



# transformation

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

## Transforming Lives in Peru!

Jowel Francisco Admans Fernandez runs around the small room and curiously inspects a bookshelf full of comics. His mother scolds him to stay seated. He flashes her a grin and continues to run around the small two room clinic.

The vivacious youngster looks up at the dentist, Fiorella, and suddenly starts to cry. He moves towards his mother, burrowing his face in her lap as Fiorella places a mask on her face. His mother explains that Jowel is used to nurses and hospital settings, but he is still afraid of masks. His mother calms him down so they can continue with the check up.

Born with a cleft lip and palate, Jowel's mother heard about KusiRostros through an advertisement. She reached out and credits the team psychologist with helping her accept his condition

and equipping her with much-needed information.

At four months old, his lip was repaired, followed by his palate in August 2013. He's been taking speech therapy sessions at the KusiRostros office, a 20 minute commute from their home, since he was 5 months old. His mother also attends nutrition and information sessions at the centre.

We have partnered with KusiRostros to establish four Community Rehabilitation Centres (CRCs) in impoverished areas surrounding Lima in 2012. Housed in a clinic or health post, each centre has a dentist, speech therapist and nurse co-ordinator, and offers families the medical, feeding and counselling support they need, close to home.



Jowel, pictured here at 1 year and 2 months old, shortly after his palate repair. His mom says he loves to smile for cameras.



Jowel, with his mother and Fiorella, the dentist at KusiRostros.



KusiRostros' nurse, Milagros, with a baby at the San Juan de Lurigancho CRC.

Our goal was to treat 100 children in the first year of our three year pilot project. A total of 200 children were treated over the past year and an additional CRC was opened to meet demand.

While our CRCs are taking care of basic needs, the demand for more comprehensive interventions are on the rise. Esteban Lasso, TF's Executive Director, has just returned from a trip to Peru where he was able to meet with public hospitals, university clinics and other charities in order to find dentistry and orthodontic solutions for children and adults with cleft lip and palate.

# Beyond a Single Surgery

What a year it has been for us here at TF!

I've just returned from visiting our partners in South America, where our monitoring and evaluation database will be piloted in early 2014. The database will help our partners to coordinate team care and evaluate patients more effectively.

We celebrated 10 years in Accra, Ghana! Our partner, Korle-Bu Teaching Hospital, has provided treatment to 1,748 children and adults in the last 10 years.

Our partner also advocated on behalf of cleft patients to have cleft lip and palate included as a functional impairment under the National Health Insurance Scheme, a form of national health insurance established by the Government of Ghana. This insurance provides access and financial coverage for basic health care services to Ghanaian citizens. Previously, cleft lip and palate was viewed as a cosmetic procedure and was not included in the insurance scheme. Thanks to the hard work of our partners, some of the aspects of cleft-related procedures are now covered. We've undertaken an internal 10-year review of the project in order to guide our future efforts in Ghana and allow us to expand our reach to new areas.

You'll see some information in this newsletter about an exciting new phone app which is being piloted in India! Our partner conducted six speech camps in the Thiruvannamalai district of India and treated 131 patients. Of those, 75 patients received follow up sessions. A speech camp was also conducted in the Cuddalore district and 15 patients attended and received follow-up.



Jessica, a 15 year old patient, Gaby from Fundacion GAVINA, and Esteban in Argentina

Our partners truly are the driving force behind the transformations you'll witness in this newsletter. With your support, we strive to provide care that goes beyond one surgery to ensure that children grow up to be well-adjusted and happy adults.

Thank you for continuing to support this important work,

Esteban Lasso  
Executive Director



## SALSA FOR SMILES

On October 9, you stepped up to Transform Lives! Initial reports suggest YOU helped us raise over \$17,000 for our comprehensive cleft care projects – that number includes a match from a private charitable foundation.

Thank you to our 200 Smile Supporters who attended, our MC Mary Ito, our door prize supporters, the Clave Kings, DJ Jimmy Suave, Inspiracion Latina Dance, and the Scotiabank Bright Future Philanthropic Program.

Visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/transformingfaces](http://www.facebook.com/transformingfaces) to view pictures!

**We hope to see you on May 15, 2014 for our Beautiful Before & After Gala at BMO Conference and Event Centre in Toronto!**

## Meet Our Global Family

Dr. Vignesh Kailasam is an Orthodontist who is involved with the Department of Orthodontics at Chennai's SRU in India. The SRU team travels each month to rural communities to visit patients in their home communities.

"It's like US immigration. I was dumbfounded when I came to the US, seeing the size. I couldn't behave like myself. Now I understand how a patient feels, walking into a big hospital with so many specialists everywhere...I can see the difference when the patient is treated in their own kingdom. When we go to a rural centre, it's their place," says Vignesh.

Meet our partners on our Blog: [www.transformingfaces.org/tag/partnerships/](http://www.transformingfaces.org/tag/partnerships/)

# A Mobile Phone App Improves Speech and Hearing Services in India

Late last year, we told you about Project E-MPOWER – a new initiative from our partners in India. In 2012, our partner, Sri Ramachandra University (SRU), was awarded funding from Mahindra, an Indian multinational automaker, to develop a mobile phone app through a competitive grant program.

Since then, SRU has developed the project to its current stage: *Implementation of E-Technology in Community-Based Project* (E-Technology Project). This mobile app will be piloted, with funding from Transforming Faces, to improve speech and hearing services for children living in the Thiruvannamalai region of India.

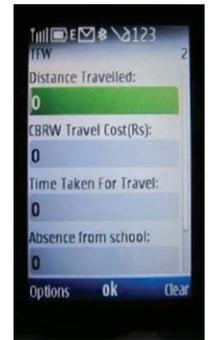
Children born with a cleft palate are more likely to have speech problems at some time in their lives, with over half requiring speech therapy at some point during childhood. In addition, ear infections are more likely to occur and are related to hearing loss, language delays, and speech problems.

This mobile app will enable the SRU team to follow patients more closely, instantly track their progress, manage a larger patient load, and receive more timely updates as the project expands to new rural districts. It will also track demographic information, distance travelled, and results of screening procedures. Video and audio samples will

be stored and will be used to track the patient's progress and therapy will be adjusted as needed.

By the end of 2013, it is expected that 10 Community Based Rehabilitation workers will be trained to use the app and all active patients will be tracked.

To find out more about our work in India, visit: [www.transformingfaces.org/tag/india/](http://www.transformingfaces.org/tag/india/)



## Training Opportunities

Since the 12th International Congress on Cleft Lip/Palate in Orlando earlier this year, some new friendships and training opportunities have blossomed.

From August 5 to 8, two members from our Indian team visited Monterrey, Mexico to see first-hand how an intensive summer speech therapy camp was conducted.

While the Mexican speech camp is not a TF-funded project, we felt it was important to facilitate this meeting so that both teams could enhance their knowledge.

To find out more about his visit and see pictures, visit: [www.transformingfaces.org/2013/10/15/south-south-training-indian-team-visits-mexico-learn-speech-therapy/](http://www.transformingfaces.org/2013/10/15/south-south-training-indian-team-visits-mexico-learn-speech-therapy/)

## Billy English Visits Thailand

Billy English, a recently graduated doctor from Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry, recently travelled to Thailand and while he was there, he observed our cleft team. Here's an excerpt of his experience:

Our clinic on the border of Laos was actually on the road of the border crossing. We sheltered under trees in the midday sun while families who had travelled long distances across Laos with their young babies came to see if they could be helped.

It was a truly surreal experience for me to watch the team assess these new patients while the Laos Army border patrol watched on drinking coffee.

What struck me particularly was the depth of poverty that these families were in and how openly grateful they were that there was somebody here to help their child and remove them from what would almost certainly be a very difficult life.

To read more, visit: [www.transformingfaces.org/2013/07/25/guest-blog-billy-english-visits-thailand/](http://www.transformingfaces.org/2013/07/25/guest-blog-billy-english-visits-thailand/)



# Your support transforms lives!



## Yeabsra Goes to Grade 3!

Yeabsra, who travelled to Canada with her mother Aynalem in 2011 and 2012 to receive treatment for her craniofacial cleft, received her latest report card and she received an average of 84% and has graduated to grade 3. Yeabsra and Abel, her brother who is pictured here, go to a local private school. Yeabsra continues to visit Yekatit 12 hospital for follow-up care.

By supporting TF, you are ensuring that children who receive treatment continue to receive care – long after their first surgery.

## Meet Bon Saenkhamlue

Bon, from Laos, was born on March 7, 2011 with a cleft lip and palate and was admitted to our Thai project when he was 5 days old upon the recommendation of a nurse.



Bon's parents, Tuan and Oup, live with 10 of their family members and they own a small rice farm. Bon's initial surgery was scheduled for June 22, 2011, but he had a cold, so his surgery was pushed back. He often catches colds and has frequent ear infections, so he has visited the ENT doctor at Overbrook Hospital approximately 12 times.

In November 2011, his lip and nose were repaired. He underwent a palate surgery and lip and nose revision in May 2012.

He will undergo further surgery when he's 10 years of age or older and will continue to receive ENT care, dental examinations and speech assessments in the future.

## ECO Update

From 2008 to 2011, Transforming Faces provided seed funding to the European Cleft Organisation (ECO) in Eastern Europe. ECO has recently set out to create European guidelines to try to and address the huge inequality in cleft care across Europe. The guidelines will support babies born with cleft lip and palate and their families and will serve as a model in the absence of a national protocol. For more information, check out ECO's website: <http://ecoonline.org>

## DONOR SPOTLIGHT: MEET SOME OF OUR TF CHAMPIONS

**Desert Belles**, a modern belly dance company, hosted "The Fall of the Sword" and raised \$300 for our work. There was some spectacular dancing, sword fights and even a snake!

**Beverly Daniels** is a Toronto photographer who ran a fundraiser at her studio and raised \$100 for cleft lip and palate care!

**Bear Pals**, an organization that knits and crochets teddy bears for children, provided some teddy bears to our partners.



Mael Aguilar holds one of the very cute bears.

**57,367 PENNIES!** Our penny campaign has raised \$573.67 for our programs. Thanks to all those who donated and hosted penny boxes for us!

### THANKS to all our TF Champions!

Visit [www.transformingfaces.org/giving/fundraise/](http://www.transformingfaces.org/giving/fundraise/) to become a Champion!



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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/](http://www.transformingfaces.org/giving/donate/)