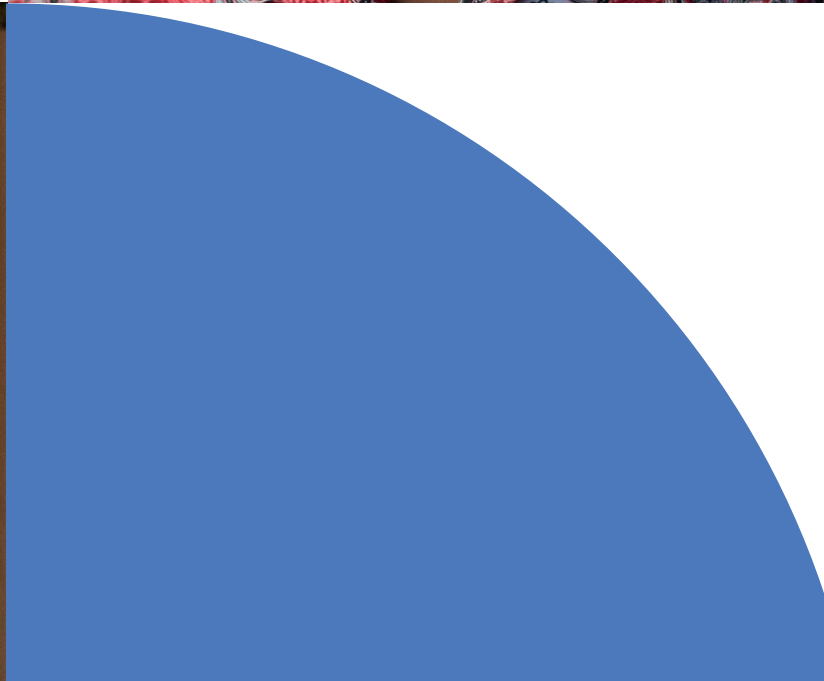
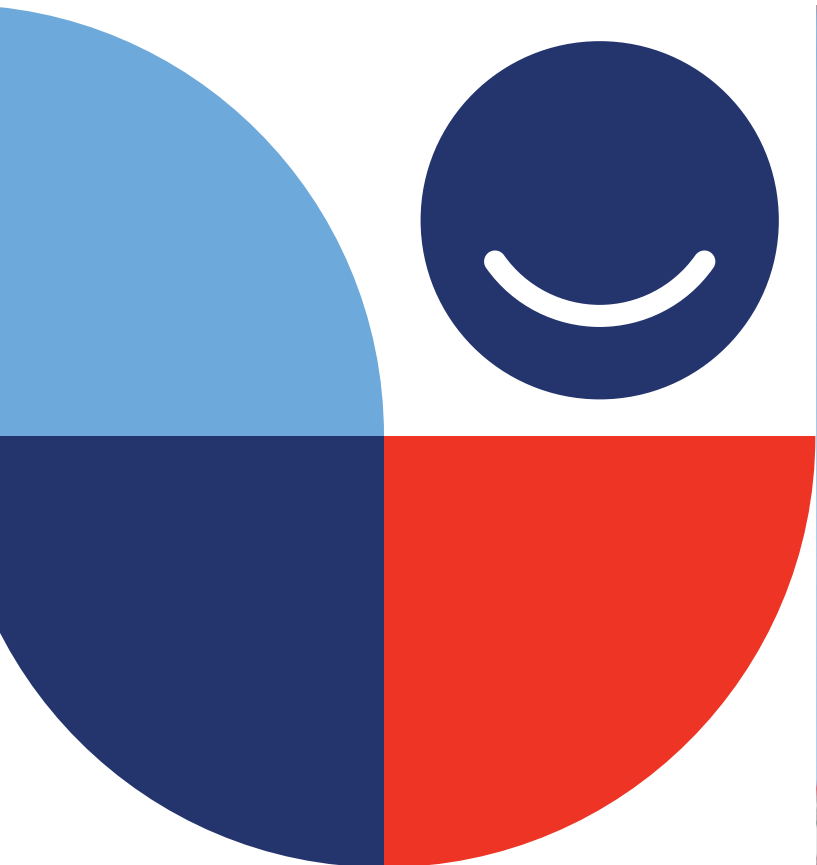




Impact Report

SUMMER 2025





Smile Train has received a Four-Star rating from Charity Navigator, demonstrating our fiscal responsibility and commitment to using your philanthropic dollars to create the highest impact for our patients.



A Letter from Elyse

As Smile Train's Chief Development Officer, I wanted to personally reach out to thank you for once again helping us save so many children's lives.

Over my 14 years at Smile Train, I have had the privilege of working alongside passionate individuals committed to our vision of building a brighter future for children and families all over the world. And I have witnessed firsthand the extraordinary impact our collective efforts are making in the lives of those we serve in ways that go beyond the operating room.

Children with clefts all over the world are receiving not only free surgeries, but also free nutritional support, speech therapy, orthodontics, and all the other comprehensive care they need to not only live, but thrive, because of your kindness. And that is only scratching the surface of the impact we are making together.

None of the advancements you will read about in this report would have been possible without you, and we're not slowing down now. We are more committed than ever to expanding our reach and deepening our impact.

Another baby is born with a cleft every three minutes. There is still so much work to be done. Yet, every day, your continued support is changing the narrative for cleft-affected families one surgery, one smile, and one success story at a time.

Thank you once again for being an invaluable part of our journey and for your dedication to our vision. Your partnership means the world to us and to the children whose lives you touch. It has been an honor to be part of this remarkable organization for so many years, and I am truly excited for what lies ahead.

With sincere appreciation,

Elyse Taub
Chief Development Officer





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Funding the Future: Paul and Donna Jalbert Ensure Their Continued Support with a Bequest to Smile Train

Paul Jalbert and his beloved late wife, Donna, began giving to Smile Train after he saw an ad featuring a child with a cleft. “My heart went out to that child,” Paul says. “You can transform a life so significantly with a relatively insignificant amount of money. Some cleft-affected children don’t want to go to school because of the bullying. The cleft treatment means they will not be teased or ostracized.”

In addition to Paul’s plan to fund a surgery each year for the rest of his life, he has also made a bequest to Smile Train in his will to ensure that his and Donna’s support endures beyond his lifetime.

“If you want to make a tremendous difference in an individual’s life, a simple surgery completely changes their life for decades,” Paul says. “It improves their confidence, giving them the ability to live their best lives. I think of the much better lives the children and their families will have due to the surgery, and it gives me joy that I’ve made such a positive impact.”

Now retired, Paul took advantage of his employer’s gift-matching program when he worked for General Electric, allowing him to

fund one surgery, but have the impact of two. “I encourage everyone who works for a company with such a program to take advantage of it — in essence, providing two surgeries for the price of one!”

Paul hopes others will consider the legacies they could leave by supporting Smile Train. “I always hoped to leave the earth a little better than when I came in,” he concludes. **“Supporting Smile Train allows me to make a positive impact in the world and gives me the satisfaction of making a difference in the life of someone very young who will benefit for a lifetime.”**

Legacy of Smiles donations truly are the gift of a lifetime for a child in need. Your planned gifts provide Smile Train with the financial stability we need to sustain and expand our work. This will make not only cleft surgery, but all the other transformative, comprehensive cleft treatments we support for our patients — including nutritional care, speech therapy, dentistry and orthodontia, psychosocial counseling, and more — reliably available for ever more children for generations to come.

For more information on how to make a planned gift through our Legacy of Smiles program, please scan the QR code below:





Our Impact at a Glance

\$69+ billion

global economic impact
of Smile Train's
surgical program

2,000,000+

cleft surgeries
for people of all ages since
our founding in 1999

**Every
3 minutes**

another baby is
born with a cleft

1 Goal
to give every child with
a cleft the opportunity for
a full and healthy life

48
countries
where Smile Train supports
comprehensive cleft care

95+
countries

where Smile Train
has sponsored
free cleft treatment

100,000+
training opportunities

20,000+
trained medical professionals—
including surgeons, anesthesiologists,
orthodontists, and nutritionists around the world

Every 5 minutes
a child receives life-changing cleft
surgery from a Smile Train partner

PATIENT AGE AT PRIMARY SURGERY



84%

Patients Under
5 Years Old



16%

Patients Over
5 Years Old

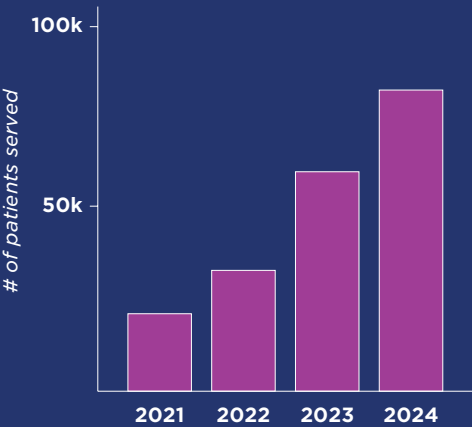


GROWTH OF COMPREHENSIVE CLEFT CARE TREATMENTS

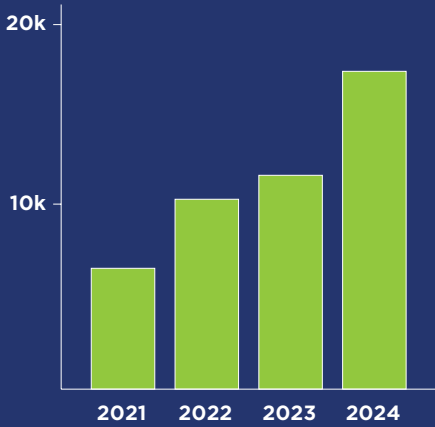
It takes far more than surgery to treat a cleft. Full healing often requires a holistic, decades-long journey unique as the patient themselves. Over just the past four years, we've been able to exponentially expand some of our leading non-surgical cleft care programs, thanks to your support.



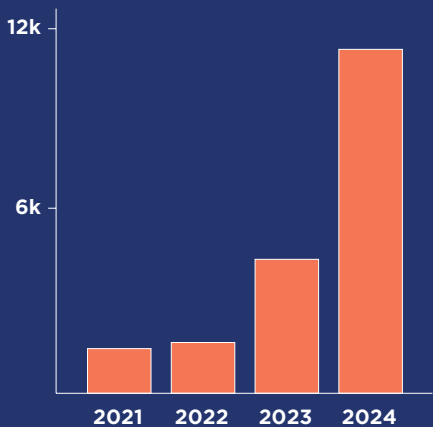
Speech



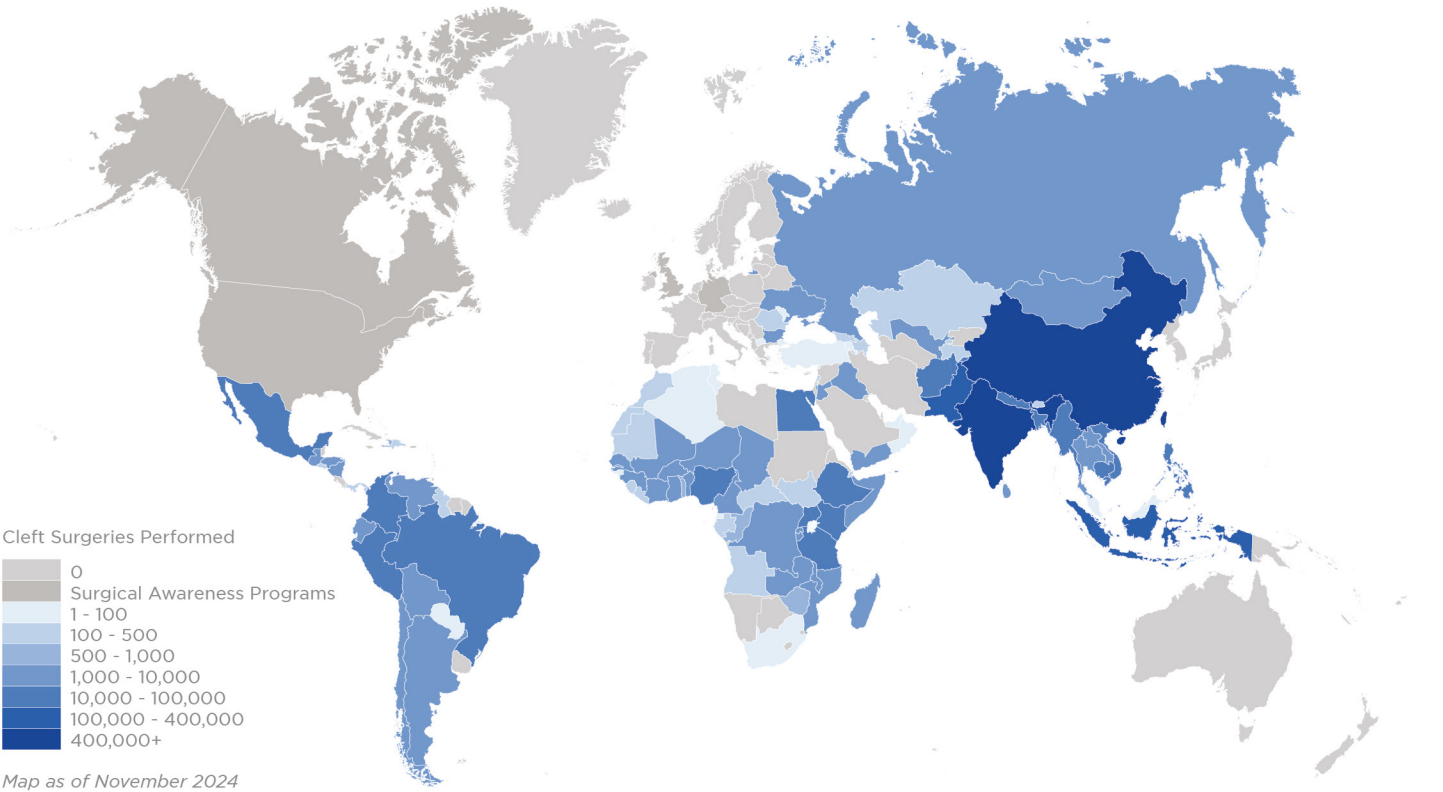
Orthodontic



Nutrition



The map below represents all the life-changing cleft surgeries we've sponsored since our founding in 1999. But it's incomplete: It doesn't include the hundreds of thousands of vital non-surgical cleft care treatments like nutritional support, speech therapy, and orthodontics you make possible each day. It also doesn't show how great the need still is. Millions of people around the world are still waiting for cleft care. With you on our side, we will reach them all.





Rajib holding a picture of himself before cleft surgery.

Then, one fateful February day, something unexpected floated down the river donning a camouflage uniform.

It was a man from the Army, with news the family had spent the past half-century praying for: Alim and Rajib could both get free cleft surgery at their nearest army hospital — and one of them would receive Smile Train's two millionth cleft surgery.

The whole world was going to hear their story and marvel at their new smiles.

"Rajib should be two million," Alim insisted. "I will be the two-million-and-first."

A few days, a long boat ride, and a long bus ride later, everything changed. For the whole family.

When we caught up with the family again in August, Alim still hardly recognized himself or the promise and possibility his life now holds.

Alim and Rajib may be milestone patients, but their story is typical of the transformational impact your support for life-changing surgery and other comprehensive cleft care has for children and families around the world every day.

To read more of the courageous, heartfelt stories that you help us write, visit our award-winning blog, smiletrain.org/stories.



A Generational Transformation

Rajib's life will not be like his father's

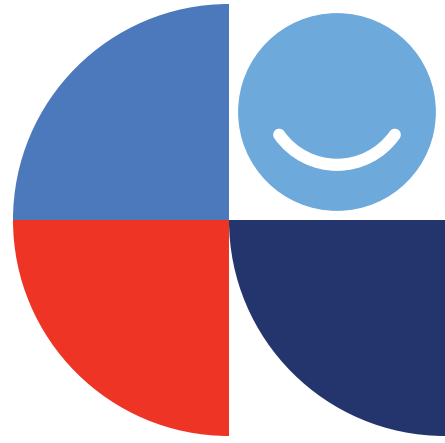
In early 2024, in a makeshift house in a remote river village in South Sumatra, Indonesia, a father and son with a cleft made history together.

Alim had to drop out of school in first grade due to unrelenting bullying. With no education and no access to healthcare, he had no chance of finding gainful employment. Now 50, he has spent most of his life as a subsistence fisherman, netting whatever he can out of the muddy waters behind his house in the hopes that it will be enough to keep his large family fed for one more day.

When his son Rajib was also born with a cleft, he despaired, knowing what lay in store for him. Sure enough, as soon as Rajib started school, the bullies pounced. It pained Alim to see his son suffering as he had, even if, at 10 years old, the boy insisted on not dropping out.



Rajib and Alim.



Smile Train and Dentsply Sirona: Empowering Smiles and Digitalizing Cleft Orthodontics Together

In 2021, Smile Train proudly joined forces with Dentsply Sirona, the world's largest manufacturer of professional dental products and technologies, in a groundbreaking partnership. With a shared vision of improving treatment quality and expanding access to care, we aim to create a more sustainable, smile-filled future for all cleft-affected children and families in need.

To date, our collaboration has sponsored more than 5,500 free, high-quality surgeries for children in need in 18 countries. Dentsply Sirona equipment donations to Smile Train partner centers have benefited 10 partner hospitals, trained 107 healthcare professionals, and treated 11,742 patients. From intraoral scanning to 3D printing and remote monitoring, we have made digital workflows an integral part of cleft and craniofacial care, ensuring better treatment outcomes and reducing barriers to care for children worldwide.



Cleft team members using a Dentsply Sirona intraoral scanner at a Smile Train partner in Medellín, Colombia.



Intraoral scanning for precise treatment planning

Intraoral scanning captures highly detailed 3D images of patients' oral structures with a handheld scanner that digitally maps their intraoral anatomy. This provides several advantages:

- High detail and accuracy.
- Faster and more comfortable treatment for infants and children compared to traditional impression materials.
- Faster turnaround due to integration with computerized design and manufacturing systems.

3D printing of appliances for infants and children

3D printing technology allows for the fabrication of custom-made appliances, including nasoalveolar molding (NAM) devices, palatal plates, and aligners for babies with clefts. This method has many benefits, including:

- Digital scans allow appliances to be tailored to every infant's unique anatomy, improving fit and function.
- The ability to quickly fabricate appliances makes for timely interventions, which are crucial to early cleft treatment.
- Minimizing the number of in-person appointments needed reduces the burden of care.



Smile Train's digital cleft orthodontics training in Medellín, Columbia

Remote monitoring for continuous, personalized care

Remote monitoring allows clinicians to track children's progress without frequent in-person visits. This program offers:

- Help monitoring the effectiveness of appliances and progress of treatments.
- Parents the ability to capture and upload images from home, reducing hospital visits.
- Improved access to expert care for families in remote areas, reducing travel burdens.

Colombia: Driving change through technology

In Medellín, Colombia, Smile Train hosted the First Advanced Training on Digital Cleft Orthodontics, which gave 28 professionals from five Latin American countries advanced training in digital workflows. Clínica Noel, Smile Train's partner in Medellín, received a donation of Dentsply Sirona's cutting-edge scanning and remote monitoring protocol as part of the training, allowing for personalized treatment plans and reducing travel burdens for patients in rural areas. Local Smile Train partner Dr. Juan Pablo Gómez noted that this partnership has significantly expanded possibilities for cleft patients in Colombia.

Scan the QR code below to learn more about our partnership in Columbia:





Dentsply Sirona digitalization training in Dehli, India

India: Leading digital cleft orthodontics

The Second Advanced Training on Digitalization in Cleft Orthodontics was held in December in Delhi. Over three days, experts trained 15 orthodontists from India, Nigeria, Thailand, and the Philippines on digital workflows in presurgical orthopedics and mixed and permanent dentition. At a hands-on training, attendees gained the skills necessary to integrate more digital workflows into their practices, ultimately improving cleft treatment outcomes for their patients.

Brazil: Strengthening capacity and knowledge

Brazil continued its advancement in digital cleft care with the Third Advanced Training at Smile Train's Cleft Leadership Center in Bauru. The workshop provided 11 professionals with in-depth knowledge of presurgical orthopedics and digital workflows, giving them hands-on experience with intraoral scanning, appliance fabrication, and digital treatment planning. It received high praise from attendees, with one participant emphasizing how it opened new possibilities for cleft care in Brazil.

Building off our successes

Smile Train and Dentsply Sirona's achievements were widely recognized in 2024. We were honored with a Bronze Global Good Award in the "Community Partnership of the Year" category, highlighting our dedication to innovative and impactful healthcare solutions. Additionally, our

documentary "Journey of Smiles," which follows the comprehensive treatment journeys of several Smile Train patients from Colombia from birth through early adolescence, won a Silver Dolphin at the Cannes Corporate Media & TV Awards. You can watch it by scanning the QR code below:

Looking ahead, Smile Train and Dentsply Sirona plan to expand equipment donations to more Smile Train partner centers and digital cleft training opportunities in 2025. We already have two new advanced training programs planned — one in Latin America and another in Asia — to continue equipping healthcare professionals around the world with the latest digital skills.

The funding and visibility Smile Train receives from corporate partners like Dentsply Sirona are essential, but their value goes far beyond what can be shown on a spreadsheet. They offer us and our local partners invaluable infrastructure, contacts, and ideas, simultaneously boosting the future of cleft care and maximizing our impact.

With ongoing expansion in digital training and new technological advancements, the future of cleft care is looking brighter than ever. Every child deserves a healthier, happier smile and a promising future, and with partners like Dentsply Sirona on our side, we are well on our way toward making this vision a global reality.





Kamse



The Smile Grant: From Isolation to a Forever Smile

Kamse was born with a cleft in an isolated settlement on Kenya's border with Uganda. The family was unaware that cleft surgery was possible, so they didn't look for treatment. Kamse's grandfather Lokapel believed that the child was being neglected by his parents, but didn't say anything.... until he learned that they weren't going to enroll him in school like his siblings. Lokapel earned little money and couldn't move around like he used to, but he could not sit by and watch his grandchild be denied an education. He asked Kamse's parents if the boy could move into his house. They agreed. Lokapel immediately enrolled Kamse in school.

Kamse was excited for his first day, but, when it finally came, the other kids taunted him from bell to bell. He ran home and begged his grandfather never to make him go back. Lokapel eventually convinced Kamse of the importance of getting an education, but, unfortunately, the bullying only got worse, to the point where Kamse hid in the bushes any time he saw other children coming.

The stress made focusing in class impossible, and he fell behind. Then, one day, a health worker came to the settlement and told Lokapel that his grandson could receive a surgery for his cleft for free at Cure Kijabe Hospital, thanks to Smile Train.

The family was thrilled, but cautious. Even if the promise of free surgery was true, how would they get to the hospital? They had no means of transportation and no money for bus fare. The health worker smiled and told them that, true to their name, Smile Train would not only support Kamse's surgery, but also transportation to and from the hospital, completely free. For the first time in his life, Kamse felt real hope for his future.

A few days later, the brave 11-year-old hopped aboard a bus and left his village. Another first. It was the adventure of a lifetime, and he intently stared out the windows for the entire five-hour ride. Then he received his forever smile.

Smile Train works with local healthcare partners in every corner of the world, but many cleft-affected people live far from any city or hospital. For these isolated families in need, transportation to care is as essential as the care itself.

Patient Logistics Grants, also known as Smile Grants, make these trips possible. They support our patients and their families with the various, inevitable logistical expenses that come with accessing healthcare, such as transportation, lodging, and food. We award these grants to our partner providers, who then work with their

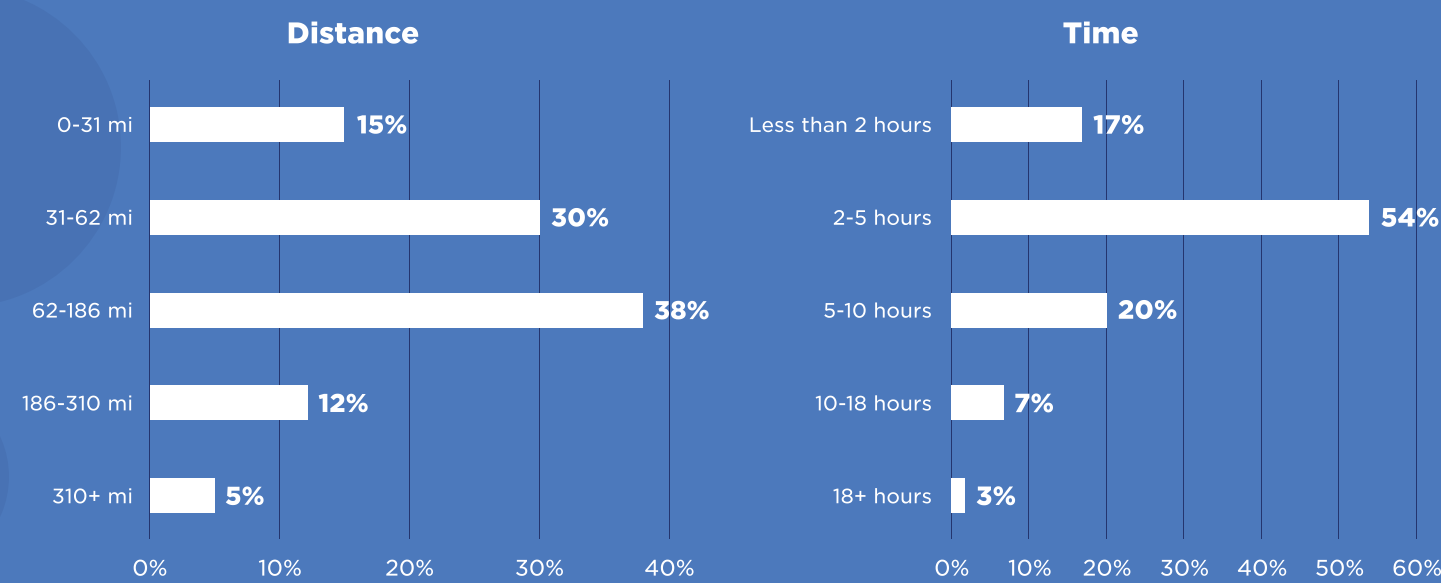
patients to determine individual needs. While relatively inexpensive, Smile Grants are the key that make cleft care available to roughly one-third of all Smile Train patients — that is over 600,000 families!

Like comprehensive cleft care, Smile Grants are a testimony to the countless unseen ways your consistent support is changing children's lives around the world each day.

To learn more about how you can support Smile Grants, please contact development@smiletrain.org



Average distance and time needed for patients to reach their Smile Train treatment center (2025)





Feeding and Nutrition: The Cornerstone of Comprehensive Cleft Care

Babies with clefts are uniquely vulnerable to feeding difficulties. In countries where mothers do not have routine access to specialized assistance, their infants can fail to thrive, become severely malnourished, and even die from malnutrition.

In 2021, Smile Train made an ambitious, five-year commitment to connect more babies with clefts with lifesaving nutritional support than ever before.

By the end of 2026, Smile Train aims to:

- Support cleft-specific feeding counseling for more than one million mothers and children.
- Avert more than 55,000 child malnutrition cases.
- Deliver over 40,000 educational opportunities on feeding and nutrition to families and healthcare workers.
- Empower more than 1,000 partner hospitals in 70+ countries to offer nutrition services.
- Establish an organized network of over 250 partner hospitals offering advanced nutritional care for malnourished children with clefts.
- Achieve a 40% reduction in the number of stunted children undergoing cleft surgery.

Specifically, our nutrition programs help:

- Train healthcare workers to address feeding difficulties and provide high-quality nutrition care.
- Purchase vital feeding and nutrition supplies such as cups, hygiene kits, and supplementary feeds.
- Facilitate communication and travel for patients' families to and from treatment centers to ensure uninterrupted support.



A Smile Train patient in Tanzania receiving nutrition support.

Cleft Nutrition Programs to Zimbabwe

In Zimbabwe, where 1,200 babies are born with a cleft each year, this approach has already yielded impressive results across three interrelated areas of priority:

- 1. Training and Resources:** We are training healthcare professionals across the country to provide breastfeeding counseling and teaching caregivers alternative methods such as cup feeding. We are also supporting complementary feeds to promote healthy growth, address poor growth, or manage malnutrition.
- 2. Advocacy:** Smile Train representatives actively participate in national food system and nutrition events, distribute educational materials, raise awareness about cleft care, and otherwise advocate for inclusive nutrition initiatives that leave no child behind.
- 3. Empowering Communities:** Community-building programs, like those run by the Shumiro Sprout Trust in Harare, teach mothers income-generating skills, build financial resilience, and foster support networks for families who so often feel alone.

With continued investment and collaboration, these efforts have the potential to ensure every child with a cleft receives the care they need to not just live, but thrive.



Stories of Change

Audrey and Cinta

When her daughter, Cinta, was born with a cleft, Audrey started expressing milk and cup-feeding her on the advice of a nurse. Yet the girl still lost weight even before leaving the hospital.

Referred to the Global Cleft and Cranio-Facial Foundation five days after giving birth, Audrey received immediate comfort and clear guidance from Faith Kamazizwa, the Foundation's Smile Train-trained nutritionist. With her gentle support, Cinta began gaining weight steadily. Today, she is healthy enough to receive her first cleft surgery.

"Everyone has been very supportive and involved," Audrey reflected.

All over the world, Smile Train partners like Faith play a pivotal role in supporting families, reassuring mothers, and supporting them through every feeding and nutrition challenge.

Rona and David

Unfortunately, not every mother receives support as soon as Audrey did.

Hospital staff had little advice for Rona when her son, David, was born with a cleft. Back home, neighbors wrongly blamed her for his condition. Overwhelmed, she retreated into her one-room house, leaving only when she absolutely needed to. Her life became a blurred succession of long, hot days sitting in the dark, trying and failing to help her baby gain weight because his cleft made him choke every time she tried to nurse him. Three years passed this way. David would have been at risk of severe malnutrition had Rona not been referred to the Global Cleft and Cranio-Facial Foundation just in time.

A few days later, local experts performed the free cleft surgery that gave David a second chance at life.

Later, when Rona lost her job, Smile Train invited her to a program run by the Shumiro Sprout Trust. There, she learned how to produce a handy

cleaning gel using only basic household materials and sell it for extra income. By day's end, she had a source of income for her family. Perhaps just as importantly, she now had, for the first time, a network of other moms who intimately understood the loneliness and fear of having a child with a cleft and were eager to lift her out of those feelings and into their loving sisterhood.



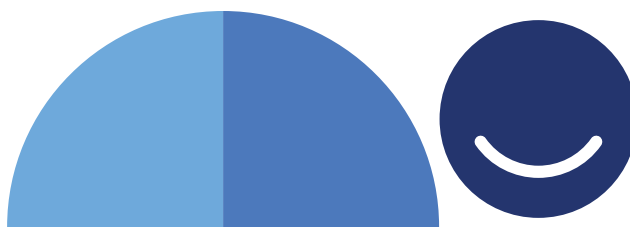
Rona and David

"I want to tell people in my situation that feeding the child is essential for surgery," Rona said.

These stories demonstrate how having a highly qualified cleft team that lives where you do and shares your culture, language, and values fosters an intimate trust no outside group could ever replicate — and contributes to transforming public perceptions of clefts.

Together, we're creating a future where no child with a cleft in Zimbabwe — or anywhere else — is at risk of malnutrition.

To learn more about our work in Africa, scan the QR code below:





Dr. Alvaro Figueroa: Trailblazer, Smile Maker

Over 23 years of partnership with Smile Train, Dr. Alvaro Figueroa has become a trailblazer in orthodontic cleft treatment. His journey to cleft care started in 1976, when he left dental school in Guatemala to come to the United States for a fellowship in craniofacial development at the National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD.

“The NIH has always been in the forefront of research on craniofacial biology,” he said. “My intention was to do something clinical and not just deal with research.”

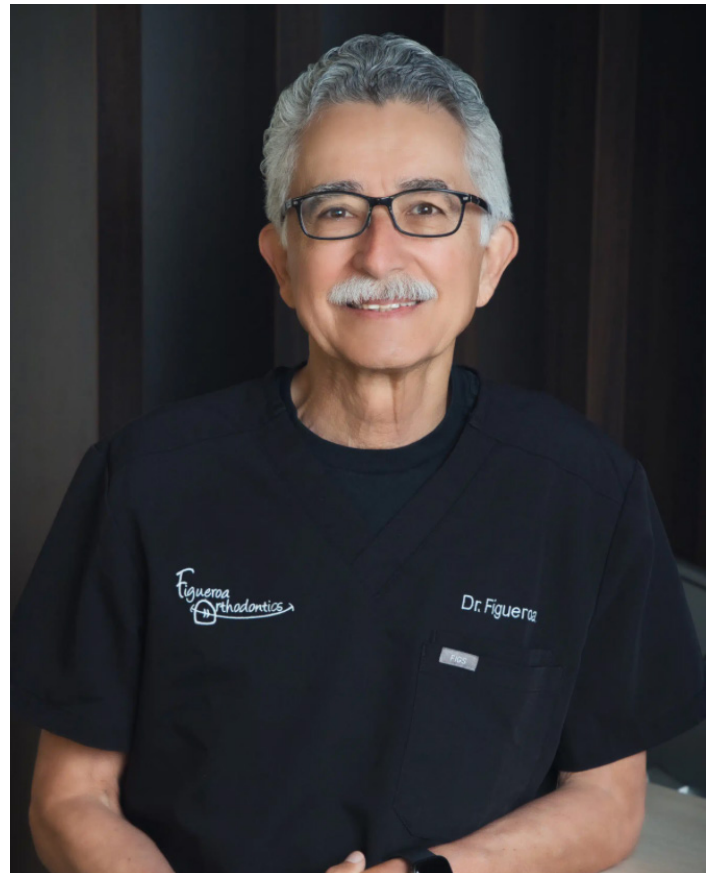
His work during the fellowship spurred his desire to help others. And that led him to Smile Train.

Dr. Figueroa has witnessed our evolution from a strict focus on cleft surgery to a more comprehensive approach. As clefts can cause issues with breathing, eating, speech, and self-esteem, among much else, Smile Train realized very early on that our patients needed more than surgery alone to reach their full potentials.

That’s why we partner with local professionals across many disciplines — from surgeons to orthodontists to speech therapists to social workers and more — to support coordinated, lifelong care. It is an evolution that has ensured that, today, more people with clefts are thriving in more ways than ever before.

Specialized orthodontic care is essential for children with clefts as they grow and develop. Proper alignment of the adult teeth and jaws are crucial for effective chewing, clear speech, and overall dental health. The support we offer our patients gives them the tools to they need overcome social and emotional challenges, empowering them to embrace life with confidence.

Dr. Figueroa has been instrumental in advancing this interdisciplinary approach. His work with surgeons, in particular, has improved the integration of presurgical orthopedics and orthodontics with surgical interventions, leading to more predictable patient outcomes. In collaboration with Dr. Barry Grayson, he helped refine and popularize Nasoalveolar Molding



Dr. Alvaro Figueroa

(NAM), a presurgical orthopedic technique that not only improves the nasal and alveolar structures of infants with clefts but also enhances surgical outcomes by reducing the severity of the cleft before surgery.

Likewise, Dr. Figueroa’s work with Dr. John Polley was vital in developing the rigid external device (RED). The first RED patient was a boy with a severe bilateral cleft. The device helped him achieve a fantastic outcome that encouraged further development of the approach, as featured in the *Journal of Craniofacial Surgery*. REDs are now used worldwide.

Additionally, Dr. Figueroa has trained countless orthodontists, surgeons, and craniofacial specialists through workshops, lectures, and mentorship programs. Collaborating with Dr. Monica Dominguez, Smile Train’s Director of Global Oral Health, he helped establish a network of orthodontists committed to sharing knowledge and best practices. In line with Smile Train’s “teach a person to fish” model, this self-sustaining network strengthens cleft care systems worldwide by ensuring patients receive continuous, sustainable support; building capacity; and encouraging a sense of ownership and pride among local providers.

Dr. Figueroa has also profoundly impacted Smile Train's growth and development as a member of our Orthodontics Global Advisory Group and Medical Advisory Board (MAB).

As Chief of Smile Train's Global Orthodontics Advisory Group, he develops quality-of-care assurance throughout the organization, with an emphasis on the importance of integrating orthodontic care into the broader cleft treatment process. In championing interdisciplinary collaboration, he ensures that our patients receive care tailored to their unique needs from every member of the cleft team.

As a MAB member, Dr. Figueroa helps shape the global standards and protocols Smile Train uses to ensure high-quality and effective cleft treatment, which are critical to our commitment to excellence.

Dr. Figueroa's work with Smile Train is a testament to the importance of holistic, patient-centered care. By combining his expertise and passion with Smile Train's model, he has helped transform the lives of thousands of children around the world.

And his work is just one more way Smile Train and our partners are proving that comprehensive care truly has the power to change the world one smile at a time.

For a list of Smile Trains' advisory committee, please visit:
smiletrain.org/team/medical-advisory-board



*Dr. Gunaseelan Rajan, Medical Director, Rajan Dental Hospital, Mylapore, Chennai;
Dr. Alvaro A. Figueroa; Dr. Michael Krimmel*





Camila



Camila's Story is No Fairytale

But Smile Train empowered her to write her own happily ever after

Camila grew up on her grandparents' picturesque farm in Chile. She spent her childhood bouncing on a giant trampoline, tending to her garden with her grandmother and sister, and playing in open pastures with her goats and dogs. But behind this fairytale setting lurked a harsh reality: Camila had a cleft.



Camila before cleft surgery.

She spent the first 10 years of her life in and out of the hospital. At school, she was tormented for her smile and her scars. In these moments, her grandparents' farm was so much more than her house. It was her refuge, the one place she was free to be herself.

But she always had more than just her family and farm friends in her corner. As long as she can remember, she has also had the support of her cleft team at Fundación Gantz.

As a Smile Train Cleft Leadership Center, Fundación Gantz serves as a regional hub for cleft treatment, education, training, and research in Spanish-speaking South America. Equipped with the latest technology and staffed with some of the area's best-trained professionals in cleft-specialized surgery, nutritional support, speech therapy, orthodontics,



“I want to study to be a nurse practitioner so I can help other people just as they helped me.”

— Camila



Camila on the farm.

and more, Cleft Leadership Centers serve as a resource for other regional Smile Train partners and ensure the highest standard of cleft care is available to all.

For Camila, that meant she grew up receiving comprehensive care tailored to her needs from a local team who felt like family. This consistent support didn't erase her anxieties, but it did make them more manageable.

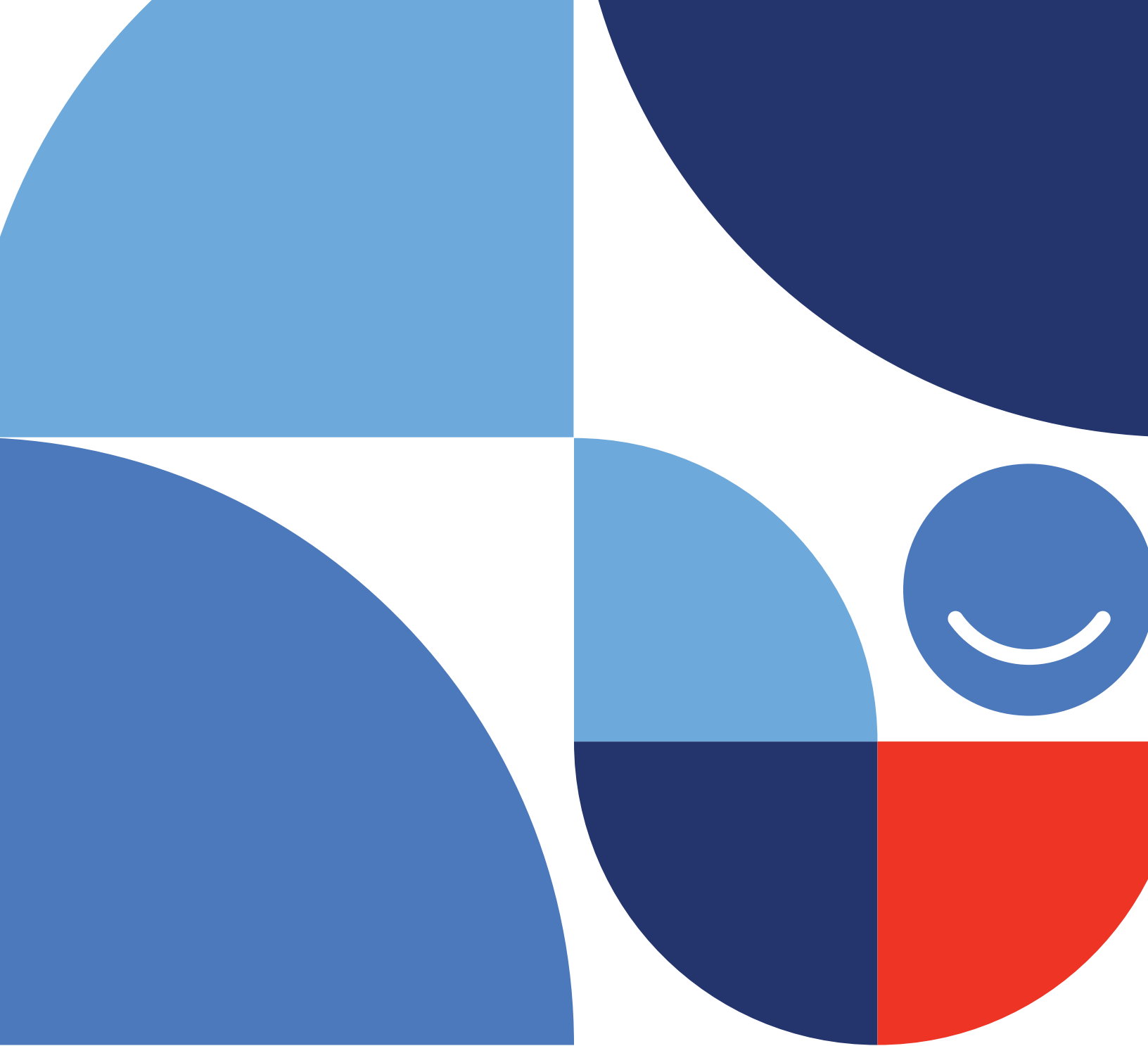
Now 16 and with her cleft journey winding towards its conclusion, fear no longer holds Camila back. She now smiles with confidence and is ready to write a happy ending to her cleft journey — both for herself and for those coming after her.

“I want to study to be a nurse practitioner so I can help other people just as they helped me,” she said.

As Camila's story makes clear, it takes so much more than a surgery to heal from a cleft. Having consistent, free, comprehensive care available at the exact time they need it means our patients not only survive, they thrive. It's just one more way your generous donations to Smile Train are a gift that keep on giving for children in need.

Scan the QR code to watch a touching video about Camila's journey:





Scan here to make a donation
and change a life:



To learn more about Smile Train's
impact follow us at:



Smile Train is a leader in efficiency, transparency, and impact. Smile Train is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit recognized by the IRS, and all donations to Smile Train are tax-deductible in accordance with IRS regulations.

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