

# Transforming LIVES

FALL 2023



## Letter from Ken Salyer, Jr.: *Board Chair*

Dear Friend of WorldCF,

I always look forward to sharing stories that show the healing and happiness you make possible through your support of World Craniofacial Foundation.



The children you read about here would not be able to access these life-changing surgeries without your generosity. Many live in countries where there are no surgical centers equipped to handle these kinds of complex surgeries, and their families lack the financial means to connect with and travel to the world-class experts they need.

In this newsletter, you'll see how your commitment is helping children like Theo and Johany have access to the most advanced medical technology available. You'll also learn how you helped a young woman who needed a difficult ear reconstruction.

And I'm thrilled to update you on our partners at Shriners Children's Ohio, who are helping the children you've come to know and care about through your ongoing support.

As you read, I hope you understand just how much your compassion impacts the lives of these children — and so many more.

Ken Salyer, Jr.  
Board Chair

## IN THIS ISSUE



- [WorldCF and Shriners Children's Dayton: A Partnership that Makes a World of Difference](#)
- [Helping Families Access Innovative Care](#)
- [A Beautiful Ear for Samiksha – How You Connect Patients with the Experts They Need](#)
- [A Successful Separation: WorldCF Medical Director performs a historic, first-of-its-kind surgery](#)

## *A Partnership that Makes a World of Difference*

The surgical procedures that you make possible for children are not only incredibly complex, often requiring a kind of expertise possessed by only a handful of surgeons worldwide, but they are also expensive. A single procedure can cost millions of dollars when all is said and done.

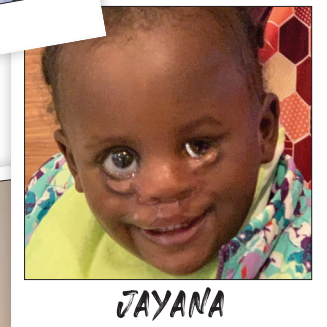
That's why WorldCF's mission — and your support — is so vital. We connect children and families with the experts they need and with surgical centers where they can receive care at no cost.

One of our fastest growing partnerships is with Shriners Children's in Dayton, Ohio. Here Dr. Christopher Gordon, a WorldCF Medical Director, gives children new hope for a better life, one surgery at a time.

Dr. Gordon was close friends with our founder, the late Dr. Kenneth Salyer. *"His vision was to take care of these kids who are left behind by other organizations because their cases are too complicated,"* says Dr. Gordon, who is honored to continue Dr. Salyer's legacy.

*"We now have 47 of these complex international cases lined up,"* says Dr. Gordon. *"We're already on a trajectory to be the busiest program in the country, possibly the world."*

Pictured here are just a handful of the children who lives you've recently helped change in partnership with WorldCF and Shriners Children's Ohio.



## *A Legacy of Excellence*

In 1996, Dr. Akira Yamada lived in Japan where there was no official craniofacial training program. He reached out to study with WorldCF founder Dr. Kenneth Salyer because "he was the best."

"We learned his techniques and now we continue his mission to help poor children worldwide," says Dr. Yamada. "I plan to continue this work for the rest of my life."

## HELPING FAMILIES Access Innovative Care

Last April, Theo and his family traveled to Bogota, Colombia, to see Dr. Rolando Prada — an expert in treating children with craniofacial conditions and WorldCF Medical Director.

Using advanced imaging techniques, Dr. Prada and his team can create an exact replica of a patient's anatomy to accurately plan every step of surgery before it happens. This means less risk, more personalized treatment, and better outcomes for kids.



With virtual surgical simulation and modeling technology donated by 3D Systems, Dr. Prada was able to correct Theo's hypertelorism — a condition where the eyes are more widely spaced apart than usual.



Thanks to your generosity, WorldCF can help more kids like Theo access innovative, world-class care that is unavailable in their home countries.

*Theo before and after Dr. Prada's hypertelorism correction procedure!*

## Johanys' Bright Future — Thanks to You!



Did you know babies are born with a flexible material in their skulls called sutures? They allow the baby's head to grow as their brain grows. Normally, sutures become bone over time. But for little ones like Johanys, this process happens too quickly.

Johanys was born with a form of the condition called metopic synostosis, causing her skull to have a triangular shape. For some, this can cause vision and learning problems. Thanks to your support, Johanys got the surgery she needed from Dr. Prada, a leading expert in innovation.

With your help, we're making the future bright for more kids like Johanys!



## Samiksha's Beautiful Ear

Ear (auricular) reconstruction is a notoriously difficult surgery. When WorldCF recently learned of a Samiksha, a young woman in Nepal who needed this surgery, we knew we were her best hope to connect with a doctor skilled in this procedure.

We reached out to Dr. Akira Yamada, an international expert in ear reconstruction and WorldCF Medical Director. *"It's a difficult surgery. A beautiful outcome is extremely difficult to achieve,"* says Dr. Yamada. The new ear is created using cartilage from the patient's own rib cage and then attached to the head.



*The power of WorldCF, made possible with your support!*

The surgery must be done right the first time — the odds of success decrease with each attempt.

Dr. Yamada put a call out to the most talented auricular reconstructive surgeons in the world. Dr. Ashesh Bhumkar in Mumbai, India, immediately agreed. Within hours — and thanks to your generous support — the wheels were in motion for Samiksha's surgery to be completed at no cost.

## A SUCCESSFUL SEPARATION:

### *WorldCF Medical Director Dr. Chris Gordon performs a historic, first-of-its-kind surgery*

As a supporter of WorldCF, you make incredible transformations possible for children around the globe. Few procedures, however, have an impact as far-reaching as separating conjoined twins. Depending on where the twins are connected, especially if they share vital organs, they can face lifelong health concerns, pain, mobility challenges, and limits to their independence.

Pedro and Augusto were joined at the top of their heads, causing them to spend most of each day lying in bed. They shared veins and arteries that fed critical blood flow to each other's bodies. Separating twins connected in this way had never been done before.

“That really is just not a good quality of life,” WorldCF Medical Director Dr. Chris Gordon said of the patients. Plus, the imbalance in their blood flow was causing the boys to show signs of organ problems. “Eventually Augusto’s heart was going to fail, and eventually Pedro’s kidneys were going to fail. We had to do it. It was the right decision ultimately,” Dr. Gordon added.

It would require multiple major surgeries, cooperation of international governments and a team of highly experienced professionals — and



Conjoined 5-year-old twins Pedro and Augusto are recovering after their successful — and groundbreaking — separation surgery.

culminate in a final surgery performed by Dr. Gordon and Dr. Robert Lober (Dayton Children’s Hospital) that spanned three days and the weeks of intensive care that followed. **Because of your support, the coordination and execution of all these elements came at no cost to the boys’ family.**

**Pedro and Augusto are now back home in Guatemala, where they will grow up and live their own individual lives.**

For the first time ever, the boys can see each other’s faces. They are rebuilding their strength and working with physical therapists to learn skills like standing up straight — something neither boy has ever been able to do.

All of us at WorldCF wish the boys continuing success in their recovery. We’ll keep in touch to make sure they can access further reconstructive procedures they may need as they grow.

Giving us stock can often be more beneficial than giving cash. You can completely avoid paying any tax on the stock’s increased value AND you will be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for the stock’s full market value.

If you are considering a gift of stock, please call or email our Board Chair, Ken Salyer, Jr., so he can provide you with our stock transfer instructions. Reach him by email at [ken.salyer.jr@worldcf.org](mailto:ken.salyer.jr@worldcf.org), call him directly at +1.214.244.5237, or leave a message at +1.972.566.6669 or +1.800.533.3315 toll-free from anywhere in the U.S.



Please remember WorldCF in your estate planning and help needy children for decades to come!

World Craniofacial Foundation

7777 Forest Lane, Suite C-616 | Dallas, Texas 75230 USA | 972.566.6669 | [worldcf.org](http://worldcf.org)

