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*****PHOTO RELEASE*****

OPERATION SMILE VIETNAM INAUGURATES COMPREHENSIVE CARE CENTER

HUE, VIETNAM – Operation Smile Vietnam inaugurated its new Comprehensive Care Center in Hue with an opening ceremony on March 30. The Operation Smile Vietnam Center is one of seven new centers to be opened this year in Operation Smile partner countries across the globe as part of the organization's worldwide anniversary celebration. Operation Smile is focusing its 25th anniversary on sustainability, with a goal of increasing the number of children served annually through establishment of regional centers of care. Operation Smile volunteers have medically treated more than 100,000 children to date through international medical missions and in-country local missions. The new centers are projected to help increase that number to 20,000 patients per year by 2008, as well as an estimated 400% increase to 40,000 by the year 2010.

The Operation Smile Comprehensive Care Center in Hue, Vietnam, is based in the Hue Odontostomatological Hospital, and will treat children year-round who suffer from cleft lips and cleft palates, as well as provide education and training to medical professionals in the region. Approved and supported by Thua Thien Hue People's Committee and Health Service Department, the Center is expected to provide free treatment for at least 2,000 patients and train about 1,000 medical professionals in different fields annually.



Photo Caption: Wayne Zinn, Operation Smile Inc. Chief Operating Officer and Chief Information Officer (left), and Professor Nguyen Dzung, Director of the Health Service Department of Thua Thien Hue, cut a ribbon to open the Comprehensive Care Center. Photo by Marc Ascher.

[For higher resolution photos, please contact Jennifer Devlin at 703-876-1714 or jdevlin@susandavis.com]

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About Operation Smile (www.operationssmile.org)

Founded in 1982, Operation Smile is a worldwide children's medical charity dedicated to helping improve the health and lives of children and young adults worldwide. Since its founding, Operation Smile has treated more than 100,000 children with facial deformities in 25 countries and currently works in: Bolivia, Brazil, Cambodia, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gaza Strip/West Bank, Honduras, India, Jordan, Kenya, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Russia, South Africa, Thailand, Venezuela, and Vietnam. In addition to offering reconstructive surgery, Operation Smile provides education and training around the world to physicians and other health care professionals to promote long-term self-sufficiency. Operation Smile also provides a network of resources to assist families in the U.S. with children born with facial deformities. Accessed through the Operation Smile Web site, the network includes a listing of Referral Web Sites and a Physicians Resource List. Operation Smile has been distinguished by many prestigious awards, including the first \$1 million *Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize* to recognize outstanding contributions made to alleviate human suffering.

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