



creating smiles

in this edition: student volunteers learn about the essential role of biomedical technicians in Operation Smile surgical missions

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Operation  Smile

OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

GLOBAL SMILE NEWS

brought to you by Operation Smile's
Global Leadership Council of
university student volunteers



Matilda, Ghana

[Click on his photo to read his story.](#)

Students on Programs

Community Outreach

Fundraisers

Global Calendar

We want to feature your work!

Thank you so much to all the student leaders who have submitted highlights of your events! If you would like to be featured, we want to hear from you: submit your event descriptions through this [Google Form](#).

About the GLC

The Global Leadership Council (GLC) helps clubs worldwide succeed in their goals by providing advice and tools to support students in their fundraising endeavors. We are all students with experience running events and are here to help you manage any struggles that come your way.

14 Students

attended programs in these countries



Student Testimonials

Majo in Morocco: Love Without Words

In October, Operation Smile conducted an international program in Casablanca, Morocco, marking an important milestone in Majo's journey with the organization.

"When my coordinator called to tell me I had been selected, I was speechless," Majo said. "Being part of Operation Smile since 2020, going on an international mission was a dream I had worked toward for years."

Each day in Morocco began early and ended late, filled with meaningful work and connection. "Our days started with team meetings before heading to the care centers," Majo said.

"We focused on educating families about dental hygiene, self-care, and burn prevention, while also spending time playing with the children."

Traveling alongside her mentors made the experience especially meaningful.

"Having my global and European coordinators there gave me a sense of security and inspiration," Majo said. "Seeing their leadership in action taught me so much."

Majo emphasized the importance of the pre-departure training, which helped prepare the team for cultural and logistical challenges.

"No amount of training can fully prepare you for the real connection," Majo said.

"The biggest surprise was realizing how powerful non-verbal communication can be."



During the program, Majo learned about the history and impact of Operation Smile in Morocco. Connecting with the cleft community outside of Bolivia for the first time offered a new perspective.

"Despite different cultures, I realized they all share the same strength and hope," Majo said. "These families are incredibly brave."

One moment from the trip stood out in particular. While spending time with children at the Operation Smile care center in El Jadida, a young girl approached Majo before leaving.

"She looked at me and said, 'I love you,'" Majo said. "That moment showed me how deeply you can impact someone's life in just minutes."

"Every contribution matters," Majo said. "Whether local or international, each action creates a ripple effect."

The program also fostered personal growth. Majo returned home with a renewed sense of purpose and conviction.

"When you lead with love, you truly have the ability to make the world a better place." Said Majo.

Community Outreach

Meet: Mafi Fernández from Club Universitario OS, Spain

First ever in person OS meeting!!

Our first-ever in-person OP Smile gathering on November 22nd at my residence's projection room was an energizing and unforgettable milestone! Nearly 20 newly inspired volunteers came together—representing three universities and a mix of diverse career paths—all excited to begin their journey as Operation Smile advocates. The event kicked off with OS 101, followed by an inspiring introduction from our Spanish Board of Directors, who highlighted the incredible opportunities available through volunteering, from ISLC to the brand-new OS Europe design challenge. Most importantly, we connected, shared stories, and built a vibrant community.

You can learn more about how you can get involved in this activity by contacting Mafi at mafifernandez1@gmail.com



Meet: Kerry Nanyanga Mwita from Operation Smile Kenya!

First Cleft Connect Event!

On 14th November, Operation Smile Students Program-Kenya held a Cleft Connect event at the Vendramini Training Center in Thika, Kenya. The event brought together 15 patients with their parents, student volunteers, and Operation Smile beneficiaries. Its goal was to give hope, encouragement, and emotional support to families affected by cleft conditions while they attended the speech clinic. As the clinic continued, volunteers facilitated fun activities, games, and interactive conversations, creating a warm and uplifting environment. The event strengthened family confidence, enhanced patient engagement, and motivated student volunteers to deepen their commitment to cleft advocacy and support.

You can learn more about how you can get involved in this activity by contacting Kerry at mwitakerry@gmail.com

Community Outreach



Meet: Ratombonjanahary Alzie Floricia from Smile Club Tamatave, Madagascar

Awareness Program

Volunteers of Smile Club Tamatave carried out an annual awareness program October 29-30 November 2025 in the outskirts of Foulpointe. This activity was carried out with the aim of raising awareness among people, mainly in remote areas, about the existence and missions of Operation Smile Madagascar.

The program was public, volunteers walked along through different villages and talk to local people on the way: young people and parents. they were really interested and asked a lot of questions about Operation Smile.

You can learn more about how you can get involved in this activity by contacting Alzie at alzieratombonjanahary@gmail.com

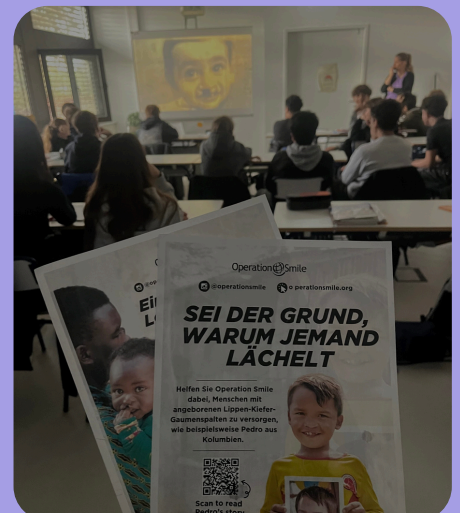


Meet: Majo Pacheco Operation Smile Germany.

Christmas Outreach: Sharing Hope and Smiles!

As part of our community outreach efforts in Germany, two initiatives were coordinated during the Christmas season. First, volunteers visited a local school to introduce Operation Smile to the students and teachers, explain its mission, and discuss the idea of setting up student clubs in German schools. The visit aimed to educate and raise awareness, as well as inspire youth engagement. The second initiative was a donation drive in which German students donated toys, notebooks and school supplies for Operation Smile patients. These activities engaged students and helped collect valuable donations, promoting compassion, education, and global solidarity.

You can learn more about how you can get involved in this activity by contacting Majo at mj.pachecog05@gamil.com



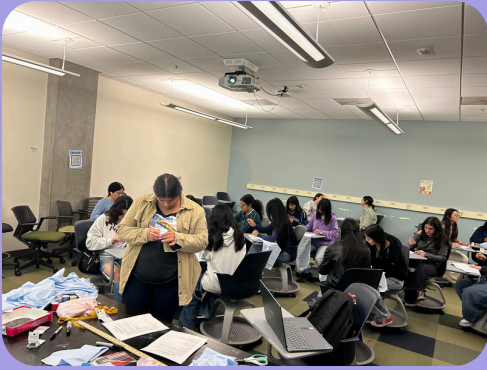
Community Outreach

Meet: Aleeha Naveed from UCSC Operation Smile, United States

Smile Bag Making

UCSC Operation Smile hosted a Smile Bag Volunteer Sewing Event during Fall Quarter, bringing together UCSC students to create handmade cloth bags for children recovering from cleft lip and palate surgery. Members worked collaboratively to measure, cut, and sew the bags, which will be distributed through Operation Smile to patients worldwide. The event emphasized hands-on service and patient-centered care while building community among members. A total of 26 students participated, collectively earning 4 volunteer hours each.

You can learn more about how you can get involved in this activity by contacting Aleeha at ucsc.operationsmile@gmail.com



Meet: Annie Ferguson from Red Cross Club, Thailand

Operation Smile Biomedical Technician Training

In early October, 20 university students and 4 high-school students were invited to the Biomedical Technician Training held by Operation Smile. The workshop, held in Bangkok, taught about the essential roles of biomedical technicians in surgical missions. Through lectures and hands-on activities, the trainees and observers explore the use of equipment such as anesthesia machines, suction devices, and patient monitors. Students joined to gain practical insight to how biomedical technicians ensure safety and efficiency for surgery before-hand. The meaningful event was able to deepen future technicians' appreciation for medical equipment and its vital impact in medicine and biomedical science.

You can learn more about how you can organize this activity by contacting Annie at anakkaveeannie@gmail.com



Community Outreach

Meet: Ratombonjanahary Alzie Floricia from Smile Club Tamatave, Madagascar

Capacity building for members

Smile Club Tamatave invited a guest to share a fundamental knowledge to the members to improve their capacity, which was: "TIME MANAGEMENT". It took place on 26th October at the classroom of the university of Tamatave. The volunteers really appreciated. We really wish that our members can give value their time and use it as it should be. The attendees were the members of Smile Club Tamatave, they said that the training was very impactful and instructive for them.

You can learn more about how you can get involved in this activity by contacting Alzie at alzieratombonjanahary@gmail.com



Meet: Aleeha Naveed from UCSC Operation Smie, United States

Halloween & Holiday Card-Making for Ronald McDonald House Families

During Fall Quarter, UCSC Operation Smile hosted two card-making meetings focused on creating handwritten thank-you and "get well soon" cards for children and families staying at Ronald McDonald House. One meeting took place during Halloween week and the other during the winter holiday season, allowing members to share encouragement and care during meaningful times of the year. These service-oriented meetings strengthened community among UCSC students while spreading warmth, kindness, and support to families navigating medical challenges.

You can learn more about how you can get involved in this activity by contacting Aleeha at ucsc.operationsmile@gmail.com



Fundraisers

Meet: Izabely Zanichelli from Sorriso Paulista, Brazil!

World Smile Day - All Smiles are Beautiful

On 10/3/25, at Einstein, we held an awareness and fundraising event with the presidents and the Community Services and External Relations team. We raised \$100 (around 550 reais) through donations, as volunteers contributed at least 5 reais (Brazilian currency) to participate. After listening to a brief talk about cleft lip and palate, they could spin a wheel and receive a prize. Around 70 non-club participants attended the event.

“The event was incredible because, while raising money for Operation Smile, we were also raising awareness about cleft lip and palate.”

You can learn more about how you can get involved in this activity by contacting Izabely at izabelyzanichelli@gmail.com



Meet: Fela Lanne from Smile Club Antananarivo, Madagascar

Food for Cleft Care!

The club had a wonderful time teaming up with Le Mango - La Marmite du Chef, a local restaurant, for a special fundraising activity. Meal tickets were sold at a small extra price, giving everyone the chance to enjoy a tasty meal while supporting the cause. Members could choose from three delicious options: mine sao, pasta with vegetables and meat, a cheddar beef burger, or Bubble Cha, a savory waffle. Thanks to the amazing effort of 86 members, a total of 346 tickets were sold! This event was a true celebration of community, generosity, and shared passion for making a difference.

You can learn more about how you can organize this activity by contacting Fela at smileclubtana@gmail.com



Operation Smile
Student Program

FUNDRAISING FOR SMILES
Food for cleft care

📍 Le MANGO Restaurant - Ambohitavo

📅 November 10 - 30, 2025

🕒 9:00 AM - 5 PM

⚠️ Restaurant is closed on Saturdays

TICKET 15.000 ARIARY

Include one meal - Choose from

- Simple Cheddar Burger
- Cha Bubble
- Mine Sao Special

📅 Get and Pay your ticket before November 21

📞 034 68 580 04

Fundraisers

Meet: Eduardo Ochoa from Operation Smile Club Ciudad Juárez, Mexico!

Operation Smile x Punto Pilates

Last November 29th, with the support of our CUEL Danna Marmolejo, the chair organized a fully sponsored Pilates class in partnership with pilates centre, Punto Pilates. The special class, titled “Operation Smile x Punto Pilates,” filled all eight available spots, with all proceeds donated to our club. Additional funds were raised through matcha sales during the event. In total, the initiative successfully raised \$230 in support of our cause.

Seeing students get involved and show their love for the foundation fills me with pride. Punto Pilates reminded me that small acts create big, real impacts today.

You can learn more about how you can get involved in this activity by contacting Eduardo at ochoacarrascoeduardo@gmail.com



Meet: Yeo Eun Park from Operation Smile ASFG, Mexico

Candle Decorating Stand during Winter Celebration

Our school’s Winter Celebration brings families and children together to enjoy the holiday season while supporting service initiatives, including Empty Bowls, which raises funds for ONI. During the event, service groups hosted interactive stands. For Operation Smile, we organized a candle-decorating booth where children decorated pre-made candles using whipped wax “frosting” and wax figures created by students. Over two hours, we raised approximately \$450, selling 44 candles—exceeding our goal of 36! Due to high demand, we even made additional candles on the spot, emphasizing strong community engagement.

You can learn more about how you can organize this activity by contacting Yeo at 27yeopark@asfg.edu.mx



Fundraisers

Meet: Rafaela Paes from Operation Smile Brazil

Charity Dinner

On October 16th, we hosted our second annual charity dinner dedicated to supporting Operation Smile and funding future surgeries! Earlier in the month, we had Children's Day and Smile Day, making the timing especially meaningful and perfectly aligned with the purpose of the event. This year, the dinner took place at a pizzeria. In the entrance, there was a merch table where guests could purchase Operation Smile T-shirts and eco-bags to further support the cause. Throughout the event, a raffle was held, allowing guests to purchase multiple entries to increase their chances of winning a signed jersey from a renowned Brazilian soccer club. The night brought together friends and family, and by the end of the evening, we had raised \$3,366 while also increasing awareness of Operation Smile's mission and the life-changing impact of its work.

You can learn more about how you can organize this activity by contacting Rafaela at rafaelaopaes@gmail.com



Meet: Majo Pacheco from Operation Smile Germany!

Movie Night for Smile

In December, the first Operation Smile fundraising event in Germany took place at Campus Müngersdorf in Cologne. This Movie Night brought students together for an evening of connection, awareness, and purpose while watching Charlie and the Chocolate Factory, while learning about cleft conditions and Operation Smile's mission. The event raised over €150, all donated to support cleft treatment and free surgeries for children. Beyond fundraising, the event helped build awareness and community engagement, marking an important first step for Operation Smile initiatives in Germany.

You can learn more about how you can get involved in this activity by contacting Majo at mj.pachecog05@gmail.com



Your Worldwide Calendar!

January 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	⑩
11	12	13	14	15	16	27
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31



	JANUARY
AFRICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No events
ASIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nutritionist's Day (10th): India• Children's Day (10th): Thailand
EUROPE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No events
LATAM	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Surgeon's Day (10th): Republica Dominicana
MENA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Operation Smile UAE turns 15 years!
NORTH AMERICA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No events

**Happy Holidays and a
wonderful 2026!**