



OPERATION RAINBOW CANADA

Giving the Gift of a Smile... a Lasting Legacy

NEWSLETTER

December 2016





PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Friends,

This year has been a banner year for Operation Rainbow Canada. Our focus has been on governance, outreach, partnerships and improving our presence both on a local and global scale.

Much of our success can be attributed to our dedicated Board of Directors, who continue to bring innovative ideas to the table and remain fully involved at every level. As we have no paid administrative staff, we needed to leverage technology in order to communicate with the world efficiently and at a reasonable cost. We have made great strides with our website that is now easier to navigate through and we strive to improve on our updates and content. Our finances are stable and our Board remains well-informed. At our meetings, it is our members who are engaged in thoughtful discussions about how to serve our patients better in a changing world.

Certainly the world is very different from when ORC started

18 years ago and there are more regulations and due diligence that is involved in every aspect of a mission.

In February members of ORC went to Cambodia where they trained 18 local residents in plastic surgery. This was the first training program established by ORC in Cambodia. In November ORC once again had a successful mission to Kaka-Ba Hospital in Hansot, Gujarat, India. Between these two missions, the teams treated hundreds of patients with successful surgical outcomes. I am also proud to report that we have built a meaningful and important relationship with Dr. Champaneria, the head of Kaka-Ba Hospital and continue our partnership with Dr. Nous Sarom of Preah Ket Melea Hospital in Cambodia.

This summer, we benefited from two very successful fundraisers initiated by volunteers under the age of 18. I am immensely proud of these teens whose compassion and drive will benefit the world. The support from our volunteers has been invaluable in progressing the organization to strengthen our networks, remain active in our community and to ultimately continue to make a difference in the lives of others.

We have much to look forward to this upcoming year. We have made progress with our contacts for a mission in a poor, mountainous area of China. In addition, we continue to work with our contacts in Lucknow, India, to arrange for future missions. Our missions are now more focused on cross training and education. Canadians have much to offer and a lot to learn from other countries and cultures. The goal is for everyone to be self-sustaining in the future. We are also very excited about future missions where ORC members will train residents overseas in plastic surgery, pediatric surgery and share their techniques to help ensure patients receive the highest quality of care possible.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

With gratitude,

Dr. Kimit Rai, M.D., F.R.C.S.C.
Founder and President



Mission Team at YVR



SECOND MISSION TO HANSOT, GUJARAT, INDIA

We are pleased to have completed our second successful mission at Hansot in the province of Gujarat in November 2016. Our team operated out of Kaka-Ba Charity Trust Hospital. Under the direction of Dr. Bharathai Champenaria, the hospital has been providing quality medical services and rural development since 1985 in the remote tribal area of Hansot in Bharuch District, Gujarat, India.

Once again, the staff of Kaka-Ba gave our team a tremendous welcome and we worked side by side with the medical professionals at the hospital to exchange information on patient assessment, surgery and post surgical care. Together, we were able to treat a number of burn injuries as well as cleft and palate.

PERSPECTIVES FROM OUR INDIA 2016 VOLUNTEERS:

“We have seen very unfortunate cases of debilitating burn contractures, rare craniofacial clefts, as well as severe traumatic deformities. Our surgeons have been extremely forthcoming in their generous teaching, with animated discussions and exchanges regarding each patient’s treatment approach, and a lot of intra operative hands-on opportunities. I’ve learned a lot about our limitations as international medical teams, and this contrasts with our abundant medical resources. It gives a new perspective to the discrepancy in health care that people in a different area of the world receives.”

- *Dr. Liqin Xu, Plastics Resident nominated by the Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons*

“ORC missions are one of my favourite times of the year and one of the main reasons I became a plastic surgeon. That first smile after a cleft lip repair makes a mission worth it. We’ve been so fortunate that we have had many this mission. Every time I finish a mission, the anticipation toward the next one starts. I am proud of ORC and the work that we do.”

- *Dr. Sachin Chitte, Plastic Surgeon, Ottawa,*

Canada

“A favourite part of my day is play time on the wards. We bring crayons for the children, and despite splints and IVs, they are happy just to colour. While they draw, we have conversations with their parents about the importance of the splints, or getting out of bed and walking. We can assess their pain, and check their dressings.”

- *Mary Spencer, Pre-Op Nurse, Vancouver, Canada*

“During the mission we operated on a patient with severe burn contractures to the right axilla (armpit) and right elbow. This had effectively fused the skin on his hand to his shoulder area. We saw the patient sign the consent form and he bent completely at the waist to hold the pen down on the sheet of paper. After surgery, and following more than a week of healing, we removed the dressings and were able to see that the grafts had taken well. This was very satisfying to know that the patient will now have normal function and use of his dominate arm. It is truly an honour to be able to help this patient during our mission here in India.

- *Dr. Colin White, Plastic Surgeon, Vancouver, Canada*

Kaka-Ba Hospital is a wonderful environment to do a mission. Dr. Champaneria and his staff are truly compassionate people and we feel very aligned in our values. The kids and families are very grateful for the care that our team and Kaka-Ba Hospital staff provides. It’s very rewarding when we can help people in such need. It is a thriving, happy oasis.

- *Elaine Peters, R.N., Mission Coordinator, Abbotsford, Canada*



PATIENT PROFILES

Raj

Raj is a four-year-old boy with a cleft lip and cleft palate. He travelled more than seven hours by bus with his elderly grandmother to meet the ORC team. His grandmother says it was his idea to come for surgery, as she does not read or write.



Raj happy to receive his patient number

After Raj awoke from surgery he took a few cautious sips of water, and snuggled into his grandmother's lap. His arms were put in splints to remind him not to touch his face or put his fingers in his mouth. Raj is a handsome boy who loves colouring and bubbles.

Aanchal

Aanchal burned her hand when she fell into a fire as a toddler. Her ORC surgery has taken away some of her scar, freed up her wrist and her thumb



Aanchal recovering and entertained herself with an electronic device, much like kids all over the world

so she can now draw and learn to write. She is all smiles!

Vikasha

Vikasha is a lovely 15-year-old girl who was born

with a cleft palate. She had surgery as a baby, but unfortunately the repair came undone and she was left with multiple holes in her palate. This has affected her ability to speak clearly, and her ability to eat properly. Vikasha first came to ORC at Kaka-Ba Hospital last year and had a partial repair. This year she returned with a warm smile and hugs, for closure of remaining holes. Her surgery took place on November 16 and she awoke with a smile on her face.



Vikasha with Doreen Lore, R.N. Recovery Room Nurse

She continues to practice her English with ORC volunteers and hopes to one day be a flight attendant and fly around the world.

DR. RAI TEACHES CAMBODIAN PLASTIC SURGERY RESIDENTS

In February 2016, ORC doctors, nurses, support staff and trainees went to a long-time partner hospital, the Preah Ketmelea (PKM) Hospital for a teaching mission.



Dr. Rai with Dr. Sarom and four Cambodian Plastic Surgery Residents

OTHER EVENTS

Krispy Crème

The Krispy Crème Annual Donut Sale in August organized by high school student volunteers, energized a crowd at Oakridge Shopping centre with their wonderful music. Thank you so much for your enthusiasm and energy in promoting ORC!

Talmud Torah Fund Raiser

On June 16, Operation Rainbow Canada Director of Media Gary Hanney attended the Vancouver Talmud Torah School's Ceremony of Giving and accepted a generous donation of \$1,000 to ORC.



Board member Dr. Bhanji accepting a cheque from Joshua



Oliver and Yoel, two students from Talmud Torah, created an ORC storyboard

Donation From Rokko Sarees

Babies and children need fleece blankets to keep warm and arm splints to immobilize their arms after surgery. Our local nurse volunteers approached retailer Rokko Sarees in Vancouver, and upon learning about ORC, the owner generously donated large amounts of fabric, which were subsequently turned into blankets, arm splints and surgical caps for the India mission.





BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Kimit Rai – President
 Gloria Wong – Secretary
 Rakesh Patel - Treasurer
 Dr. Nazmundin Bhanji
 Gary Hanney
 Al Lane
 Rose Lane
 Doreen Lore

MISSION STATEMENT

Operation Rainbow Canada (ORC) is a 100% volunteer non-profit medical services organization that functions without paid staff to provide free reconstructive surgery and related health care for cleft lip and cleft palate deformities to impoverished children and young adults in developing countries.

The medical teams perform reconstructive surgery for children and young adults whose families could not otherwise afford them. The patients are drawn from the indigenous population of the host country, and often families travel days from their homes in order to have their children treated. In addition to cleft lip and palate surgery, the teams also perform reconstructive surgery for burn and post contractures. Without corrective surgery, children born with cleft lip and cleft palate deformities are often shunned, ostracized, denied schooling and eventually succumb to a solitary life lived in the protection of their homes.

ORC also provides education and training to physicians and other health care professionals in the host countries to help them achieve long-term self-sufficiency. For our Canadian plastic surgery residents, pediatric residents and anesthesiology residents who accompany the missions, ORC provides an invaluable hands-on experience for their future practices.

MISSION YEAR

Operation Rainbow Canada

Founded in 1998 - Giving the Gift of a Smile – A lasting Legacy

- Cambodia 2017*
- Cambodia 2016*
- Hansot, Gujarat, India 2016*
- Hansot, Gujarat, India 2015*
- Cambodia 2014*
- Cambodia 2013*
- Cambodia 2012*
- Baru Sahib, India 2011*
- Baru Sahib, India 2010*
- Linyi City, China 2010*
- Indonesia 2009*
- Cambodia 2008*
- Cambodia 2007*
- Ludhiana, India 2007*
- Cambodia 2006*
- Philippines 2006*
- Jalandhar, India 2005*
- Phnom Penh, Cambodia 2005*
- Chandigarh, India 2004*
- Lebanon, Beirut 2004*
- Oaxaca, Mexico 2003*
- Philippines 2003*
- La Trinidad, Philippines 2002*
- Oaxaca, Mexico 2002*
- El Salvador 2001*
- Northern Philippines 2000*
- Philippines 1999*
- Villahermosa, Mexico 1998*



Dr. Rai teaches Cambodian Plastic Surgery Residents

WAYS TO HELP

1. Donate Directly

By cheque, on-line via Canada Helps, or by donating securities.

OPERATION RAINBOW CANADA

Suite 400 - 601 West Broadway,

Vancouver, BC Canada V5Z 4C2

1.888.956.3399

www.OperationRainbowCanada.ca

info@OperationRainbowCanada.ca

2. Volunteer

We are always looking for passionate people to help us with our charity. If you have spare time or a particular skill you would like to share with us, please get in touch!

3. Host a Fundraiser

1. Have a party or event
2. Set a \$ goal or admission cost
3. Invite your friends and tell them about ORC
4. Collect the money and donate to ORC
5. Receive a Tax Receipt for your donation

4. Sponsor a Smile:

1 Medication per Surgery - \$100

1 Surgery - \$900

1 Mission (all surgeries & medication) - \$75,000.00 - \$100,000

THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS!

Operation Rainbow Canada thanks its supporters for their generous donations towards future programs and missions. ORC is very grateful for the support and fundraising efforts done by its volunteers.

A partial list of 2016 donors and donors-in-kind!

Rokko Sarees & Fabrics

Canadian Society of Plastic Surgeons

Harbour Centre Dental

Health for Humanity Services Society

LTA Holidays (Canada) Ltd.

Mr. Hugh Gillard

Mr. Thomas Tait

Yale and District Ratepayers Association

Storage for Your Life

Mannkind Charity



A young patient and his father



We Support
Operation Rainbow Canada
Donate or Volunteer