

General Hospital Star Saves Lives On TV And In Real World

*Rebecca Herbst, Star Of General Hospital,
Donates Proceeds From Wheel of Fortune
To The Smile Train*

Rebecca Herbst has starred in hundreds of TV shows and commercials, but the work that gives her the most satisfaction is the role she plays saving children with The Smile Train.

This past January, Rebecca went to bat for children with clefts when she won \$10,000 for The Smile Train on a celebrity version of *Wheel of Fortune*. "Giving the gift of a new smile to a child also gives that child a second chance at life... and that's something to really smile about," says the glamorous star of *General Hospital*.

Over the years, Rebecca has been one of our most active supporters. It started when her mom brought a Smile Train letter to her dressing room. After reading about the plight of children trapped by poverty and their clefts, Rebecca and her mother decided that although they couldn't cure worldwide poverty, they could certainly help cure the world of clefts.



They recruited an unusual weapon for the fight: The Official Rebecca Herbst Fan Club. Over the years, Rebecca's fan club has held auctions and sold t-shirts and memorabilia to raise funds and awareness for The Smile Train.

As usual, Rebecca doesn't like to take the credit. "My fans deserve all the credit; their generosity speaks for itself."



We Promise:

- 100% of every donation goes directly to helping children
- The surgery we provide will change a child's life forever
- Our surgery costs as little as \$250 and takes as little as 45 minutes
- We empower local doctors to help their own communities
- We help more children with clefts than anyone else
- Our cost per surgery is 82% less than mission groups
- We have the lowest overhead of any cleft charity in the world
- We do more cleft surgeries than any other organization
- We won't waste money on extravagant fundraisers or public relations
- We will not rest until every child with a cleft receives our help

**We Promise To Use
Every Dollar You Give
To Benefit Children!**

**100% Of All Donations Goes Towards Helping Children.
0% Goes Towards Overhead.**

Now You Can Make A Difference

For more information on how you can create your own Smile Train fundraiser, download a copy of our **Special Fundraiser Brochure** on our web site at www.SmileTrain.org/about_us/publications.htm. It gives step-by-step instructions on how you can make a difference in children's lives, one smile at a time.



Visit: www.SmileTrain.org
E-mail: info@SmileTrain.org
Call: 1-877-KID-SMILE (1-877-543-7645)
Write: 245 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2201
New York, NY 10016

AllAboard!

The Official Smile Train Donor Newsletter

Summer 2006



Message From A Co-Founder You May Never Meet Any Of These Children. But They'll Never Forget What You Did For Them.

Dear Friend,

If only we could whisk you away on a magic carpet and take you to Africa or China or India or South America.

If only we could introduce you to just one child, just one, whose life has been changed forever thanks to your generosity.

You'd bend over, shake their tiny little hand, and watch them smile as they tried so hard to say in English, "Thank you, thank you, thank you..."

You'd stand there with a frozen smile on your face. Not knowing what to say. Trying not to cry. Choked up.

Overwhelmed with the fact that THIS was the kid that your donation helped. This was a child no one else would help.

But you did.

Please take a minute or two to look through our latest newsletter.

It's filled with inspiring stories of courage and perseverance. Incredible pictures of life-changing transformations. And lots of very lucky kids.

Look closely and I bet you can find the one you helped!



Brian Mullaney
Co-Founder and President

Bullets And Bombs Cannot Stop The Smile Train

Child In War Zone Saved By Your Support

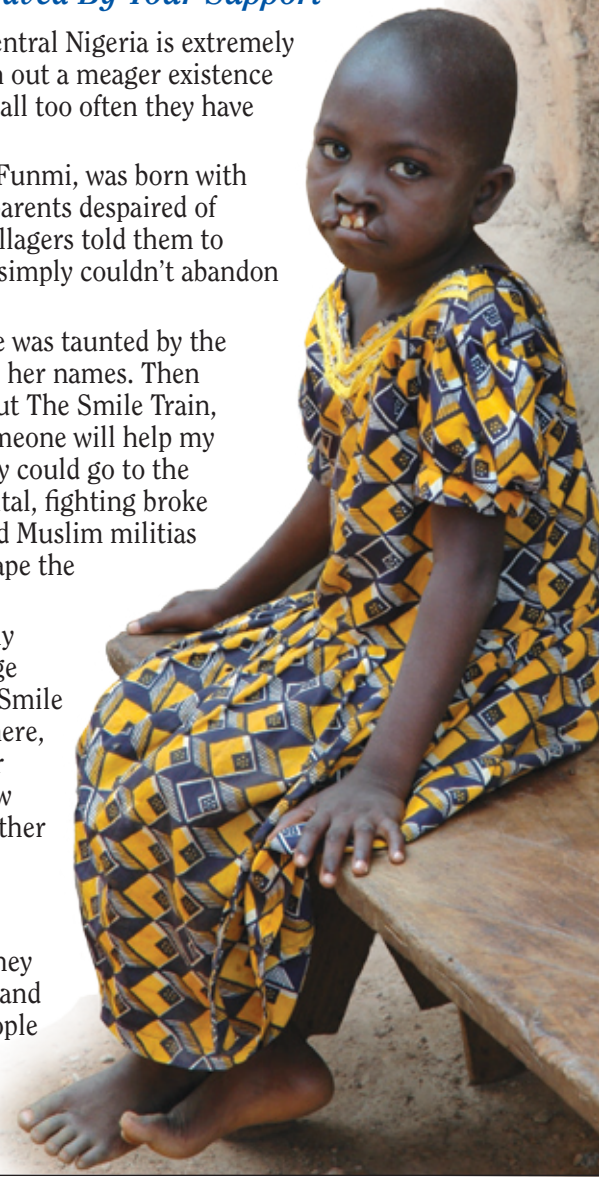
The Danjuma family in central Nigeria is extremely poor – they barely scratch out a meager existence farming barren land, and all too often they have no food.

When their daughter, Funmi, was born with an extreme cleft lip, her parents despaired of ever trying to help her. Villagers told them to leave her to die, but they simply couldn't abandon their daughter.

As Funmi grew up, she was taunted by the other children who called her names. Then Funmi's father heard about The Smile Train, and thought, "Finally, someone will help my daughter." But before they could go to the Smile Train partner hospital, fighting broke out between Christian and Muslim militias and the family had to escape the deadly violence.

Luckily, they eventually found their way to a village where there was another Smile Train partner hospital. There, Funmi found the help her family had prayed for. Now she could be like all the other little girls – poor, but not ashamed of the way she looked.

Her parents are glad they never abandoned Funmi, and they are thankful that people they will never meet gave their child hope for a better future.



How Can We Look At Children Like These And Just Walk Away?

*Please Help Us Make Sure There's Room
For Every Child On The Smile Train*



Parents Weep At Sight Of Baby With Cleft...

...Then Rejoice When The Smile Train Provides Free Surgery

Sude is too young to know just how lucky her short life has been. Like all families assisted by The Smile Train, Sude's family is desperately poor.

When Sude was born, her parents were devastated. Their baby girl looked like a monster, disfigured with a horrible cleft. When she cried, they could see down her throat through the gaping hole in the roof of her mouth.

The family was filled with anguish. They had no money, no medical insurance, and no hope of ever saving their baby – until friends told them about a Smile Train partner right there in their town of Mersin.

When the doctors showed them pictures of other children who had received free surgery, Sude's parents were overjoyed. "Maybe there's a way. Maybe our baby will be like all the other children."

After the surgery, they couldn't believe their eyes. Their baby was beautiful – even when she opened her mouth and cried, like all babies do!

Sude Naz Yeter, Turkey



“In many of the world's poorest countries, and under very difficult conditions, The Smile Train is bringing new smiles – and new hope – to thousands of children that have no place else to turn.”

Candice Bergen, Actor



Condemned By Poverty. Saved By The Smile Train.

Poverty Should Not Doom Children To Life With A Cleft

In China and India – and hundreds of developing countries around the world – clefts are as much an economic problem as they are a medical problem. A simple surgery can cure 100% of all clefts, but it's beyond reach for families who earn less than \$1 a day.

It's no wonder thousands of newborns with clefts are abandoned by their parents each year immediately after birth... discarded by the side of the road, dumped in ditches, or thrown away to leave no trace of the “disgrace” of having a child with a cleft.

That's why your support is a modern-day miracle to millions of children hoping and praying for an end to their nightmare of living with a cleft. At a cost of just \$250 per child, The Smile Train can provide free cleft repair surgery for boys and girls who would otherwise be condemned to a life of malnutrition, ignorance, shame and suffering.

Your gifts can help us overcome desperate, unrelenting poverty and help give a child a beautiful smile... and a second chance at life!

\$250 will not save a child from poverty...
but it can save a child from life with a cleft!

Donate Now Online! www.SmileTrain.org

Superstition And Extreme Poverty Create Huge Cleft Backlog In India

Smile Train Partner Hospital Celebrates 2,000 New Smiles With “Smilestone 2000!”

The cleft situation in India is especially serious – and growing worse by the day. Today, one out of every 1,000 babies is born with a cleft. But add to that India's grinding poverty and a culture that sees clefts as a “condition with no cure,” and you have the ingredients for a cleft disaster of epic proportions.

There are almost 800,000 children and adolescents in India who desperately need cleft repair surgery... and who have no hope of being able to afford it. The Smile Train partner hospitals around the country provide bright rays of hope – especially the Meenakshi Mission Hospital and Research Centre (MMHRC), which has already changed the lives of over 2,000 children and lifted them from the despair of unrepaired clefts.

Thanks to the tireless efforts of Dr. N. Panchavarnam, Project Director and Lead Surgeon, MMHRC is beginning to overcome the stigma of clefts. We hope that each one of the more than 2,000 families who benefited from MMHRC efforts will help us tell The Smile Train story of free cleft repair surgery, for all children too poor to afford it.

But even while celebrating their “Smilestone 2000,” our partners in India recognize that they have barely made a dent in the country's suffering. The Smile Train has already targeted India as a “nation in need,” with plans to double our efforts this year to overcome cultural barriers and make sure that everyone in India knows that clefts can be a “condition with a simple cure!”

“I really appreciate the tremendous impact this surgery can have. It's not often you get the opportunity to help someone so much... for so little money. I also love the fact that 100% of my donations goes towards helping children; that means a lot.”

Alex Trebek, Host of JEOPARDY!



“Hot Lips Hustle” Raises Funds For 18 Operations

13-Year-Old Organizes 5K Run Benefiting The Smile Train

At age 13, Ryan Ernstes has already had cleft repair surgery and figured out one of life's most important lessons: the value of sacrificing for others.

Ryan was born with a cleft lip, but her cleft was treated immediately since she was born in America. Growing up, she promised to one day do something for children who were not as fortunate.

This past September, Ryan organized the “Hot Lips Hustle,” a 5K fundraiser benefiting The Smile Train. Like any teenage girl, Ryan racked up quite a phone bill – after all, it takes a lot of calls to recruit 225 runners, sponsors and volunteers, find a location, and promote a race all by yourself.

Her hard work paid off. Ryan raised \$4,500 – enough to provide 18 children with life-changing cleft surgery.

In return, Ryan received a gift of her own: she was chosen out of 20,000 others to receive the prestigious 2006 Prudential Spirit of Community Award. Her prize was \$1,000 cash, a V.I.P. visit to Washington, DC, and the knowledge that “the most rewarding thing you can do is to help others, even those who you do not know.”

Many teens save money for new clothes, movie tickets, or make-up – Ryan Ernstes, on left, knows that with just a few dollars, she can change lives!

Ryan raised \$4,500 – enough to provide 18 children with life-changing cleft surgery.



Donate Now Online! www.SmileTrain.org

Rishav, India

Indian Couple Sell Their Possessions To Conceive Child...Then Have No Money To Fix Their Son's Cleft

The Smile Train Provides Free Surgery To Make Parents' Dream Come True

Pranab and his wife had struggled for years to have a baby. After three miscarriages, they sold everything to pay for the fertility treatments that would allow them to conceive a healthy child.

Their joy knew no bounds. It was a perfect pregnancy, until the delivery. Pranab knew something was terribly wrong because the doctor was not smiling: their baby was born with a facial deformity.

"Why us?" Pranab shouted. "What have we done to be punished like this?" They took their child home, full of despair. When visitors came, they hid their baby, saying that their infant son had gone for treatment so they would not have to see the look of shock on their visitors' faces.

When they heard about a Smile Train doctor in Guwahati performing surgery free of charge for children with clefts, they set out at once. The journey was torturous – every time the baby cried, people stared or turned away in disgust.

But Pranab didn't care because he knew his son's cleft lip would be fixed. When they reached The Smile Train center, Dr. S. R. Devi, showed them babies who were recovering. They were so beautiful that Pranab thought they had been touched with a magic wand!

After the operation, Pranab and his wife were overjoyed. Now they had a beautiful baby boy that they could show off to all their family, neighbors and friends. And thanks to The Smile Train, their family finally feels blessed.



“My specialty is to make people laugh really, really hard. So when I heard that I could help a child smile for the first time in their life by joining The Smile Train, I put my heart to work and got on board. It's incredible the number of children's lives transformed by The Smile Train every day.”

Bette Midler, Actor

Helping People Help Themselves

The Smile Train Helps Poor Communities Become Self-Sufficient

Most people are surprised when they learn that we don't send American doctors on two-week missions to operate on children in developing countries.

After more than 30 years of mission experience, we know that American doctors are not needed for a job that local doctors can do. It's less expensive, more productive, safer and smarter to empower local doctors and hospitals to help children in their communities.

Through free training and education, free equipment and financial support, we can help a single local doctor operate on thousands of children for 82% less than what it costs to send an American medical team. In addition to the millions of dollars that this strategy saves, this approach builds true self-sufficiency. The doctors we empower are actively helping children with clefts every single day of the year. No more waiting for the Americans. No more waiting lists that turn away three children for every one that gets helped.

Helping very poor but very proud communities become self-sufficient, one smile at a time – that's what The Smile Train is all about.



Sometimes There's More To Fixing A Cleft Than A Single Surgery

Some Children Need A Third Chance At Life

Up until recently, The Smile Train has only been able to afford to pay for a single cleft surgery for a child born with a cleft. But sometimes that's not enough.

In many cases – especially those in which a child has both a cleft lip and a cleft palate – children need more than one surgery. And since clefts are frequently accompanied by other birth defects, additional treatment is often needed beyond surgical repair.

That's why The Smile Train is working to develop a range of new ancillary treatment programs, such as dental care, orthodontics, ear-nose-and-throat treatments, and speech therapy, which are critical to the complete rehabilitation of a child with a cleft.



Although your support gives more than 100 children a second chance at life each day, we need to provide more help to many of these children. The Smile Train offers the promise of a new life without a cleft, and we need to make sure that promise is completed.

This year, The Smile Train will begin to provide financial support, training and education to selected treatment partners so they can begin offering important cleft-related ancillary care for Smile Train patients.

“It's hard to believe that something that costs so little and happens so fast can have such a big impact. This life-changing surgery provides these children with a new smile and the promise of a new future. And a second chance at life that they never thought they'd get.”

Walter Cronkite, Former Anchor, CBS Evening News



100% Of Your Donation Goes To Helping Kids



Smile Train Founding Supporters Pay All Non-Program Expenses

Every Dollar Benefits Children With Clefts

"How much of my donation actually ends up helping anyone?" It's a question that every donor ought to ask before he or she writes a check. And as donors are beginning to learn, the amount of money that charities actually spend on their missions can greatly vary. Some charities spend more money raising money than they spend helping people! Who wants to support a charity that wastes money on an overpaid bureaucracy and elaborate public relations stunts?

This is one concern that Smile Train donors never have to worry about – we don't spend a nickel of our public donations on non-program expenses. Every penny of what we raise from the public goes into a specially restricted account that is used solely for program expenses.

Our Founding Supporters pay for our non-program expenses such as overhead, administration, and fundraising – even communications like this newsletter, for instance. Since it's their money, these supporters watch how these funds are spent, which keeps our overhead very low and administrative costs at a fraction of those at comparable charities.



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\$250 Can Give A Child A Second Chance At Life

Smile Train Delivers Low-Cost, High-Impact Surgery: A True "Medical Miracle"

Most people are stunned when they hear just how little it costs to give a child with a cleft a second chance at life. "That's all it costs to fix that problem?... You don't have to pay for years of surgeries and follow-up care?... How come it costs other charities so much more?... How can you provide safe, high-quality cleft surgery for such a small amount of money?"

The secret is our unique strategy of empowering local communities in developing countries. Instead of sending teams of American doctors on two-week medical missions, we partner with local doctors and hospitals in developing countries. Through free training, equipment and financial support, we help the doctors who have been instrumental in providing free surgery for more than 170,000 children in the past six years. Our approach has saved millions of dollars in travel and freight costs, thereby helping tens of thousands of additional children. Every dollar we save by having the world's lowest cleft cost-per-surgery is one more dollar we can put towards helping children and training doctors.

Unrepaired Cleft Backlog Grows Every Minute

The Smile Train Hopes To Double Programs

Every four minutes another child is born with a cleft in a developing nation.

Over the year, it adds up to 133,000 babies who will not be able to eat or drink properly... 133,000 families who must endure the shame and guilt of raising a disfigured child...

...and 133,000 children who need your help.

In countries where The Smile Train works, the average salary is less than \$3 per day, and often less than \$1 per day. These families would never be able to afford the simple surgical procedure to repair their child's cleft lip or palate if it wasn't for The Smile Train.

Thanks to your support, The Smile Train performed more than 35,000 *free* life-changing operations last year, giving the recipients new smiles and a second chance at life.

That's wonderful, but it's not nearly enough – especially when there are an estimated five million unrepaired clefts in developing nations.

That's why The Smile Train plans to double the number of surgeries performed in the countries that are affected most by cleft births, by adding at least one hundred partner hospitals and training at least two thousand additional surgeons and cleft medical professionals.

Doubling our programs is an ambitious goal, but with your help, we can make it happen.

Change A Child's Life In Just 45 Minutes

A Lifetime Of Pain And Heartache Can Be Avoided With A Quick, Simple Surgical Procedure

Most children with clefts in developing countries live in desperate poverty. Many of them cannot eat or speak properly and are not allowed to attend school or get a job. Often their families keep them hidden in shame and isolation.

The free cleft surgery we provide can take as little as 45 minutes and it can often be done under local anesthesia.

After surgery, the change in appearance is often so dramatic that some mothers think we are handing them back the wrong child. "You've made a mistake; this cannot be my baby!" When older children wake up after surgery and look at a mirror for the very first time, tears stream down their cheeks as they stare at their new appearance. It takes some time for them to realize that their long nightmare of life with a cleft is really over.

The best part is that these changes are permanent. With cleft surgery, there are no relapses: just a new smile, new hope, and a new outlook on life that will last forever.

Cleft Backlog Reaches Record Numbers!

CHINA

- 34,000 cleft births per year
- Current backlog: 1,900,000

INDIA

- 24,000 cleft births per year
- Current backlog: 799,000

SOUTHEAST ASIA

- Current backlog: 789,000

CENTRAL & SOUTH AMERICA

- Current backlog: 399,000

AFRICA

- Current backlog: 550,000

THE SMILE TRAIN –
Over 170,000 new smiles since 1999!

“I can only imagine what it must mean to these children to be given the ability to smile. It's a life-changing experience. The Smile Train is a wonderful cause and I'm happy to give it my full support. These people are doing something really special for children who deserve our help.”

Ernie Els, Professional Golfer & Three-Time Major Champion



“The Smile Train is one of the best humanitarian projects I've ever encountered. The work is real. The results are enduring. The gratification is limitless. I would encourage anyone who cares about children to support this idea and help make it happen.”

Tom Brokaw, Former Anchor and Managing Editor, *NBC Nightly News*

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