordinated. We hope that similar registries can be replicated around the world in future.

Thank you for helping us close the gap in cleft care,



Esteban Lasso
Executive Director

Meet the TF Family!



With your support and the dedication of surgeons, audiologists, dentists, nurse co-ordinators, orthodontists, social workers and speech therapists who partner with Transforming Faces in China, India, Thailand, Ghana, Ethiopia, Peru and Argentina, we have transformed the lives of 10,430 children and adults with cleft lip and palate since 1999.

We gathered some of our partners, volunteers, board members and staff together at the Cleft Congress!

BACK ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT: Anders Holmeffjord, Jamie Norwood, Dr. Antonio Hector Elizodo, Dr. Michel Grupper, David Stoly, Dr. Yuan Hua, Suraj Subramaniyan

MIDDLE ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT: Sylvie Gueron, Dr. Christy McKinney, Dr. Benjamas Prathanee, Suteera Pradubwong, Rebecca Turner, James Hottor, Dr. Albert Paintsil, Tanyaratch Sampathawong, Esteban Lasso, Siriwan Miller, Prof. Roopa Nagarajan, Jill Martin, Dr. Arun Chitharanjan, Dr. Vignesh Kailasam

FRONT ROW – LEFT TO RIGHT: Jackie Elton (TF's co-founder), Rev. Nan Hudson, Deolinda Wah, Gao Mei, Hirut Mengistu, Maria Teresa Torres, Cindy Guernsey, Sandra Fastlicht, Laura Lewis-Watts, Nana Ekua Owusu, Dr. Opoki Ware Ampomah



In 2012, we partnered with Asociacion Civil Splendor (KusiRostros) to establish four Community Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs) in impoverished areas surrounding Lima. Here, the KusiRostros team poses with the SickKids team.

TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

New friends and ideas meet at Peruvian Congress

An interdisciplinary congress took place in Lima, Peru on November 23–25, 2012. A nurse, social worker, speech pathologist, plastic surgeon and orthodontist from the cleft lip and palate program at SickKids attended and lent their expertise.

The Congress was focused on the family-based approach to cleft care and aimed to educate cleft practitioners, medical students and parents about the

importance of holistic care and support the parents' role in treatment.

Co-funded by Transforming Faces and Smile Train, this Congress served to re-energize the Peruvian team with new ideas for providing comprehensive cleft care in their own communities. It also served as a catalyst to set up the Peruvian Cleft Palate – Craniofacial organization.



Your support transforms lives!

Kingthong Thammawong was born on February 1, 2011 in Thailand. Her lip was repaired in May 2011, followed by her palate in July 2012. She has also received follow-up care, such as: ear, dental and speech assessments. She will undergo further nose surgery in future. She is pictured here at her first birthday!

HOLISTIC TREATMENT SONG

Thank you, dear doctor

*Thank you, dear doctor
for fixing my face.
Grateful I'll be till
the end of my days!*

*In spite your success
I've something to tell,
that when I'm speaking,
I'm not doing well.
The words get distorted,
some leak through my nose,
and people start laughing,
it's just as it was.*

*And when my mouth opens
and smile does appear
you see the disorder
of teeth everywhere,
no good for my eating,
no good for my speech,
and I won't keep smiling
when feeling at ease.*

*So how would you act then,
if I were your son,
who spoke just as I do,
well, what could be done?
And how would you act then,
if I were your girl,
who smiled just like I do
when facing the world?*

*Thank you, dear doctor,
for closing my cleft,
but what you could not fix,
why should it be left?*

Anders Holmefjord
Norwegian Speech Language Therapist

Anders helped train Assistant Speech Therapists at Yekatit 12 Hospital in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and has worked with the team for over five years. He delivered this poem during Session #67 at the Cleft Congress.



Hirut, Anders, Mesay and Dr. Mekonen at the Cleft Congress in Orlando



DONOR SPOTLIGHT: PIRATES ON THE RUN

AHOY! Captain Longish John and the Bucanettes recently raised \$1,240 for Transforming Faces!

Toby Molins and his daughters Indie, 7, Zoe, 5, Anna, 8, asked their friends and family to contribute to the cause through their CanadaHelps page.

Toby promised to run the January Walt Disney marathon as a pirate, and managed a respectable 250th place out of 25,000 runners. His daughters then did their bit by racing a 10km cross country ski loppet on February 24, 2013.

100% of the funds provide cleft lip and palate care in developing countries. PLUS, these funds will be matched. Thank you Mateys!

Beautiful Before & After

With a little help from our friends, we hosted a fantastic Beautiful Before & After Gala in support of our work on April 10 and raised over \$33,000 for cleft care.

100% of proceeds from this event will fund free, local access to reconstructive surgery and rehabilitation as well as training for medical teams.

We'd like to thank our honorary event chair Marilyn Gluskin, our host Marci

Ien, co-host of CTV's Canada AM, and you – our supporters! We would also like to thank our volunteers, event committee, silent auction supporters, our keynote speaker Dr. Ronald Zuker, our sponsors – redtag.ca vacations and the Abbyssinian Foundation, for making this event such a success!

Did you attend? Check out our Facebook album: <http://tinyurl.com/TFGala2013>



Marci Ien hosts our Gala!

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Save the date!

Dust off your dancing shoes! Our Salsa for Smiles event will take place October 9 at Lula Lounge. Stay tuned for more details!

Become a Champion for Cleft Care!

Host a fundraiser at your school, workplace or in your community – host a dress down day, compete in a run or host your own event! You can set up a Giving Page through CanadaHelps or celebrate your birthday with EchoAge. Visit www.transformingfaces.org/giving/fundraise/ for ideas on how to get started.



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Closing the gap in cleft care. *Thanks to you.*

100% of your donation goes directly to cleft services because a private charitable foundation covers our administration costs. Donations of \$200 or more are also matched by the foundation.

You can donate by phone, by mail or online at www.transformingfaces.org/giving/donate/



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