



HandReach 2010

Joining hands for hope and healing.

Annual Report, Dec. 2010

Hand Clinic: In January, HandReach led a team of experts in hand surgery and rehabilitation (two surgeons, three rehabilitation therapists, and one nurse), to lead a week-long Hand Clinic at the Beijing General Air Force Hospital in Beijing. The team offered 85 surgical procedures and dozens of hours of individualized hand therapy for patients at the pediatric burn unit, totaling several hundred thousand US dollars in free care. The team also trained two dozen Chinese hospital staff—surgeons, rehabilitation therapists, and nurses—together with the patients' parents, and left the hospital with numerous articles and procedures on disk for subsequent training.

http://www.handreach.org/english/psn_January2010.pdf



Inaugural Co-op in Beijing: HandReach inaugurated its co-op partnership with the Bouve College of Health Sciences at Northeastern University by establishing a full clinical co-op training rotation for nursing student Kenneth Wong, who worked at the China General Air Force Hospital for four months, assisting in nursing, physical therapy, and even surgery. Wong's co-op serves as the first of many exciting international training opportunities HandReach is working to provide.

http://www.northeastern.edu/news/stories/2010/06/Wong_co-op.html

First in Series of Video Training Pods: In the spring of 2010, HandReach produced its first demo video training pod for our International Best Practices Database (IBPD), based on work performed by our Hand Clinic team, who discovered that patients receiving hand surgery in China were typically being splinted post-operatively in an extended position that can lead to tendon contracture and long-term dysfunction. The team selected functional hand splinting as the most important practice to teach clinical staff overseas, and Suzanne Curley, a senior Occupational Therapist at Massachusetts General Hospital, worked with David Ross Smith of National Geographic (all donated time and labor) to produce this first video pod in HandReach's proposed video database, for which we are now seeking full funding.

<http://vimeo.com/11080750>



Formation of HandReach BeatBrigade: This year saw the creation of the HandReach BeatBrigade, a multicultural group formed to provide significant training and experience in therapeutic drumming for youth and adults from diverse backgrounds, who travel locally and abroad to facilitate healing drum circles for trauma survivors. Formed under the leadership of Bill Jenkins in Washington DC and now settled in Boston under the direction of drummer Martin Isaac, the BeatBrigade serves as a learning laboratory for musicians, healers, youth, and trauma survivors of all ages to explore modalities of healing through rhythm and song. <http://bjyouth.ynet.com/article.jsp?oid=67432526>



Summer Psychosocial Camp/Conference: In Summer 2010, HandReach took a twenty-person team—physical and occupational therapists, psychosocial specialists, musicians, and youth BeatBrigade members—to two cities in China (Changsha and Beijing) to lead camps for burn-injured children, the first of their kind in China, to serve as training models in psychosocial care for clinical pediatric burn staff from around China. Working with several dozen severely-injured children in the two cities, HandReach’s team provided a host of therapeutic activities and hands-on clinical training

ranging from splint-making to scar management to fostering physical and psychosocial healing goals through exercise, play, and music therapy. The team also donated several thousand dollars worth of equipment, instruments, and supplies to both hospitals.

http://www.handreach.org/english/chinadaily_July2010.pdf

Community Outreach with Dan Caro: HandReach began working this year with renowned New Orleans drummer Dan Caro who, despite full body burns at age two and hundreds of reconstructive surgeries throughout his youth, today tours as a professional musician, motivational speaker, and author of the recent release, *The Gift of Fire: How I Made Adversity Work for Me*. Dan contributed his extraordinary talent and passion toward HandReach’s efforts this year, headlining our first musical fundraiser at the Very Special Arts Society in Washington DC. HandReach will continue to celebrate the work of musicians, athletes, and others who have overcome severe burn injuries worldwide.



<http://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/burn-injured-drummer-helps-handreach-send-youth-to-china-with-the-gift-of-fire-95883639.html>



World Burn Congress: HandReach director Brecken Chinn Swartz traveled with her adopted daughter Zhou Lin, Program Coordinator Jessica Robertson, and Physical Therapist Li Li to the World Burn Congress in Galveston in October 2010 to explore the possibility of creating China's first chapter of the Phoenix Society, the world's largest support network for burn survivors, which to date has had no presence in China. HandReach's presence at the World Burn Congress was very fruitful, and we are now positioned to bring Phoenix Society founder Alan Breslau and his wife Delwyn to inaugurate China's first chapter of

the Phoenix Society chapter in Beijing in 2011. We have also opened a new partnership with Shriners Galveston to accept some of our most complex pediatric burn cases and host a month-long perigenital/perianal reconstruction training clinic for Chinese clinicians under the mentorship of world-renowned surgeon Dr. Ted Huang in Galveston, Texas.

Operation Smile Youth Leadership Conference: The inspiration for HandReach's Children's Healing Initiative, Zhou Lin, was invited by patron Dick Grace to participate in Operation Smile's Youth Leadership Conference in Denver, Colorado, where Mr. Grace gave an inspiring keynote address about Zhou Lin's journey to walking on prosthetic feet. Together with hundreds of other outstanding youth from across the nation, Zhou Lin tested her strength and leadership skills through activities such as canoeing and rock climbing, for which she received a standing ovation from her peers for her courage and determination. Zhou Lin also won her high school's Student of Character Award and school-wide Mathematics Award, and attended her senior prom. She is now applying to liberal arts colleges in the Boston area.










Top of the Field: HandReach China Director Qi McIntosh and Brecken Chinn Swartz forged agreements on behalf of HandReach with the very top names in Chinese burn care, including the renowned Chinese burn specialist General Sheng Zhiyong of the famed 304 Army Hospital in Beijing, Dr. Cao Weihong, Head of the China General Air Force Hospital's Pediatric Burn Unit,

and HandReach's China Clinical Advisor, Dr. Gao JianChuan. HandReach has now become the go-to organization to provide state-of-the-art training in pediatric burn care and rehabilitation to the top hospitals in China. We are working to forge research and teaching partnerships in both western and Chinese treatment modalities between the two nations.



A Few Patient Reports ☺

		
<p>Ruan Siwen, burned by mosquito netting that caught fire and burned onto her upper body, is making amazing strides, with major surgeries to her very contracted hands and lots of follow up. Child Life specialist Jessica Irven was on hand with Zhou Lin to help Siwen get ready for surgery and rehabilitation.</p>	<p>Deng Jun, who lost the lower half of his left leg after it was burned by a heater and then contracted gangrene, is receiving prosthetics updates and still walking to school each day. He'll be a long-term patient at our Prosthetics Unit Project.</p>	<p>Little TingTing, who had the right side of her body burned as a small infant when a TV exploded next to her baby seat, is doing well with her developmental milestones after having several surgeries to her hand and face, and receiving simple foot prosthetics and orthotics to keep her up and walking.</p>
		
<p>Shi Huimin, burned over most of her body by a fireworks factory explosion at age 4, was the proud recipient of a handmade Ghanaian drum from drummers Kristen Arant and Tammi Hessen this summer. She took immediately to drumming and promised to practice every day.</p>	<p>Liu Shiwei, severely burned about the head and neck as an infant when the blanket he was wrapped in caught fire, had his second set of surgeries to ensure proper mouth, ear, and eye function. Much to his delight, these surgeries also ensure new toy trucks.</p>	<p>He Changti, burned in an explosion making fireworks for the Beijing Olympics, has been released from the hospital and is back to his village. Changti is happy to have arms and hands that work again, and he proudly showed us how well he can type and use the Internet. He's seeking work now.</p>
		
<p>Little FeiFei, who lost both legs above the knee as a baby when her grandfather put her on railroad tracks, has developed to the point where her prosthetics can have moving knees this year. She is walking well and quite a handful!</p>	<p>Qin MingHe, whose legs were burned off by a vindictive neighbor, stood up on prosthetics for the first time late this year and should get moving knees in a few months after extensive rehab at Shriners.</p>	<p>We're delighted to report that XiaoMin, the brave older sister who ran into a burning house to save her baby brother, has been admitted at Shriners Galveston (with her brother!) and both will arrive to receive reconstructive surgery and prosthetics in early 2011.</p>