FOR FRIENDSHIP & FITNESS!

An exercise in empathy: Prepare your students for the Operation Smile Shamrock Final Mile by reading the stories of Operation Smile’s patients, learning more about cleft lip and cleft palate, and seeing how students can make a difference in the lives of people born with cleft.

DEAR EDUCATORS AND FAMILIES,

We’re thrilled to invite you and your elementary students to join us for our annual Operation Smile Shamrock Final Mile run and awareness campaign!

This springtime event combines both friendship and fitness: With your support, we hope to empower elementary schoolers to make a difference in the lives of Operation Smile’s patients as they log 25.2 miles ahead of the Final Mile run on March 18.

To meaningfully connect them to our cause, we’re sharing the stories of six patients who received life-changing care from Operation Smile thanks to the kindness of our supporters (students included!). Elementary schoolers will have the opportunity to “Go Around the World with Operation Smile” as they meet new friends in Colombia, Morocco, Ghana, India, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

This is a great opportunity for your student to expand their perspective, explore different countries and cultures, and build their capacity to empathize with others. Ultimately, we hope all students realize their potential to make a meaningful difference in the lives of others.

HERE’S WHAT YOUR STUDENT CAN GAIN:

Empowerment: Have your student run a certain distance, whether in class or at home, and tell them how their miles can make a difference through Operation Smile.

Empathy: When they run that distance, introduce them to Operation Smile’s friend in the next country and read their story together or watch a video about them. This is also a good opportunity for the students to learn more about that country or share their own experience.

Hope: Now that they’ve connected with our cause, we encourage them to take their involvement to the next level and provide hope for even more patients around the world by fundraising to provide a surgery, hosting a service project, starting or joining a club, and more.

Bonus: We invite you to walk in our patients’ footsteps and tour The Anthony L. and Hideko S. Burgess Interactive Learning Center at Operation Smile Global Headquarters in Virginia Beach.

Please note that J&A Racing manages every step of the registration process, and the race registration fee does not go to Operation Smile.
A RUN AROUND THE WORLD!

Prepare for the Operation Smile Shamrock Final Mile by logging your miles and reading the stories of Operation Smile’s patients in Colombia, Ghana, Morocco, India, Vietnam, and the Philippines.

MEET LEXXI OF COLOMBIA
Lexxi’s mom, Elba, says her daughter has gained a lot of confidence after having surgery for her cleft lip. Lexxi loves math and enjoys drawing, especially animals.

MEET SIHAM OF MOROCCO
Siham said she couldn’t imagine her future before having surgery for her cleft lip. She’s now studying to be a teacher because she wants to help educate future doctors.

MEET BUI OF VIETNAM
Bui stood up to bullies on the playground when they made fun of his cleft lip. Now that Bui has had surgery, he enjoys going to school and playing with classmates.

MEET JOSEPH OF THE PHILIPPINES
After Joseph received surgery for his cleft lip, he was happy he could return to school without being bullied. He has made new friends and enjoys learning.

MEET FAUSTINA OF GHANA
Before surgery for her cleft lip, Faustina didn’t go to school because bullies made it unbearable. Now, she’s made friends at school, where she’s studying to be a tailor.

MEET BIPUL OF INDIA
Bullies were so mean that Bipul didn’t like to leave home. But when Bipul received surgery for his cleft lip, he didn’t just receive a new smile — he gained a new friend named Monu.
A RUN AROUND THE WORLD!
As you log your miles, make sure you color and date these passport stamps when you reach the next country!