

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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***** **MEDIA ADVISORY** *****

**OPERATION SMILE MEDICAL MISSION TO TAKE PLACE IN ASUNCION,
PARAGUAY FROM JUNE 18-JUNE 22, 2008**

Medical Mission Team to Provide Free Surgery to Children Born with Cleft Lips and Cleft Palates

NORFOLK, VA – An Operation Smile Medical Mission team will arrive in **Asuncion, Paraguay for an internationally supported local medical mission taking place June 18-June 22, 2008** to assist children born with facial deformities. The team consists of more than 60 medical and non-medical volunteers from Paraguay who will be working side-by-side with volunteers from Brazil, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru, and the United States. Founded in 1982, Operation Smile is a worldwide children's medical charity dedicated to helping improve the health and lives of children and young adults.

Who: An Operation Smile International Mission Team comprised of volunteers from six countries to include:
Dr. Carlos Bacchetta, Plastic Surgeon and Operation Smile Paraguay Medical Director
Linda Highfield, R.N., Clinical Coordinator from Ohio
Kathy Miller, Medical Records Specialist from Virginia

When: June 18-22, 2008

Where: Hospital San Jorge del Ejército
Asuncion, Paraguay

Since 2005, Operation Smile medical volunteers have provided nearly 1,000 Paraguayan children and young adults with free physical examinations and more than 350 have received life-changing surgery during international medical missions.

The last medical mission in Paraguay took place in November 2007 during Operation Smile's 25th Anniversary *World Journey of Smiles*, when a team of medical and non-medical volunteers worked together in Asuncion. In total, medical teams conducted free physical examinations for 232 children and young adults and provided surgery to 117 patients suffering with cleft lips, cleft palates and other facial deformities.

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About Operation Smile (www.operationsmile.org)

Founded in 1982, Operation Smile, headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia, is a worldwide children's medical charity whose network of global volunteers are dedicated to helping improve the health and lives of children and young adults. Since its founding, Operation Smile volunteers have treated more than 115,000 children born with cleft lips, cleft palates and other facial deformities. In addition to contributing free medical treatment, Operation Smile trains local medical professionals in its 26 partner countries and leaves behind crucial equipment to lay the groundwork for long-term self-sufficiency.

Media Notes: To receive images or additional information, or to request an interview with an Operation Smile spokesperson, please contact Lisa Jones at ljones@operationsmile.org or 757-321-3252.

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