2020

ANNUAL REPORT

ConnectMed INTERNATIONAL

TOGETHER WE TRANSFORM LIVES

LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDING MEMBERS

Dear ConnectMed family:

The COVID-19 pandemic brought with it so many lessons and challenges:

- It reminded us about the importance of **equitable access to healthcare** and the risks of failing to ensure everyone has the same access to testing, treatment, etc. This lesson reinforced CMI's mission to improve access to sustainable healthcare - whether that means access to a complex surgery allowing someone to go to school because she can breathe or speak better, or mental health services that improve self-esteem and quality of life.
- It reinforced the value of **telemedicine in breaking down barriers to access**, which we have recognized since our inception when we began using telemedicine to follow-up with patients in Mexico and Guatemala, as well as for educational purposes.
- It forced humanity to become **adaptable**, from distance learning to mask-wearing. As an organization, we feel beyond fortunate that we were able to adapt almost all of our programming online. **However, this adaptability would not have been possible without volunteers, partners, and ongoing financial support, and we thank you with all of our hearts for this gift.**

Sincerely,
Dr. Amanda Gosman, MD (CMI President) and Rita Abbati Albert (CMI Executive Director)

PATIENT SUPPORT DURING COVID-19

We miss travelling to see our patients, but know they are in wonderful and very capable local hands with our partner specialists in Tijuana and Ensenada. We also:

- Provided PPE & masks to Tijuana hospitals
- Joined a surgical outreach day in Ensenada in October for 8 patients with a small team from San Diego & Mexico
- Held a toy drive, delivering over 45 toys to patients in Tijuana, Mexico
- Sponsored the AMLPHAC conference, which provides training for surgeons and related specialists in Mexico to provide best possible team care for treatment of craniofacial conditions. (And congrats to CMI Vice-President Dr. Alicia Sigler, the incoming President of the AMLPHAC)

"*The patients and their families are so grateful for the Christmas gifts...things they would have never gotten on their own. They have had such a tough year, many not knowing how to protect themselves or how to get their medical care during this pandemic. The surprise gifts made them so happy.*" (Dr. Alicia Sigler, surgeon in Tijuana and CMI Vice-President)

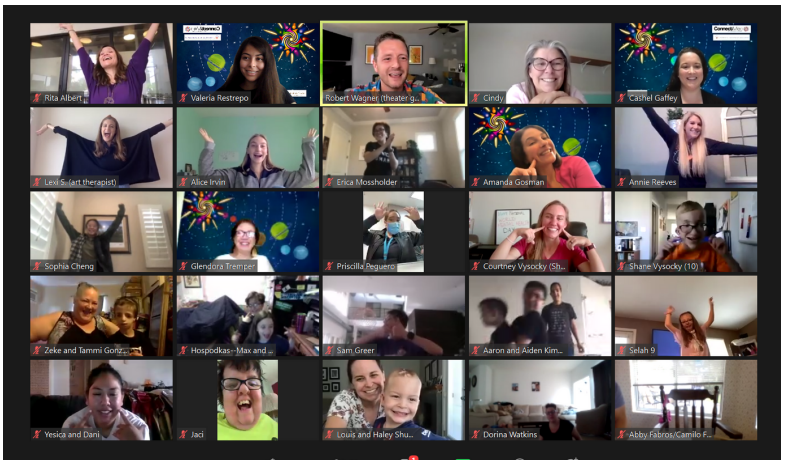
OUR IMPACT 2020

ConnectMed INTERNATIONAL

VIRTUAL CAMP COSMOS PROGRAMS

Providing positive, reaffirming experiences and a multidisciplinary network of support for the craniofacial community and others with physical differences

2020 forced CMI to bring Camp Cosmos programs online. Not only did registration increase, but the majority of families preferred the virtual format over in-person gatherings, possibly because it eliminated transportation and other logistical hurdles. Families also reported feeling that there were more opportunities for connection and more comfort discussing difficult issues or sharing personal experiences through the safety of a screen.



"...as a parent, it's always really nice to connect with others, caretakers, and the medical teams for these kids, and talk about issues, especially going through the pandemic and not being able to get support in the normal ways we're used to. It's been a really welcomed resource and we're really grateful for the ability to attend the Camp Cosmos events."

- 2 DAY CAMPS
- 3 FAMILY MEET-UPS
- ACTIVITY KITS SENT TO ALL 281 REGISTRANTS
- ONGOING RESEARCH ASSESSING IMPACT OF VIRTUAL PROGRAMS

INTERNATIONAL FELLOWSHIP 2020-2021

A research project-based fellowship with opportunities for hands-on clinical training for surgeons native to and practicing in resource-limited communities

Our 2020 Fellow from Ethiopia, Dr. Bereket Atnafu, was unfazed by the switch to virtual-ONLY educational conferences, research support, and mentorship, made possible by plastic surgeon Dr. Ed Reece, resident Dr. Jordan Kaplan, and others at Baylor College of Medicine.

"The Fellowship...really gave me a chance to network with..the hand conference team at Baylor and access interesting lectures and talks by big name surgeons." (Dr. Atnafu)

FROM LATE SEPTEMBER - DECEMBER 2020:

- 25-30 HOURS OF VIRTUAL TRAINING & EDUCATIONAL CONFERENCES
- 40 HOURS OF SUPPORT ON HAND & FINGER RECONSTRUCTION RESEARCH

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life from what we give"

WINSTON CHURCHILL

ConnectMed INTERNATIONAL

DONORS

Gold ($1000-$4999)

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Executive Director & Legal Counsel
Rita Abbati Albert, JD

BUDGET

Statement of Financial Position - as of January 2021

REVENUE

Contributions, grants & gifts (including in-kind): $84,288.35
Fundraisers: $94,093.18
Total Revenue: $178,381.53

EXPENSES

Program Expenses: $101,315.06 (62%)
Fundraising Expenses: $33,774.73 (21%)
Administrative Expenses: $28,809.63 (17%)
Total Expenses: $163,899.42

Net Operating Revenue: $14,482.11

ConnectMed files a Form 990 with the Internal Revenue Service each year in compliance with 501(c)(3) public charity status. Our tax id number is 27-0804773
The 13 members of the ConnectMed Board are comprised of medical and business leaders who ensure efficient and effective use of funds donated and assets for the hjghest level of charitable purpose.

PROFESSIONAL & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

WHAT WE ARE UP TO IN 2021

- February 13, 2021 Family Meet-Up with 48 registered families focusing on self-love
- Upcoming April 17, 2021 Family Meet Up celebrating spring & Mother Earth
- Launched monthly blog on ConnectMed.org
- Joined the Face Equality International Coalition
- Partnership with La Jolla, CA restaurants Dough Momma Pizzeria, Shore Rider and Cove House
- Design Your Own Pizza contest and *fun*raiser with Dough Momma Pizzera
- Sponorship of UCSD Plastic Surgery's Diversity, Equity, Inclusivity Workshop
- Launched Smile 4 Kids Campaign: raising awareness, promoting tolerance, and supporting the needs of kids with craniofacial and other physical differences. Each month features a different cause to champion and support!

March: in honor of National Doctors' Day (March 30) and Patient Safety Awareness Week (March 14-19), our Smile 4 Kids cause is #OperatingWithCare: raising awareness and funds to support our partner surgeons and other specialists providing charitable care around the world for low-income children.

We are also thrilled to launch our first in a series of 2021 logowear: #OperatingWithCare masks and lanyards. Make a donation of at least $30 and we will mail you a mask & lanyard combo! You can choose to make your gift in the name of a special doctor who is a Healthcare Hero to your child or family. Tell us why he/she means something special in the donation form, and we will also send him/her an acknowledgement and a mask with lanyard!

LEARN MORE AND DONATE AT WWW.CONNECTMED.ORG

*And stay tuned for more information about upcoming programs, as well as an in-person golf tournament **and** a virtual game night both scheduled for the fall!*

ConnectMed INTERNATIONAL

www.connectmed.org

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