



Request for funding for medical supplies for 2026 Surgical Cleft Campaign to Peru



Brief Background

FACES (Foundation for the Advancement of Cleft Education and Services), 501(c)3 founded in 2001, models comprehensive, high-quality care for underserved medically isolated patients in Peru with cleft lip and palate deformities – beyond surgery alone – in a locally sustainable manner. Our goal is that every child dealing with the stigma of cleft lip and palate should be able to obtain surgery, no matter their financial situation or geographic barriers.

The surgical campaign in 2026 is scheduled during the last week in January. This will be the 17th surgical campaign for the FACES Foundation in Lambayeque, Peru.

Need for the project

Peru's current healthcare system is ill-equipped to meet the demand for cleft services, particularly surgeries. The incidence of cleft lip in Peru is higher than the global average. In most of Peru, particularly any region outside of the capital, Lima, there is a lack of reliable anesthesia equipment, medical supplies, and cleft specialization.

Effects of cleft on development

In simple terms, a cleft is a separation of the parts of the lip or roof of the mouth. It is the most common birth defect in live births around the world.

Unrepaired clefts affect all aspects of a child's development, including the following:



Difficulty feeding: Babies with clefts have trouble with feeding because it changes how parts of the mouth are formed and how they work and fit together. A cleft lip makes it hard for babies to make a good seal around the nipple, and a cleft palate makes it hard to create suction.

Ear infections and hearing loss: Babies with cleft palates are especially at risk of developing middle ear fluid accumulation and hearing loss. Over time, repeated incidents of middle ear fluid and repeated infections can increase the risk of permanent hearing loss. Inserting ear tubes to drain excess fluid is a minor, straightforward procedure, but many children in developing countries never receive this care.

Dental problems: A cleft of the lip, gums (alveolus), and/or palate in the front of the mouth can produce a variety of dental problems. The teeth in the area of the cleft may be displaced, resulting in their erupting into abnormal positions.

Speech difficulties: When there is a cleft palate, there is a space between the nasal cavity and the mouth. Without surgery and speech therapy, their speech will be affected for their entire life.

Fewer Educational and Occupational opportunities: Children with clefts may face social, emotional and behavioral problems due to differences in appearance. It is not uncommon for parents to keep these children at home, away from the judgments of their neighbors. Consequently, the children are isolated, with little or no access to school and socialization. Finding employment later in life can be close to impossible for adults with unrepaired cleft lips and palates.

Low Self-Esteem: Bullying, withdrawal, embarrassment, low self-esteem, anxiety – the emotional scars of cleft are far deeper than the physical. The minds of children born with clefts are bright and smart, and they are fully aware that their appearance is not normal. During adolescence, this awareness can be crippling.

How the project addresses the identified need

The FACES Surgical Team forms annually to conduct a week of surgeries alongside medical partners in Northern Peru under the authorization of the region's Ministry of Health. The team is composed of U.S. board-certified surgeons, pediatric anesthesiologists, operating room nurses, recovery nurses and speech language pathologists, all of whom volunteer their skills and resources to travel to Northern Peru. All North American and South American medical professionals that participate in the surgical campaign follow medical standards of U.S. Hospitals.

The FACES Peruvian Coordinator, based in the focus region of Lambayeque, Peru, connects the patients with the social workers in the area and helps the families navigate the healthcare system. For 14 consecutive years, the FACES Foundation has been invited to operate by Hospital Belen of Lambayeque, and each provider is vetted by the Medical Board of Peru.

The target populations for FACES' surgeries come from remote, impoverished regions of Peru. The aim is to provide the best service to those who have the least access to medical and follow-up care. FACES provides cleft lip and palate surgeries to patients in need at no cost to them or their families. The team also returns to the same area of Peru each year to provide proper follow up to the patients and continued collaboration with the medical community.



Expected outcomes:

With the support of Christadelphian and other funding sources, FACES will bring the specialized experience and supplies to Peru necessary to provide the following services:

1. Cleft surgeries for 40 children
2. Speech therapy and nutrition education to 70 children and their families



Program Evaluation:

The success of the program is evaluated through the positive medical outcomes of the children as well as interviews with the patient's families and feedback from partners, volunteers, and staff.

Project duration & Timeline:

Year-round	The Members of the Lions clubs and hospital social workers conduct campaigns to identify children with clefts and help them register for evaluation.
March-June 2025	FACES recruits surgeons, nurses, anesthesiologists, and speech therapists to volunteer their time and pay their own airfare to Peru.
October-November 2025	FACES surgeons screen each prospective patient to evaluate the exact medical intervention needed.
December 2025	The staff of the host hospital coordinate registration, lab work, and pediatric evaluations for all patients of the campaign. The members of the Lions clubs assist patients in traveling to Lambayeque and organize meals and lodging.
January 2026	FACES surgical team of 45 people travels to Peru and conducts the surgeries. Post-op training includes nutrition education and speech training for patient and parents.
February – November 2026	Patients receive follow-up care from Peruvian hospital staff and virtual evaluations with FACES surgeons. Patients who need additional surgical interventions are identified.
February - November 2026	Virtual speech therapy provided to qualifying patients.

Budget Requested

FACES is requesting support to cover the costs of medical supplies and equipment.

Portable Anesthesia Machine Rental & Transportation	\$3,500
Endotracheal Tubes	\$1,500
Anesthesia Breathing Circuits	\$700
Face masks for anesthesia circuit	\$500
IV Tubing	\$400
IV Supplies	\$2,000
Syringes	\$100
Needles	\$100
Flow Meter	\$120
Sterilization Supplies	\$500
Knife blades	\$500
Laryngoscope	\$300
Surgical gloves	\$600
Non-sterile gloves	\$380
Cautery Items	\$200
Surgical masks	\$100
Paper gowns, shoe covers	\$300
Dressings, Medical Tape, gauze	\$700
Sutures	\$1,000
Misc. (scissors, oral airways, foam head donut, gelfoam, alcohol swabs, sterile marking pens, surgical drapes, sterile med cups, artificial tears, nasal bulbs, intra-op medications, etc.)	\$4,000
Total	\$17,500

The total annual cash budget of FACES is \$180,000. The volunteer medical providers donate an additional \$42,000 in travel costs. Last year, FACES purchased a portable anesthesia machine due to the lack of available units for rent. This allowed the team to perform an additional 15 surgeries. We intend to continue using the purchased machine alongside the rented machine. The equipment in Peru is too unreliable to be safe. The purchased machine is not listed above, but it did cost \$20,590.00.

Organization Contact

Angela Kelly
Executive Director

faces@facesfoundation.org
<https://facesfoundation.org/>
PO Box 821194
Vancouver, WA 98665