

The CT Women's Journal
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GFWC and Operation Smile International

Operation Smile International (OSI) and its partnership with the General Federation of Women's Clubs have given children throughout the world new smiles/new lives since 1988. Member clubs throughout the United States, including GFWC/CT, raise funds and donate support to Operation Smile. Clubs sew/prepare Smile Bags+which include Smile+dolls, children's hospital gowns, blankets/quilts, and No-No Armbands+for the children undergoing surgery. These No-No Armbands+used with tongue depressors for support help prevent the child from touching the operation site. Personal items including toothpaste, combs, and small mirrors are collected/supplied/placed in each Smile Bag+

In 1982, Dr. William P. Magee, Jr., plastic surgeon, his wife Kathleen, nurse/clinical social worker traveled to the Philippines with a group of medical volunteers. Their mission was to repair children's cleft lips and palates. They discovered hundreds of children ravaged by deformities. Although they helped many, volunteers were forced to turn away the majority of those who sought help. Operation Smile was born!

At OSI, medical volunteers provide safe, effective, free cleft lip/palate repair surgery for children born all over the world in 51 partner countries and the United States. An international medical humanitarian organization dedicated to raising awareness of this life-threatening issue and providing lasting solutions that will allow children to be healed, regardless of financial standing, well into the future. OSI's free surgeries and medical missions are made possible by thousands of volunteers and donors throughout the world, who generously contribute time, talent and resources to this cause.

GFWC and GFWC/CT are proud of our partnership with OSI. Interested in helping out? Send your 501-c-3 tax deductible donation, check payable to GFWC/CT: to GFWC/CT Treasurer, c/o Khona, 20 Topaz Lane, Trumbull, CT. 06611, indicate Operation Smile on menu line. Visit our websites: www.gfwc.org and www.gfwcct.org.

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