The wonder of medicine... the spirit of love

Sara, Haiti with host mom, Laura

ANNUAL REPORT 2017
As I reflect on 2017 I’m pleased to report that Childspring International continues to innovate and find creative ways to provide medical care to more children in under-served communities around the world. One such innovation is our partnership with a charity based in Germany that treats children with congenital heart defects. I encourage you to learn more on page four, and read about Joyce and how this program changed her life.

Let us draw your attention to the work we funded in South America. In Ecuador, we supported one of our remarkable partners and provided 31 reconstructive surgeries for cleft lip and cleft palate. In Colombia, we were able to fund more than 110 heart surgeries. It is innovative programs like these partnerships in Germany, Ecuador and Colombia that enabled us to treat 446 children, an increase of nearly 10% over 2016 with only a small increase in fundraising.

Our donors entrust us to make wise use of their contributions. One of our core values is to always be good stewards and partners with our donors. On average, we can transform a $1,000 contribution to treat a child, cover our overhead, pay for the child’s travel expenses and provide temporary housing during treatment. We’re very proud of this metric, especially given the complexity of the surgeries.

As we move into next year and beyond, we will confront challenges such as new tax rules and a potential slowing of the global economy. Rest assured that we will continue to innovate and work hard to provide first class medical care to indigent children around the world.

Finally, my thanks to all of our supporters and partners. To our donors, the doctors and medical personnel with whom we partner; our volunteers around the world, our staff, the medical committee, and the board of directors, thank you. Without you, none of this would be possible.

Thank you!

Alison Fussell
Executive Director

Childspring International provides life-changing surgeries for children from developing countries and, as a result, transforms communities.
Serving 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 this part of the world.

Joyce, Uganda

Whenever possible, Childspring attempts to arrange surgery close to a child’s home country. This allows a parent or family member to accompany the child and they usually travel a shorter distance. As it’s typically a more cost and time efficient process, Childspring is afforded the opportunity to treat more children. A newly developed partnership in Germany enables Childspring to serve children with congenital cardiac defects from countries in the Eastern Hemisphere closer to their home country, rather than traveling all the way to the United States.

The German Medical Center’s charity fund allows them to offer children surgery and all related medical treatment on a charity basis. As well, they find a German host family for the child and their parent, handling all logistics while they are in Germany. Childspring coordinates the travel to ensure the child and their parent arrives in Germany prior to the surgery date.

Joyce, a 15-year-old girl from Uganda, was the first child treated through this partnership. Her case was presented to Childspring in October 2016 and accepted for treatment at the Medical Center a couple of weeks later. In a matter of months, Childspring obtained passports, visas, and airline tickets for Joyce and her legal guardian; they arrived in Germany, and Joyce had surgery. She recovered under the care of her surgeon and host mother and returned home to Uganda prepared to lead a full and healthy life.
Dan Le, Vietnam

“I really want her to be able to say ‘mother’ by herself,” was the simple wish of a woman in northern Vietnam for her deaf daughter. With limited resources for treatment available in their farming village, the future of her child seemed grim. Dan Le suffered severe hearing loss from birth and if she did not receive treatment soon she would likely never learn to speak properly. In their rural part of the world, this would crush any hope of attending school or holding a job – achievements every parent dreams for their child.

An American benefactor to the family reached out to Childspring with Dan Le’s story and the goal of a cochlear implant surgery; together her surgery became a reality. Dan Le was treated in Vietnam, remaining close to her family throughout the treatment process. She is now working with audiologists and speech therapists to develop her language skills, already making incredible progress. Expressive, energetic, and always happy, it is no surprise her favorite phrase is “oi troi oi,” the equivalent of “OMG” in English. The speech therapist reports, Dan Le’s ability to hear “is amazing to her and her family and they are overjoyed!” that she is well on her way to achieving the life her family never thought possible.

A dedicated father shares his joy about his son’s transformation

Wood, a little Haitian boy, developed a cumbersome mass in his upper right arm, especially large in relation to his tiny frame. His father describes the struggle his son faced during that time, “Every day was a burden for him so his pain was sharp. Physically he declined significantly; often he remained friendless. He lost his cool and joy because of the pain. Both the physical pain and the psychological pain prevented him from being happy.” Wood’s father visited almost all of the hospitals in Port-au-Prince desperately searching for a solution. After nearly a year of looking for answers for his son’s unbearable pain, he found a hospital that was Childspring’s partner in Haiti.

Childspring funded Wood’s procedure to excise the mass. Afterwards, Wood’s father described the way his surgery has brought them closer together, bringing hope to their family and neighbors, “When I saw Wood after the surgery, the joy was great. I didn’t go anywhere for a week, we’ve just enjoyed our happiness and we’ve danced all together. Many people have come to the house with joy too and showed their love to him.”

Wood, Haiti
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.

Evelyn, Honduras
Luz, El Salvador
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 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
$1,709,419
436 Children

TREATED IN THE U.S.
$1,225,148
10 Children
Financial Highlights

446 CHILDREN TREATED IN 2017

Children Treated by Year
446 CHILDREN TREATED BY COUNTRY

446 CHILDREN TREATED BY SPECIALITY
Financial Review

USE OF FUNDS

We are a multiplier of the resources used to serve our children; in 2017 we delivered almost 10 times the value in services per dollar contributed.
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.
Born without a deformity, Lauvin’s parents had no expectation he would become impaired as he developed Genu Valgum (knocked-knee).

“Having someone handicapped in our community is not a good thing that a family would love to face in life.”

Unfortunately, children in the neighborhood shouted at and harmed Lauvin as they observed his inability to move quickly and the shakiness in his steps. Through frequent tears Lauvin’s parents “were so patient for God’s piety and mercy” as they waited for “God’s plan of peace. When God opened the door of Childspring for Lauvin that was the best thing we could have in life.”

Always a polite, affectionate and obedient child, now Lauvin can also easily move from place to place and play with his friends without pain. “We are wordless to express our joy, our satisfaction to you, the hospital nurses and the people paying all the surgery, transportation fee for us. Thank you! May God bless you!”

Lauvin, Haiti