

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 22, 2008

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## **Operation Smile Celebrates National Volunteer Week with Volunteer Awards Ceremony May 1 in Norfolk**

**NORFOLK, VA** – Operation Smile is proud to have one of the world’s largest volunteer networks — more than 6,000 medical and non-medical volunteers ready to share their time and talent to help children. In celebration of **National Volunteer Week (April 27-May 3)**, Operation Smile will hold a **Volunteer Awards Ceremony** and reception to honor six exceptional volunteers with the following awards: Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award, 2007 Volunteer of the Year Award, The Michael Reusing Award and The Donna Poe-Davis Nursing Award of Excellence.

The reception will take place on **Thursday, May 1, 2008 from 6pm–8pm at the Town Point Club located in the World Trade Center at 101 W. Main Street, 3rd Floor (Buoy Room 36) in Norfolk, Va.** Operation Smile Co-Founders Dr. Bill and Kathy Magee will present the awards to these dedicated volunteers.

**Cindi Raglin, R.N., of Virginia Beach, is receiving Operation Smile’s Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award.** Cindi is a nurse who works in the NICU at Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters in Norfolk, Va. She has been involved with Operation Smile for 10 years, volunteering on medical missions and at Operation Smile's headquarters as the Nursing Specialty Coordinator. Cindi has served as a nurse and Clinical Coordinator on more than 30 medical missions around the world to countries such as Cambodia, China, Colombia, India, Jordan, Kenya, Morocco, Paraguay and Venezuela. As Clinical Coordinator of a mission team, she ensures that the surgical schedule runs smoothly. In addition, Cindi is a member of Operation Smile’s Nursing Council. About receiving this award, she says, “I just play a small part. This award represents every single person who volunteers for Operation Smile and when I am presented with the award, I will envision the thousands of people around the world I’ve come in contact with over the years.”

**Sharron Frahm, of Greensboro, North Carolina, is also receiving Operation Smile’s Lifetime Volunteer Achievement Award.** Sharron has demonstrated vision, determination, resourcefulness and integrity in her pursuit to help children and people in need. In 1994, Sharron became active as a member of the Board of Governors for Operation Smile North Carolina and served as Board Chair from 2002-2005. She has chaired many fundraising committees for Operation Smile North Carolina’s galas and other events. In 1998, Sharron joined an Operation Smile medical mission team to Machala, Ecuador, serving as a medical records volunteer. She believes strongly in the mission of Operation Smile and takes it upon herself to share that message with many throughout the state of North Carolina. Sharron said, “It’s wonderful to receive this award because it’s for an organization that’s doing such wonderful things. Seeing a child’s life changed and being given a new smile is amazing and it’s rewarding to be a witness to such happy endings.”

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**Daniel Taub, D.D.S., M.D., of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, will be presented with the 2007 Volunteer of the Year Award.** Dr. Taub, is the Associate Director of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital and has volunteered with Operation Smile since 1995. He participated on a medical mission to Romania in 1996 and has served as Team Leader on 11 dental missions to Vietnam helping to provide treatment and education to thousands of children. The Vietnam dental mission program began in 1996, when a group of faculty and students from the University of Maryland's Dental School wanted to help children across the world and also share their knowledge and skills with their Vietnamese counterparts. The group was led by dental student Bill Magee III, son of Operation Smile Co-founders Dr. Bill and Kathy Magee, and Daniel Taub. Today, Operation Smile dental volunteers have conducted 12 Vietnam dental missions and treated nearly 15,000 children. Taub said, "We hope to grow the dental program into other countries and continue its success." About receiving the Volunteer of the Year Award, he said, "I'm honored to receive this award. Operation Smile has been an amazing part of my life. I've met some of the greatest people and built relationships with colleagues who are 10,000 miles away and those in my own back yard."

**D. Michael Gioffre, D.D.S., from Wilmington, Delaware, is also being honored with the 2007 Volunteer of the Year Award.** Dr. Gioffre is a dentist at First State Dental and is a dedicated Operation Smile medical volunteer. He has participated on 10 dental missions, serving as Team Leader, in Vietnam to provide free care for children and young adults as well as provide Vietnamese dental professionals with hands-on education through lecture and clinical treatment. In addition, Dr. Gioffre has served as the team's dentist on medical missions to Bolivia, China and the Philippines. He is also a member of the Operation Smile Dental Council. Dr. Gioffre has served as a Board Member for Operation Smile's Delaware Chapter for many years helping to build awareness and raise funds for the organization. "It has been an honor to work with this organization for the past 10 years and in many ways it has helped define who I am and how I practice dentistry," said Gioffre.

**Melissa Cole, from Elgin, Texas, is receiving The Michael Reusing Award.** This is the first year Operation Smile is presenting this award, which is named after her husband Michael Reusing, an amazing Operation Smile non-medical volunteer who died of cancer in 2007. Mike served as a medical records and electronic medical records specialist on numerous medical missions with Melissa Cole. Mike found true fulfillment in humanitarian work and his contributions to Operation Smile and other charitable organizations and sense of service made an incredibly strong impression on many who worked with him. Since 2000, Melissa has served as a medical records specialist on Operation Smile missions to countries including Bolivia, Cambodia, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, and Peru. She said, "It fills my heart with gratitude and appreciation that Operation Smile recognizes Mike's dedication and zeal for the mission of the organization and chooses to honor a volunteer with an award in his memory. He returned from each mission feeling as if he had touched the lives of others and that they, in turn, had touched his. And he had a great appreciation for the volunteers he worked with side by side." Regarding her involvement, Melissa adds, "Although I participate in many other areas of volunteerism, Operation Smile is the family which is most meaningful to me for this reason, and I do consider it a family."

**Donna Poe-Davis, who lives in the Caribbean, will be the first recipient of The Donna Poe-Davis Nursing Award of Excellence,** an award named for her. This award will be presented to an Operation Smile volunteer nurse who has served on international medical missions and showed leadership and made significant contributions to Operation Smile. When Donna lived in Hampton Roads, she was the Director of Surgical Services at the Children's Hospital of The King's Daughters and worked closely with Operation Smile Co-founder Dr. Bill Magee. He asked her to volunteer with Operation Smile, and from 1987-2001 she volunteered on missions to Brazil, China, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, the Philippines, Venezuela and Vietnam. "As Nursing Specialty Coordinator at Operation

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Smile's headquarters, I had the good fortune to work with the most amazing nurses. I'm humbled by the award," Donna said.

**About Operation Smile ([www.operationsmile.org](http://www.operationsmile.org))**

Founded in 1982, Operation Smile, headquartered in Norfolk, Virginia, is a worldwide children's medical charity whose network of global volunteers are dedicated to helping improve the health and lives of children and young adults. Since its founding, Operation Smile volunteers have treated more than 115,000 children born with cleft lips, cleft palates and other facial deformities. In addition to contributing free medical treatment, Operation Smile trains local medical professionals in its 26 partner countries and leaves behind crucial equipment to lay the groundwork for long-term self-sufficiency.

**About National Volunteer Week (<http://www.pointsoflight.org/programs/seasons/nvw/>)**

National Volunteer Week was created in 1974 when President Richard Nixon signed an executive order to establish the week as an annual celebration of volunteering. And every year since that time, each U.S. President, along with many governors, mayors and other elected officials, has signed a proclamation promoting National Volunteer Week.

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