The wonder of medicine... the spirit of love

Djounica, HAITI

ANNUAL REPORT 2018
Miracles seem to happen all the time here at Childspring International. Buru, at 16 years old, was one of those miracles. He was born in Uganda with more than his fair share of challenges. The doctor in Uganda stated Buru had a congenital abnormality causing dwarfism which caused the shortening of all his limbs and that he needed surgery in a more equipped hospital. The concern was that without surgery, Buru’s deformity would relegate him to life in a wheelchair. The clock was ticking.

Buru’s advocate was a police officer for the Ventura County District Attorney’s Office outside of Los Angeles. However, the 16 year old boy from Uganda had been denied both a visa and his appeal, and so his expected treatment in Texas was in limbo. Childspring’s Program Director, Susan, was suddenly introduced to a Baltimore orthopedist that happened to specialize in skeletal abnormalities like dwarfism.

Finally, surgery was performed on his first leg by an international expert from Vienna, Austria. One year later, Buru had his second operation. He would not be confined to a wheelchair. Now Buru could concentrate on resuming his studies, which are of utmost importance to him. Buru’s phenomenal path to treatment confirms the power of life-changing surgeries in the lives of children worldwide.

The year 2018 brought more cases than ever, and with the help of our faithful supporters we were blessed and able to meet the challenge. A total of 488 children received surgery through our mission to provide life-changing surgeries for children from developing countries and thereby transform communities. It was another record-breaking year.

Thank you to all the miracle workers of our Childspring family. Together we inspire each other to make certain that the dreams of a better life, for children like Buru, can come true.

We cannot even imagine what the next year will bring.

Blessings always,

Alison Fussell
Alison Fussell
Executive Director

Childspring International provides life-changing surgeries for children from developing countries and, as a result, transforms communities.
Continuing to serve children around the world.

The Places We’ve Served

Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Bahamas, Benin, Brazil, Bulgaria, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, DR Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Iraq, Ivory Coast, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo, La Gonâve, Liberia, Lithuania, Mexico, Moldova, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Philippines, Puerto Rico, Russia, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Syria, Tajikistan, Tanzania, Tibet, Trinidad & Tobago, Uganda, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zambia.
As Childspring continues to expand the number of children it serves each year in the Eastern Hemisphere and its presence in developing countries becomes better known, it’s increasingly important to identify treatment options in that part of the world.

Imagine being unable to open your mouth, consuming only liquids and soft foods that fit through the hole created by the removal of a few teeth...for 15 years. This was Katherin’s reality. Since birth, Katherin’s Mom stood by helplessly as she watched Katherin cry daily from excruciating pain unable to fit medication through the small gap. Her fused jaw caused her to simultaneously fight the ongoing effects of malnutrition and oral bacterial infections. As the only daughter, Katherin’s daily life in Guatemala was filled with house chores and caring for her paraplegic mother.

Katherin’s neighbors and classmates bullied her by calling her nasty nicknames and pushing her around. The intimidation caused her to refuse to go outside choosing to hide her differences from the world. As her self-esteem plummeted she dropped out of school and accepted the fate of her “miserable life” as permanent. In the fall of 2017, Katherin finally saw a glimpse of hope when she was accepted for treatment through a partnership in Florida. Very shy and timid, she arrived weighing as much as an average eight year old. Over nine months, Katherin underwent two major reconstructive surgeries requiring a permanent tracheostomy tube and having her mouth wired shut. As well, extensive dental work was donated by the same hospital. At the end of this long and complex treatment Katherin could finally open her mouth for the first time in her life!

Katherin has gained over 15 pounds of healthy weight. She can now speak clearly and enjoy foods she has longed to try all her life, as well as chew gum! Yet her transformation is as much emotional as physical. Her sense of feeling healthy spawns a new self-confidence that radiates from within. No longer hiding from her peers Katherin embraces her new life and readily accepts invitations to hang out with her classmates. While in the U.S., Katherin learned to read and write in Spanish and English, and accelerated in math to master multiplication and division problems. She now plans to return to school to prepare to provide a better life for her family.

Thankful to have her prayers answered, Katherin’s mom is able to watch her bright, beautiful daughter shine. Katherin is admired in the community for her bravery. Her story of transformation has been shared in the news across the country inspiring others who feel as though they have no hope for a better life. In her own words, Katherin finally “feels alive.”
Mojtaba + Hussein, IRAQ

It is a parent’s worst nightmare to see their child suffer from disease as they stand by helplessly, unable to afford the treatment necessary to save their life. For a family in Iraq, this horror was amplified as both sons, Mojtaba (age 7) and Hussein (age 11), were diagnosed with the same congenital heart condition.

When seeking help from Childspring the family prayed Mojtaba and Hussein would not be separated for treatment. Their prayers were answered when HeartGift, an organization centered on providing heart surgeries to children worldwide, partnered with Childspring to accept both boys as patients at their Austin location. In April, Mojtaba and Hussein traveled for their life-saving surgeries. It was clear from their initial appointment the boys shared a special bond which helped them remain smiling throughout this challenging time. Both Mojtaba and Hussein underwent successful heart surgeries while leaving a lasting impression on the HeartGift team with their laughter and sweet dispositions.

The boys arrived safely home to Iraq a month later both healthy and happy. A member of HeartGift reflected, “I have definitely seen a transformation in the both of them...It has been such a blessing for them to be here for many reasons... they will be truly missed.”

Fotima, TAJIKISTAN

Imagine giving birth to a set of beautiful twin girls, only one is healthy and the other is struggling to breathe. Fotima was born with a congenital heart defect while her twin sister was born with no health issues. For nine years, Fotima spent most of her childhood tired and breathless, unable to keep up with the other children while playing. Compelled to lie down to rest, she felt excluded and different from her peers. She wished she could jump and play like her twin sister.

Due to Childspring’s partnership in Freiburg, Fotima and her father travelled to Germany for her long-awaited heart surgery. Upon her return home to Tajikistan, Fotima was received by her family with happiness, tears and relief. Her classmates came to visit her and listened with fascination as she told them stories and shared photos from her adventure in Germany.

Fotima is now a very cheerful little girl, able to endlessly run and romp around with her friends and sister. She has even discovered a love for dancing. Always a headstrong child, Fotima is even more driven to find success after her surgery and looks forward to the opportunities that await her in her future.
Our **Programs**

**PROJECT HEALTHY HEART**  
Screens under-served children semi-annually to determine their need for heart surgery. Surgeries are performed each month. Our services include providing recovery fees as well as prescription medication and transportation as needed.

**PROJECT 365**  
Primarily performs hernia surgeries on children between 5 -18 years of age, with an average of 12 surgeries per month. Due to the critical nature of urology cases, children with these conditions are treated as early in life as possible.

**PROJECT LITTLE EYES**  
Provides surgery for children with eye conditions. Services include pre/post-op exams, anesthesia and medication as well as food and lodging for the child and parent.

Our international network of partners enables us to provide children specialized, compassionate care. Depending on a child’s medical condition and the availability of expert treatment, care may be arranged in their home country, a neighboring country, or in the U.S.
PROJECT STANDING STRONG
Provides free of cost corrective surgeries and prosthetics & artificial limbs for differently-abled and underprivileged children in India.

PROJECT SONRISAS/SMILES
Organizes mission trips to provide surgery for children born with cleft lip and palate. Most children have surgery within the first year or two of life for optimal success.

PROJECT BRIDGES INTERNATIONAL
Connects children to medical care in their home country or nearby countries when the required treatment is unavailable to them.

PROJECT BRIDGES U.S.
Pathways are created for care in the United States for children whose conditions require complex medical treatment.

TREATED INTERNATIONALLY
472 CHILDREN FOR $1,283,032

TREATED IN THE U.S.
16 CHILDREN FOR $1,976,389
Financial Highlights

488 CHILDREN TREATED IN 2018

Children Treated by Year
488 CHILDREN TREATED BY COUNTRY

- Haiti / La Gonave, 157
- India, 45
- El Salvador, 84
- Colombia, 90
- Afghanistan, 1
- Honduras, 70
- Uganda, 1
- Liberia, 1
- DR Congo, 1
- Iraq, 7
- Nicaragua, 1
- Kenya, 1
- Guatemala, 2
- Sierra Leone, 21
- Tanzania, 3
- Palestine, 2

488 CHILDREN TREATED BY SPECIALITY

- Cardiology, 97
- General, 181
- Ophthalmology, 107
- Orthopedic, 70
- Prosthetics, 2
- Plastics, 13
- Urology, 2
- ENT, 15
- Neurology, 1
Financial Review

**INFLOWS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions &amp; Gifts</td>
<td>$409,651</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind Contributions Domestic</td>
<td>$3,247,510</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revenue from Special Events</td>
<td>$155,583</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL INFLOW</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,812,744</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**OUTFLOWS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Outflow</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Medical Treatments in USA</td>
<td>$1,976,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medical Treatments outside USA</td>
<td>$1,283,032</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship Program</td>
<td>$6,359</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Occupancy Expense</td>
<td>$101,729</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Programs</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Direct Support to Program</td>
<td>$154,793</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind Medical Treatment - USA</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-kind Donations - Travel &amp; Hosting</td>
<td>$0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Program Outflows</td>
<td>$3,522,302</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Administrative Outflows</td>
<td>$117,844</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marketing &amp; Fundraising</td>
<td>$122,684</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OUTFLOWS</strong></td>
<td><strong>$3,762,830</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**USE OF FUNDS**

- **FUNDRAISING** 3%
- **GENERAL & ADMINISTRATIVE** 3%
- **PROGRAM SERVICES** 94%

We are a multiplier of the resources used to serve our children; in 2018 we delivered over 6 times the value in services per dollar contributed.
EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT

ALISON FUSSELL
Executive Director – Childspring International

SUSAN H. WANSERSKI
Program Director – Childspring International

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DWIGHT A. GLOVER
Board Chair & Strategic Planning Chair
Owner – Orchard Management, LLC

KURTIS WOLFF, CPA
Vice Chair & Board Audit Committee Chair
Managing Partner – Cohn Reznick (retired)

VICTOR A. CAVANAUGH, ESQUIRE
Secretary
Fmr Partner – Law offices of Elarbee Thompson

SAM R. DIVINE, JR., CPA
Treasurer
Owner - GrowthXel, LLC

EMMY BAKER
Gala & Events Co-Chair
Young Professionals Council Chair

PHILLIP CHRITTON, ESQUIRE
Development Committee Co-Chair
Vice President – UPS Corporate Legal Dept.

LINA ELLIS
Host Family & Upper School Math Teacher
The Westminster Schools

JAMIE GRAHAM, ESQUIRE
Partner – Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton LLP

BECKY HESTER
Sr. Director - RSM US, LLP

DARA HOSCH, MD
Medical Committee Chair
Pediatrician - Cobb Pediatrics

NANCY PEACOCK IKE, RN
RN - Children’s Healthcare of Atlanta

TIM KISS
VP of Marketing – CRH Healthcare, LLC

JAN McALISTER
Development Committee Co-Chair
DNP, APRN, CLS, Ph.D. – Piedmont Hospital

PETE MOSELEY
Agent – Farmers Insurance

HESTER PARKS
Gala & Events Chair
Owner – Park Avenue Events

LEVER STEWART
President & CEO – MLQ Attorney Services Inc.

DAVID T. WATSON, SR., MD
Internal Medicine MD & Braves Doctor (retired)

The vision of Childspring International is to become the leading facilitator of life-saving surgeries for children in need, resulting in 5,000 transformed children’s lives throughout the global community by the year 2022. This will in turn impact millions of families because the impact of changing one child’s future has a profound and positive ripple effect on their community.
When the car he rode in was hit by a construction truck, Sadeq sustained a traumatic injury to his pelvis and urethra. After two failed surgeries to hopefully enable urination, he was released from the Iraqi hospital with an external catheter and seemingly no options. While his urethra was beyond reconstruction, an Atlanta pediatric urology surgeon successfully inserted an indwelling catheter. As well, advanced options were defined for Sadeq’s consideration in the future.

Uninhibited by his situation, Sadeq took full advantage of many activities viewed as the norm in the United States, yet embraced them with a fresh perspective. For the first time this Iraqi 14-year-old navigated the self-checkout line at the grocery store, rode in a convertible enjoying fast food, mounded toppings on frozen yogurt, and enjoyed a fresh haircut among other experiences. Yet in the end he rejoiced upon reuniting with his siblings as “There’s no place like home!”