

SMILE TRAIN CANADA FOUNDATION ANNUAL REPORT

2025





MESSAGE FROM LEADERSHIP

As Director of Development, I am proud to reflect on an extraordinary year filled with impact, innovation, and momentum. Thanks to your unwavering support, fiscal year 2025 (1 July 2024 - 30 June 2025) was a milestone year for our organization – and for the children and families we serve.

In October 2024, on World Smile Day, we joined Smile Train's global family in **setting a Guinness World Record for the most landmarks illuminated in 24 hours** – 64 in total, including the **CN Tower, Peace Bridge, and Calgary Tower**. This vibrant display of unity, hope, and awareness was a fitting tribute to Smile Train's 25th anniversary and a joyful reminder of what we can achieve together.

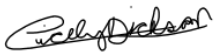
Building on that momentum and throughout FY 2025, Smile Train Canada Foundation focused on **re-engaging individual, corporate, and foundation partners** – and we're proud to say that our community answered the call. Whether through generous gifts, ambassadorship, or volunteerism, your contributions have been vital to our work and impact. Together, we are ensuring that more families have access to the care and support they deserve, no matter where they live.

To our supporters: **thank you**. You make our work possible. Your commitment fuels every life we help change and every future we help shape.

Looking ahead, our goals remain ambitious: to increase fundraising, grow awareness, and reach even more children with the care they deserve. With your continued partnership, we are confident that we can achieve even greater impact in the year ahead.

Thank you for helping us change the world one smile at a time.

Warmly,



Cicely Dickson
Director of Development





MESSAGE FROM SMILE TRAIN'S GLOBAL PRESIDENT & CEO

Fiscal year 2025 was another remarkable year for Smile Train and our global family of partners, supporters, and patients.

Following the celebration of our 25th anniversary and the milestone of our two-millionth Smile Train-supported surgery, we continued to expand our reach and strengthen our model of locally led cleft care around the world.

This year, Smile Train-supported programs helped children and families around the world access free, safe, high-quality cleft care in their own communities — care that not only transforms lives, but helps build stronger, more sustainable health systems. During our 2025 fiscal year alone, Smile Train supported more than 98,000 life-changing cleft surgeries globally.

Smile Train Canada Foundation's role in this global effort has driven meaningful impact and continues to grow. Through the generosity of Canadian donors, the Canada Foundation has made a life-changing difference for hundreds of children and families throughout India. Each smile made possible is a testament to the power of partnership and the compassion of our global community.

Thank you for being part of this extraordinary movement.

With gratitude,

Susannah Schaefer
President & CEO, Smile Train



The background features a repeating pattern of stylized faces in various shades of blue. Each face is composed of a circle with a simple curved line for a smile. The faces are arranged in a grid-like pattern, with some overlapping. The overall aesthetic is clean and modern.

OUR VISION

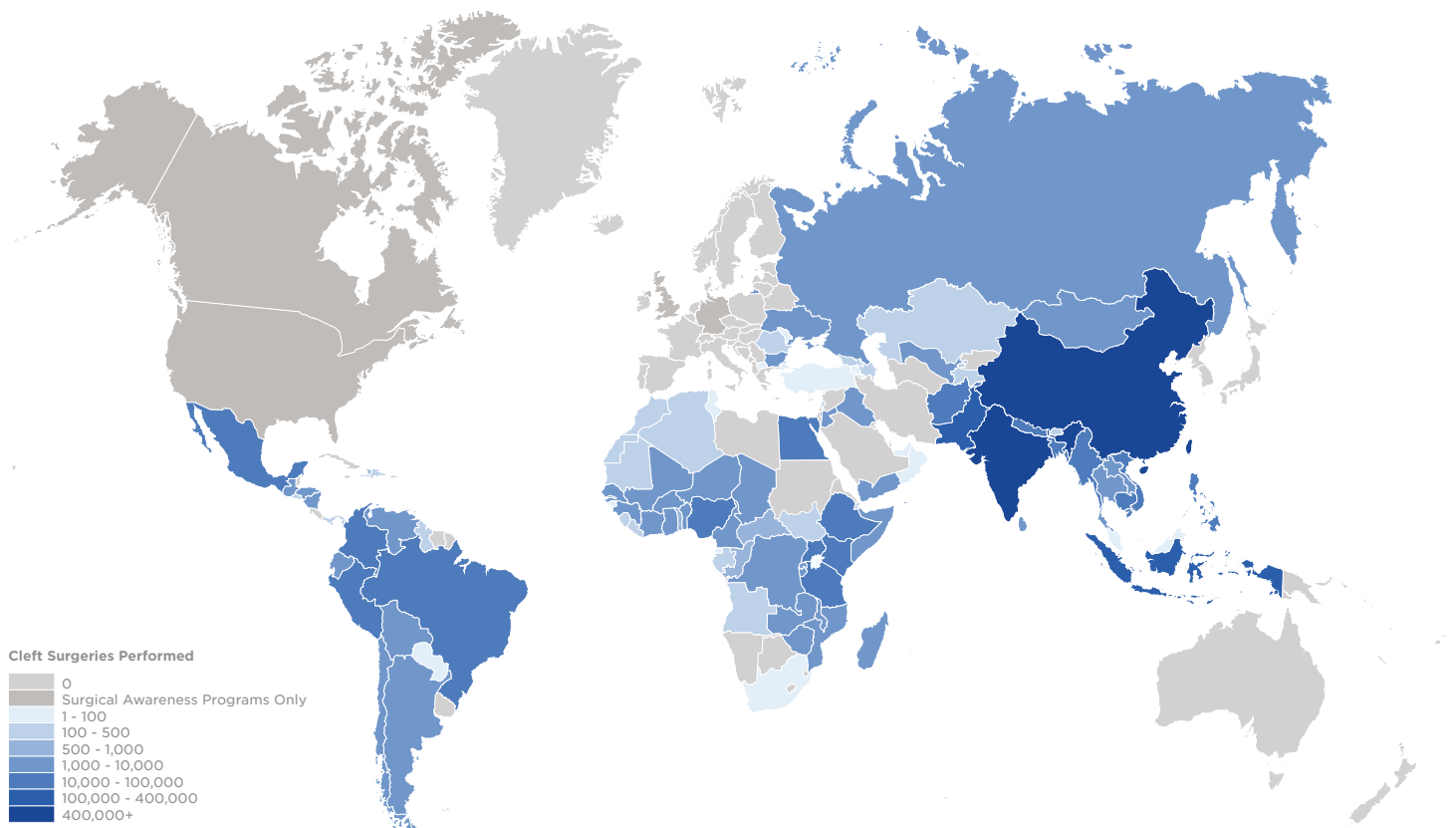
A world where everyone has access to safe, high-quality comprehensive cleft care and is able to live a full and healthy life.

ABOUT SMILE TRAIN

Smile Train is the world's largest cleft-focused charity, empowering local medical professionals to provide free, high-quality cleft care in their own communities.

- **The Problem:** Millions of children around the world live with untreated cleft lips and palates, often facing difficulties eating, breathing, hearing, and speaking.
- **Our Solution:** Through our sustainable “teach a person to fish” model, we train and support local cleft care practitioners—building strong, self-sufficient health systems that can serve communities today and for generations to come.
- **Our Impact:** Over 25 years, Smile Train has supported more than **two million life-changing cleft surgeries** across **95+ countries**, making it the largest and most impactful cleft organization in the world.

[Learn more about our model](#)



ABOUT SMILE TRAIN CANADA FOUNDATION

Smile Train Canada Foundation is a registered Canadian charity dedicated to supporting Smile Train's global vision through fundraising, education, and partnership. As one of Smile Train's eight national affiliate organizations worldwide, our team exists to fundraise for Smile Train's highest priorities.

Currently, Smile Train Canada Foundation's support focuses on **India** — home to one of the largest cleft-affected populations in the world. Through donor generosity, Smile Train Canada Foundation funds free cleft surgeries performed by local medical professionals at hospitals across India, transforming lives and strengthening healthcare systems in the process.

Why India?

In India, more than **33,000 babies** are born with a cleft every year. While cleft surgery is safe, effective, and transformative, access to it can be limited by cost, geography, or awareness.

Since its founding in 2000, Smile Train India has enabled over **750,000 surgeries** through a network of more than **200 local surgeons at over 130 partner hospitals**. Yet the need remains urgent — with an estimated backlog of **one million people** still living with untreated clefts nationwide.

OUR WORK IN INDIA





OUR IMPACT IN FY2025

In fiscal year 2025, Smile Train Canada Foundation supported **179 patients** with **394 critical cleft care interventions** — primarily medical treatments, but also logistics support for patients who could not have afforded the cost of transportation to travel for treatment.

Smile Train’s impact extends far beyond the patients and surgeries we support. In addition to helping children with life-changing, and sometimes life-saving treatments, their families and communities also benefited significantly. Our work not only improves the health of entire communities by building lasting medical infrastructure and expertise, but it also meaningfully uplifts economies around the world.

A 2024 study found that since the organization’s founding in 1999, Smile Train’s global surgical program has boosted economies worldwide by a staggering \$69 billion USD by removing barriers to gainful employment and education that often confront people with untreated clefts. The study found an average lifetime return of \$60,000 USD to the economy for each \$400 USD surgery — a 150x return on investment.

In India alone, Smile Train’s work has contributed **\$16 billion USD** to the economy.

[Dive Deeper: Read Smile Train India’s Quality of Life and Impact Report](#)

Of course, behind every number is a story — of a child whose life has been transformed, a parent’s renewed hope, and a stronger, healthier community.



TRANSFORMING LIVES: STORIES FROM INDIA

Pravallika: Growing Up with Confidence

When baby Pravallika was born with a cleft, her parents feared for her future. Feeding was difficult, and surgery was far beyond their means — until they were connected to a Smile Train partner hospital in Hyderabad through a referral.

The family learned that at **Basavatarakam Indo American Cancer Hospital and Research Institute**, Pravallika could receive the surgery she needed at no cost. For parents who had worried about how they would manage her care, access to treatment through a trained local medical team brought both relief and a clear path forward.

Thanks to donor support, Pravallika received free surgery that transformed her life. Her father remembers seeing the result for the first time: “I couldn’t believe my eyes when I saw her after the surgery.”

Today, she’s a confident primary school student who loves to dance and act. Her bright smile is a daily reminder of what compassionate care and global partnership can make possible, and how connecting families to safe and timely cleft treatment can change the trajectory of a child’s entire life.

Pravallika’s story represents one of thousands — each unique, yet united by a shared journey from fear to hope, and from stigma to strength.

[Read Pravallika’s full story](#)





PARTNER SPOTLIGHT: SISTER SHOBA LONAPPAN

None of our patients' inspiring stories of transformation would be possible without Smile Train's global network of local partners who enable safe, high-quality, and timely cleft care in their own communities all around the world.

At that very same hospital where Rayan's life was transformed, one of Smile Train's longest-serving and most beloved partner cleft professionals continues to change lives every day.

For 18 years, **Sister Shoba** has been the heart of the cleft ward at **Jubilee Mission Medical College Hospital**. An orphan who dedicated her life to helping others, she has guided more than **10,000 children** through surgery and recovery with compassion and grace.

In 2024, she was honoured at Smile Train's 25th Anniversary Gala with the **"Teach a Woman to Fish" Award** for her extraordinary contributions to cleft care — a fitting recognition of her decades of service and the ripple effect of her kindness.

Together, stories like Rayan's and Sister Shoba's show the strength of Smile Train's model: local professionals leading local change, with lasting results.

[Watch Sister Shoba's story](#)

FROM DOLLAR TO DEED: HOW YOUR DONATIONS CHANGE LIVES

Our local medical partners deliver the cleft care that is changing lives and communities every day. But it is the generosity of our donors that fuels this urgent work and makes our impact possible.

Supporting our work is a long-term investment in transformative care that lasts a lifetime and healthier, stronger communities that are empowered to care for themselves for generations. Our model is built on partnership, efficiency, and sustainability. Rather than flying foreign doctors around the world for temporary medical mission trips, we invest in training and provide resources to build lasting expertise and infrastructure where our patients live. This approach makes us one of the most cost-effective philanthropic investments in global health.

There are many ways to support our work and help us deliver life-changing impact at scale to ensure that no child with a cleft goes without safe, high-quality, timely care.

Join the Smiles for Life Society

Making a planned gift is a powerful way to create a legacy of smiles that will last for generations to come. By joining our Smiles for Life Society, you'll help ensure that every child, everywhere, has access to safe, high-quality cleft care.

To discuss your philanthropic goals, contact us at info@smiletraincanada.org

Donor Testimonials



I was born in Hamilton, Ontario, with a cleft lip. My Dad loves to tell a story of being in the hallways of McMaster Hospital with me, awaiting the birth of my little sister. I saw a young couple crying because their baby was also born with a cleft lip. At the young age of 4, I said with a big smile: 'Oh, don't worry! They will fix your baby up, just like they fixed my lip, see!' I always 'give' and 'receive' a donation surgery as a Christmas gift. When I read the story sent out about Sanga and Pravallika, I knew I had to donate in honour of my dad. Then the website recommended making monthly donations, and I'm often unsure of what to get him for his birthday or Christmas, so the monthly option felt perfect.

— **Kelly Pearce, Hamilton, Ontario**

I came across Smile Train quite by accident a number of years ago. My partner and I decided to give each other a "smile" for Christmas... and so that's what we did. I had forgotten about the donation until we received a letter with a photo of a little girl we'd been able to help, a description of where the surgery took place, and the doctor who had completed it. It made us cry. We have made several more donations over the years and convinced others to do the same. I also convinced my law firm to do corporate donations every year... I can honestly say that, over years of donating, this organization has had some of the greatest emotional impact on us. Kudos to everyone involved.

— **Kathleen Urdahl, Courtenay, British Columbia**





CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

A lifetime of health, confidence, and opportunity is the right of every child. Corporations across industries are helping Smile Train Canada Foundation make this a reality. Below we are thrilled to highlight one of them.

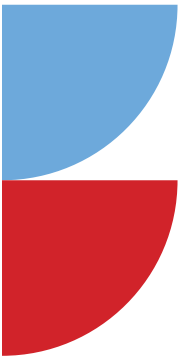
Partner Spotlight: Magna International

Thank you to our partners, including Magna International, whose generosity funded care for children like **Anushika,** age 9, in Kerala.

When Anushika was born with a cleft lip and palate, her parents were heartbroken. Her mother left her job to focus on her daughter's treatment, and with support from family, they managed the challenges.

The pediatrician recommended Jubilee Mission Hospital, where they learned that Smile Train would cover all treatment costs, bringing immense relief.

After surgery, Anushika could eat, breathe, and speak more easily. Her confidence soared as she joyfully interacted with other children, and her family, friends, and neighbours celebrated her newfound happiness.



We are grateful to Smile Train, as well as the donors, for being generous and providing this opportunity to fulfil our dreams — Anushika's Parents

Partner with Smile Train Canada Foundation

Smile Train corporate partners bring a breadth of business experience to the table: they are leaders in healthcare, makers of your favorite food and beverage brands, national retail giants, and civically minded local businesses. As a like-minded group of entrepreneurs, CEOs, and marketers, we are working together under one guiding principle: the first step toward achieving a happy and healthy life for every child begins with a smile. If your company believes in our bold vision that a better tomorrow is possible for every child born with a cleft, please join us!

[Learn how your company can partner with us](#)

SMILE TRAIN CANADA FOUNDATION
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION (UNAUDITED)
AS OF JUNE 30, 2025 (IN CANADIAN DOLLARS)

ASSETS

Cash	\$	16,371
Due from Smile Train Inc.		5,435
Prepaid Expenses		3,099
Total Assets	\$	24,905

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

Liabilities

Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	\$	10,034
Total Liabilities	\$	10,034

Net Assets:

Beginning Net Assets	\$	2,113
Changes in Net Assets		12,758
Ending Net Assets		14,871
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$	24,905

SMILE TRAIN CANADA FOUNDATION

STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS (UNAUDITED) FOR THE YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 2025 (IN CANADIAN DOLLARS)

Operating Revenue

Contributions and Other	\$ 181,192
Grants from Smile Train, Inc.	182,703
Total Operating Revenue	\$ 363,895

Operating Expenses

Surgery and Patient Logistics - Smile Train India	173,318
Marketing & Advertising	3,708
Compensation and Benefits	125,454
Professional Fees	37,045
Office Expenses	8,791
Travel, Food and Other	2,821
Total Operating Expenses	351, 137

Excess of Revenues over Expenses	\$ 12,758
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My job actually nourishes my soul. I consider myself extremely fortunate to work for Smile Train. The work we do, and the manner in which we do it, changes the lives of not just patients, but entire families and communities! The net value we add to people, the sheer joy and exuberance they experience after treatment, are deeply emotional and very intrinsically meaningful aspects of my work.

– Mamta Carroll,
Senior Vice President & Regional Director, Asia

