SIGN Mission

To give the injured poor in developing countries access to effective orthopaedic care by providing surgeons in low-resource hospitals with relevant orthopaedic education and implants.
SIGN approved the use of SIGN Implants in ankle fusion surgery, expanding the use of our products.

In August SIGN completed an inspection showing that we meet regulations for corrective and preventative action, design controls, and medical device reporting. This report demonstrates that SIGN has the proper systems in place to ensure that every implant, screw, and instrument meets our high standards.

In the spring, Dr. Zirkle and Jeanne visited SIGN Programs in Ethiopia and Tanzania, providing individual training, holding a regional SIGN Conference, and distributing headlamps donated by Leatherman Tools so surgeons can perform surgery even when the power cuts out.

SIGN goes where people need healing the most, even into the world’s most challenging situations. In Iraq, SIGN partnered with US Army surgeons and Iraqi doctors to treat civilians injured in Mosul. In Myanmar, SIGN Surgeons started a new program in Rakhine State — the epicenter of the refugee crisis. See photo below.

Photojournalist Chuck Bigger visited refugee camps in Bangladesh where Rohingya (Bengali) refugees have settled. A local hospital is providing SIGN Surgery to heal people injured as they fled violence in Myanmar.
In September SIGN Surgeon Dr. Jun Valera, from the Philippines, performed the 200,000th SIGN Surgery, stabilizing Ysmael’s fractured femur. Ysmael was walking six weeks later!

We Walk the World was published, detailing Dr. Zirkle’s journey to create SIGN and how the organization has grown to meet the needs of patients in developing countries.

SIGN hosted a public Open House and an event for Kiwanis members attending the PNW District Convention.

Photojournalist Chuck Bigger visited SIGN Programs in Cambodia and documented how Dr. Bunn is responsible for spreading SIGN to 15 hospitals and treating more than 14,000 patients since 2004.

The 2017 SIGN International Orthopaedic Conference hosted 127 SIGN Surgeons in Richland, WA. For the first time, the conference hosted a cadaver lab from STI Mobile, giving attendees hands-on practice in specific procedures.

Jason, 6, was the first patient treated with SIGN Surgery at Velez Paiz Hospital, a new SIGN Program in Nicaragua.

Healing Patients

Our Steel has Healed 200,000+ patients globally
10 Programs reporting the most SIGN Surgeries in 2017

768 Cambodia: Kossamak Hospital
626 Pakistan: Gilani Hospital Complex
599 Tanzania: Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute
572 Pakistan: Ghurki Trust Teaching Hospital
462 Ethiopia: Soddo Christian Hospital
419 Tanzania: Dodoma Regional Referral Hospital
389 Myanmar: Yangon General Hospital
389 Ethiopia: St. Paul Hospital
345 Cambodia: Friendship Khmer Russian Hospital
296 Kenya: Tenwek Hospital

SIGN Programs
89% of expenses directly supported SIGN Programs.

SIGN Officers & Board of Directors

Lewis G. Zirkle, MD
President & Founder, Chairman of the Board

Jeanne Dillner, CEO, Secretary/Treasurer

Teresa Ford

Richard Gellman, MD

Randall Huebner

Stephen Schwartz

Carla Smith, MD, PhD

John Staeheli, MD

David Whitney, MD

Thomas Vasileff, MD

Patrick Yoon, MD

SIGN Financial Info

Note: Audited Financial Info

2017 TOTAL REVENUE
$5,169,074

Program Services
$5,709,241

Management & General Development
337,416
381,212

TOTAL EXPENSES
$6,427,869

ENDING NET ASSETS
$11,453,813