

2021-2022 Annual Report



Who are we?

Thanks to your support, Children First Foundation facilitates life-changing and life-saving surgery for disadvantaged children from developing countries.

A year in review

Following the end of the Victorian lockdowns and restrictions on hospitals this financial year, our courageous spirit and results have grown, as you can see in these outcomes.

Strengthened vision

Children First remains dedicated to children from developing countries who cannot access the medical care they desperately need. Collaboration with exceptional Australian surgeons, health professionals and hospitals enables these children to access world-class surgical and medical care. We continue to do this in Australia and, expanding from last year's work, on occasion overseas. Children treated in Australia are cared for pre and post-surgery at our 'home-away-from-home' Retreat in Kilmore, Victoria. 24/7 holistic care is provided by a team of skilled and dedicated staff and volunteers to maximise the results of each surgery. This year we also started the Back Home Support Program to provide key education, welfare and additional medical support when children return home. This enables you, through Children First, to help children return home happy, healthy and with a brighter future ahead of them!

Thank you

We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to you.

We cannot thank you enough for your continued compassionate support.

You have changed lives; you have saved lives.

Thank you.

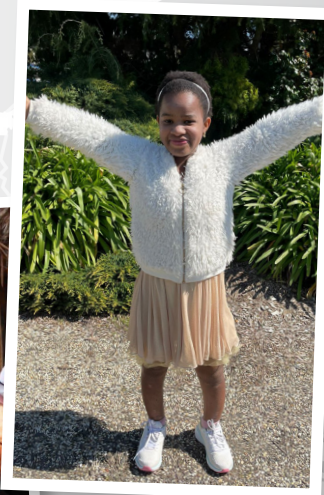
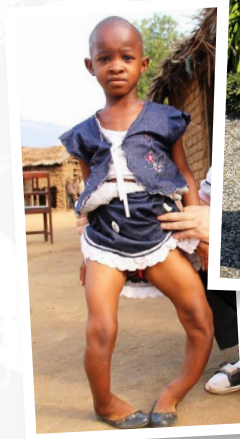


Roger Langley
Chair



Jessica Redwood
CEO

*Christina,
before & after
surgery*



Zambia:

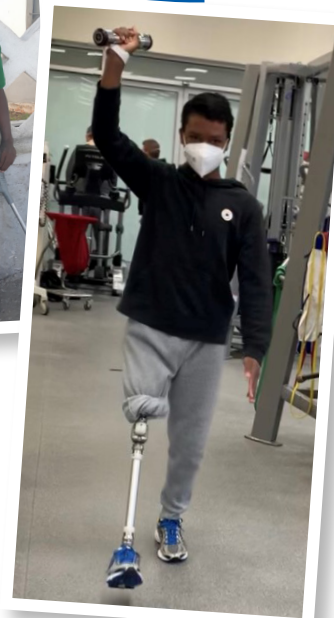
Santy*
Tricia†
Pauline†
Ireen†
Evance†
Charles†
Donald†

Tanzania: Christina▶

Madagascar: Xavier▶



*Xavier,
before & after
surgery*



Your impact

Sonia, after surgery

(Photo credit:
Mark Stewart)



Thanh, after surgery

Fatima, pre-surgery



Vietnam:

Ngoc Huong*
Thanh*
Van Phuc*
An Khan*
Ngoc Ha▶
Trang▶
Lu Xuan‡
A Khau‡
A Sam‡

Philippines:

Monalisa▶

PNG:

Bethany*
Delma*
Ilona▶
Sonia▶
Konny‡
Lindita‡

Coming soon: An exciting capacity-building initiative to address the underlying barriers of access to medical care!

Solomon Islands:

James‡

Vanuatu:

Kylie▶
Garisha‡
MadIn‡

West

Papua:
Natalia‡

Timor:

Remario‡

Timor-Leste:

Zenilda▶
Fatima▶

- ▶ Children treated in Australia
- * Children treated overseas
- ‡ Children being assessed for upcoming treatment

Elo. Ha'u nia naran Zenilda. [Hello. My name is Zenilda.]

I am 12 years old, and I live my family in Bebonuk, which is in Timor Leste. I live with my mother and father and my three brothers and sisters. I am the second oldest child. When I learnt I was coming to Australia I feel excited and afraid too. I watched on YouTube about spinal surgery, and it was very complicated. But I know as long as I suffer from this disease, I will feel not happy so I will be brave.

About one year ago I stopped going to school. I feel not happy because I can't go to school and can't do activities that I want to. It's difficult because even when I just put my head down, I feel bad back pain.

I hope after the surgery I [will have a] normal life like other people. I want to get better so that I can go back to school. My favourite thing to study is mathematics and not my favourite is science. If I could continue my study, I would like to study education because I want to be a teacher like my mother.

I thank you for help to bring me to Australia to have treatment, I thank you to all your support and I really appreciated for that.

Obrigada barak [Thank you very much]

Zenilda



Thank you

It takes a village to transform a child's life. We are fortunate to have a dedicated community who generously give their time, expertise and support. Children First Foundation acknowledges you - our extraordinary individual and family, private and philanthropic, community and corporate supporters. Thank you for making possible what sometimes seemed impossible for the children we work with.

To our incredible team of medical and allied health professionals and hospitals; we cannot thank you enough for your commitment to the children. Special thanks to St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne, Epworth Healthcare, Cabrini Health, Mulgrave Private Hospital, St John of God Hospital Berwick and The Children's Hospital Westmead for your support during this reporting period.

We also need to express our immense gratitude to the following valued organisations who have continued their generous support of Children First in the last year: Rotary, our founding partner, Perpetual Trustees, Scobie and Claire Mackinnon Trust, Equity Trustees, the Bernie and Gerry Lamers Foundation, Smorgan Families Foundation, Kiwanis clubs, Bendigo Bank and the Myer Foundation. Thank you to this year's pro bono partners GDJ, Kingston Reid, Ashurst, Holloway Diamonds, Signature Flooring and Second bite.

Finally, we want to acknowledge our dedicated, passionate, and dynamic team of staff, volunteers, Board members, Patrons and supporters. They face every challenge with enthusiasm and a dedication to ensuring the children we care for remain central. Thanks to Elizabeth Lodge for her leadership during the start of this period and for handing over the CEO 'reins' to Jessica Redwood for the next stage of Children First's growth.

With the continued support of our wonderful Children First Foundation family, we look forward to strengthening our work and ensuring more children can access essential medical and surgical care, regardless of where they were born.



Equity Trustees



Kiwanis



ORGANISATIONAL
MEMBER
CODE COMPLIANT

Children First Foundation

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