



# WILLING SMILES

Sharing our thanks for the kindness of supporters who have included us in their Wills, continuing their support of Smile Train's work for future generations.



## WELCOME

It is one year since our last Willing Smiles, and we have so much to share!

I am truly excited to be writing to you about some more of Smile Train's incredible achievements, including a meeting of exceptional minds in the world of cleft surgery, technology, and care.

I hope this, our second edition of Willing Smiles, will warm your heart and inspire you with how tenacity, commitment, love, and care can change the pain of a cleft to a beautiful smile.

**Cleft treatment takes teamwork, and I can't thank you enough for being a part of our team.**

# Smile Train's one goal is to bring a brighter future to every child with a cleft, and this edition of Willing Smiles focuses on initiatives that I feel are truly uplifting.



*Roanne Moore*

Every time we train health professionals, we raise the standard of cleft care for children today and tomorrow. We know that each time we enhance skills and share new

We know that each time we enhance skills and share new knowledge, the impact will be felt 30, 40, even 50 years or more into the future.

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Similarly, when supporters ask us about leaving a gift in their Will, we focus on the impact they can help us achieve for children with clefts 30, 40 or 50 years or more into the future. We always wish every wonderful person who includes us in their Will many, many years of joy, health, and happiness with family and friends. And we hope that their decision to make such an exceptional gift reassures them that Smile Train will never waiver, thanks to their generosity.

Our vision is also our commitment to the future: A world where everyone has access to safe, high-quality, comprehensive cleft care.

I thank you for all the kindness you have shown to children with clefts and their families, particularly through these difficult times, and wish you nothing but happiness.

**Roanne Moore**

*Manager, Development UK*

If you would like to learn more about our work, please contact me via email: [roannelegacies@smiletrain.org](mailto:roannelegacies@smiletrain.org), or by telephone 0113 841 8105



## **DID YOU KNOW:**

Smile Train has sponsored life-changing cleft treatment for more than 1.5 million children worldwide? And we're only getting started.

# Edinburgh brings the world's cleft professionals together

We have had the most exceptional summer at Smile Train UK. In fact, for a week in July, Scotland became the centre of the cleft universe when some of the world's leading practitioners in cleft surgery and cleft care travelled to Edinburgh for the 14th International Cleft Congress - Cleft 2022.

Each of the more than 1,500 delegates — including Smile Train partners from 50+ countries — brought a burning desire to collaborate and advance knowledge and best practices for those born with clefts. Over four days, these distinguished professionals shared their skills, clinical experiences, and findings from current research, as well as their aspirations for improving the future of cleft care. The atmosphere was buzzing, and Twitter feeds were alight with excitement and praise for both the formal and informal sessions.

“Wonderful presentation by Barbara Delage on Smile Train Africa's incredible work to improve cleft nutrition in Kenya through education for nurses and increased early referrals.

– Erin Stieber, Chief Programs Strategy Officer, Smile Train reflecting on Cleft2022

Some of those who could not travel to Edinburgh joined virtually. We even linked up in real time with Rwanda Military Hospital in Kigali for the European debut of the new Bilateral Cleft Lip and Palate Simulator from Simulare Medical, a Division of Smile Train. It was exceptional to be present, whether in Kigali or Edinburgh!

As Cleft 2022 closed, Dr Felicity Mehendale, Conference Chair, Smile Train Medical Advisory Board Member, and President of the International Confederation of Cleft Lip & Palate and Related Craniofacial Anomalies, left delegates with a simple but challenging question: “How can we make sure care is even better for babies born with a cleft in the year of Kyoto, Cleft 2025?”

Did you know – your kindness ensures Smile Train is raising voices that have traditionally been excluded, harnessing the latest technology to power smiles, and otherwise transforming every aspect of cleft care all around the globe.



# Our Five-Step Commitment to a Smiling Future for Children With Clefts:

1

**We are committed to being there for every patient who reaches out to us.** Patients never pay for any cleft service at any Smile Train partner centre. Families know they will receive all the treatment and support they need to transform their child's cleft into a smile.

2

**We are committed to providing patients with the nutritional support they need to reach a healthy weight.** We understand how difficult it can be to nourish a baby with a cleft, as milk and food often runs out their noses or into their lungs, choking them. That's why we're training nurses, community health workers, and others to offer vital feeding support.

3

**When the patient is physically ready, we are committed to empowering a local, well-equipped team of experts to perform the cleft surgery - or surgeries - that will change their life forever.** Through training in-person and via our latest training technologies, Smile Train equips local medical professionals to offer comprehensive, cutting-edge, and free cleft care to all in need.

4

**We are committed to providing the speech therapy, dental treatment, orthodontics, and more each patient needs to communicate clearly and smile their brightest.** Smile Train empowers cleft professionals on five continents to provide the essential, non-surgical care their patients need to thrive.

5

**We are committed to providing our patients psychosocial care until their emotional scars are as well-healed as their physical scars.** Building the self-esteem and confidence to walk out with a new smile isn't always easy, especially for children who have known little besides bullying and harassment from neighbours and peers. These children need support, which is why Smile Train seeks to connect families to local cleft groups wherever possible. We are committed to always being there for our families, however long it takes.



## **DID YOU KNOW:**

**Did you know that a gift in your Will can help us give many more children with clefts the support, care, and treatment they need to face their world with a smile?**

# Mamie Woodman's Gift

*Earlier this year, we discovered that a very special lady, Mamie Woodman, had remembered Smile Train in her Will. We were delighted to hear more of Mamie's life story from her family.*

*Mamie's father died when she was three years old. Her mother struggled to make ends meet for her five girls, and when Mamie was 10, the family moved from Northumberland to Ilford in Essex to be nearer Mamie's older sister, Rita, who was studying nursing there. Leaving school, Mamie worked as a typist for different companies in the City of London, and through a friend, met her future husband, Stuart Woodman. Married life took Mamie, Stuart, and their four-year-old son Robert to Toronto, where Stuart's mother and sister lived.*

*Even through the death of her son at age 29 and the loss of her husband just five years later, Mamie always remembered a relative who had spent so much of his childhood*

*undergoing cleft treatments. Mamie recalled at least 13 surgeries before he was five years old; as he grew, his teeth even had to be removed.*

*When Mamie returned to the UK following Stuart's death, she became a loyal supporter of Smile Train, and her wonderful support will help children for years to come, thanks to the gift she made in her Will."*



*Mamie Woodman*



## **DID YOU KNOW:**

**Did you know? A gift in Your Will can be a simple percentage of your estate, ensuring your loved ones will come first while you continue supporting the charities you love.**

# Collaboration creates vibrant, child-safe, child-friendly operating rooms

Speaking of Scotland, Smile Train has developed a unique partnership with a vibrant and tenacious new Scottish charity – Kids Operating Room.

Any surgery is scary. For a child who may not fully understand the reason or the potential outcomes of their procedure, high-tech equipment and medical teams in scrubs can seem alien and intimidating, and being taken to an operating theatre may be truly traumatic. Working together since September 2021, Smile Train and KidsOR have already created state-of-the-art paediatric operating rooms at 13 Smile Train partner hospitals across Africa. Equipped with over 3,000 items, including child-sized surgical tools that make surgery safer, each room is also adorned with colourful wall art featuring animals, trains, and balloons to create a more welcoming, reassuring, and child-friendly space.

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It's been less than a year, and our work has already given our hospitals scope to provide an incredible 9,000 life-changing cleft surgeries for children across the continent. Everywhere we work, we can achieve more by working together as a team. Thank you for choosing to support Smile Train and being a part of our team.



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