2017 Achievements

27 New Programs

1,153 Children healed with SIGN Surgery

27,314 Patients healed

Four-year-old Evans broke his leg climbing a tree. Six weeks after surgery he is mobile, pain free, and ready to climb that tree!
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.

In August SIGN completed an FDA inspection with no findings, 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.

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!

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.

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.

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.

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

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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
A SIGN of Love: Your Gift Will be Doubled!
From February 1 to 14 your gifts will be matched!

Save the Dates
September 12-15
2018 SIGN
INTERNATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC CONFERENCE
Richland, WA

WINE & DINE for SIGN
September 21
Portland, OR
Portland Art Museum
September 29
Tri-Cities, WA
Three Rivers Convention Center

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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