

Operation Blessing International and Children's Hospital Of The King's Daughters Team Up To Provide Free Medical Treatment To Young Girl From Haiti

NORFOLK, VA – The humanitarian organization Operation Blessing International has partnered with Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters to provide free medical treatment for a 7-year-old girl from Haiti who was suffering from severe osteomyelitis, an acute bone infection, and sickle cell anemia.

Adianne Norce needed an operation to drain a pocket of infection that had walled itself off inside the bone, and medical teams in Haiti were unable to staunch the infection.

After a week of treatment, Adianne is being discharged. While Adianne will still need months of treatment at CHKD, “We are all praying that this infection has been eradicated,” said Dr. Donald Lewis, chairman of pediatrics at CHKD. “The CHKD family has been honored to participate in the care of this beautiful child and to help get her on the path to recovery.

Bill Horan, president of Operation Blessing, came across Adianne several months ago in a local hospital near Port-au-Prince while performing humanitarian work. The girl, who was suffering because the surgical procedure required is not available in Haiti, captured the hearts of Horan and others from the charity and they decided to help her try and get the medical treatment that she needed.

Horan, working with Virginia Beach physician Dr. John Kenerson, reached out to CHKD and they agreed to provide the treatment at no cost. The charity and hospital then spent the next several weeks securing passports for Adianne and her father as well as a medical visa from the U.S. State Department.

Operation Blessing flew Adianne and her father from Haiti to Norfolk earlier this month. She was admitted to the hospital and underwent surgery last week. On Tuesday, she was discharged to the home of a host family where she will recover and be monitored by health workers for the next several weeks, before returning to her home in Haiti.

Operation Blessing made arrangements through the U.S. State Department and was able to get her to CHKD. A CHKD medical team led by orthopedic surgeon Dr.

Carl St. Remy, whose parents were from Haiti, was able to perform the surgery, isolate the germ causing the infection and begin a targeted antibiotic regimen.

"Adianne has been suffering with serious illness for years, yet she is an amazing little girl who radiates peace and joy," said Horan. "We are so grateful that CHKD has decided to help her, and we look forward to seeing her recover in the coming weeks so that she may return to her family a healthy and happy little girl."

ABOUT CHKD:

Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters is the only freestanding children's hospital in Virginia and serves the medical and surgical needs of children throughout greater Hampton Roads, the Eastern Shore of Virginia and northeastern North Carolina. The not-for-profit hospital was founded in 1961 and last year handled approximately 6,200 inpatient admissions and 219,500 outpatient specialty, surgical and emergency room visits, addressing routine and complex illnesses, injuries and chronic conditions. The CHKD Health System operates primary care pediatric practices, surgical practices, multi-service Health Centers and satellite offices throughout its service region.

ABOUT OPERATION BLESSING INTERNATIONAL:

Operation Blessing International (OBI) is one of the largest charities in America, providing strategic disaster relief, medical aid, hunger relief, clean water and community development in 23 countries around the world on a daily basis. In 2009, OBI was awarded Charity Navigator's coveted 4 star rating for sound fiscal management for the fifth year in a row, a feat that only 4% of rated charities have ever achieved. Forbes, which currently ranks OBI as one of "America's Most Efficient Charities," awarded OBI a perfect 100% rating in fundraising efficiency and 99% efficiency in charitable commitment. Additionally, the Chronicle of Philanthropy currently ranks OBI as the 23rd largest charity and the 6th largest international charity. Founded in 1978, Operation Blessing International has touched the lives of more than 235 million people in more than 105 countries and 50 states, providing goods and services valued at over \$2.7 billion to date.

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