

Medical Services

Cleft Exchange Update: August 2018

It has been nine months since the 2017 Cleft Exchange in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. During that busy week in October, 18 children had cleft-related surgeries and another six had other minor procedures.

Although our Cambodian staff worked diligently to track down updates on the children, we were only able to get in contact with a few of the families. We knew the task would be difficult, as many families don't have access to telephones.



(Above) Avery before surgery (Below) Avery and her sister now

Avery

Avery was one of the first babies to have surgery during the Exchange. Now 17 months old, beautiful Avery has recovered nicely from her lip repair. She isn't experiencing any pain near her incision and is eating solid foods easily. Avery is even starting to talk. Her parents recently moved to Thailand for work.





Richard

Handsome Richard is now 17 years old. He is quite happy with his lip repair and said that his friends don't make fun of him anymore.

(Below) Richard before surgery (Right) Richard now





Willow

You may remember sweet little Willow, and her emotional mother who was in tears when it was time to send her baby back into surgery. Willow is now 14 months old and as cute as can be. She is growing healthy and strong and eating solids like a big girl!

(Left) Willow before surgery (Below) Willow now







Sue

Baby Sue recently celebrated her first birthday. She has become a social and happy little girl, who is quick to smile. Sue continues to eat well and can say "MaMa." Doesn't Sue look pretty in her yellow dress?

(Right) Sue before surgery (Below) Sue now







Ben

Sue's big brother Ben is now ten years old and doing well. His lip has healed nicely from his revision and he is growing into a more confident young man. We enjoyed our time with Ben and Sue's family during the Exchange. They are loving and kind a great support system to help these two succeed.



(Left) Ben before surgery (Right) Ben now





Serena

Sixteen-year-old Serena had a cleft lip revision in October. She is a good student in 8th grade and works hard at her studies. Her parents say they are very happy with their daughter's repair.

(Left) Serena now (Below) Serena before surgery



Thank you so much for partnering with us to make the 2018 Cambodia Cleft Exchange a success for these children and so many more. Each child's story and situation is different, but the thankfulness expressed by each family is significant. You helped make this important medical care possible and made a way for more confident smiles.

The next Love Without Boundaries Cleft Exchange will take place in Lanzhou, China in November. We expect many children from rural Gansu and neighboring provinces to finally have a chance at cleft lip and palate repairs. Look for more information on our website this fall.

Gratefully yours,

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