



*Your impact*

2022-2023  
**Year in Review**



# Thank you!

Through Children First Foundation, you facilitate life-changing and life-saving surgery for disadvantaged children from developing countries.

## A year in review

### Breaking records; saving lives

2022-2023 is our strongest year yet. Thanks to extraordinary partners and supporters, like you, we have provided a record number of surgeries for children. This year has seen a 57% increase in cases. This means more children than ever before can live their fullest lives, because of you. Thank you!

### Pushing boundaries

Our collaboration with exceptional surgeons, health professionals and hospitals continued to enable children from developing countries to access world-class surgical and medical care. In Australia, children are cared for pre and post-surgery at our 'home-away-from-home' Retreat in Kilmore, Victoria. Our team of skilled and dedicated staff and volunteers are on-hand around the clock to ensure every child receives the very best holistic care. We are thrilled to be expanding overseas and providing additional surgical care through our skilled internationally-trained partners in Vietnam, Papua New Guinea and Zambia. In-country surgery has made a tangible difference in reducing the disruption, stress and delays to children and families accessing care, and has also allowed us to provide more life-changing quality care to children in these locations. The Back Home Support Program has expanded this year to provide key education, welfare and medical support when children return home. This helps you and I to support children to return home happy, healthy and with a brighter future ahead of them!

### Changing the future

This year we were proud to partner with the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons to work to address some of the underlying barriers to children accessing medical care in their home country with our pilot project saving children's lives in Papua New Guinea.

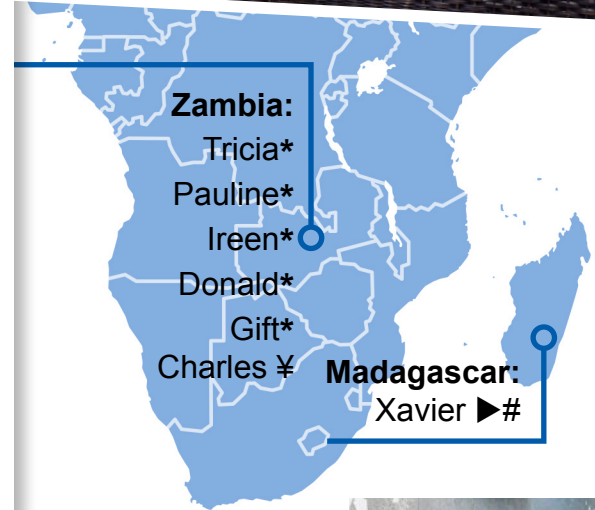
Your continued compassionate support changes lives and even saves lives. Thank you!

**Roger Langley**  
Chair

**Jessica Redwood**  
CEO

*Left: Tricia before surgery.*

*Below: Pauline and Tricia after surgery*



**Zambia:**

- Tricia\*
- Pauline\*
- Ireen\*
- Donald\*
- Gift\*
- Charles ¥

**Madagascar:**

- Xavier ▶#

*Garisha, before surgery*



- ▶ Children treated in Australia
- \* Children treated overseas
- ¥ Children approved and awaiting treatment
- # Back-Home-Support-Program

# Thanks to you the following children have had their lives changed, their lives saved:

**Bhutan:**  
Sidath ¥  
Nima and  
Dawa (twins) #

**Vietnam:**  
Ngoc Ha ▶  
Van Phuc\*  
A Khau\*  
An Khan\*  
Lu Xuan\*  
Thao ¥  
A Sam ¥

**Philippines:**  
Kyla Joy #

**PNG:**  
Konny ▶  
Lendyta ▶  
Heavenly\*  
Edward ¥  
Victor ¥

**42 local health workers trained to save children's lives!**

*A Khau, after surgery*



*Willie, before and after surgery*



**West Papua:**  
Natalia ▶

**Timor-Leste:**  
Zenilda ▶  
Fatima ▶  
Romario ▶  
Mario ¥  
Angela #

**Vanuatu:**  
Kylie ▶  
Gerisha ▶  
Madlen ▶  
Willie ▶

## You helped Garisha walk for the first time!

Garisha from Vanuatu is just like any other 7-year-old. She loves colouring, dolls, and playing with her friends.

Yet Garisha was born with two club feet. When she was four, a visiting doctor tried to correct them, but tragically, the surgery failed. Garisha's left foot was amputated. It then became badly infected.

Thanks to the compassion and generosity of Children First supporters, Garisha was able to come to Australia for life-saving surgery.

Children First partners, Orthopaedic surgeon Prof Ton Tran and Berwick Hospital, facilitated several rounds of surgery for Garisha before she moved to our purpose-built Retreat in Kilmore. Once at the Retreat, she was fitted with a prosthetic leg and received extensive physiotherapy support to learn to walk.

For Garisha, the medical care she received here means so much. She isn't left on the floor when her friends run and play and she'll now have many more life opportunities.

Garisha's mum Susan is so grateful to the wonderful supporters who made Garisha's surgery possible. She says: *'I want to say thank you to the friends who help us to come to Australia so my daughter can have the operation. I'm happy and excited to see my daughter after surgery. I want to thank the Children First Foundation for everything they do to look after us. Thank you!'*

*Garisha, after surgery*





# Thank you

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We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to you.

You are part of an incredible community of supporters who share a passion for helping children in need. We're so grateful for you, our extraordinary individual and family, private and philanthropic, community and corporate supporters for working with us to care for children from developing countries.

Special thanks to our incredible team of medical and allied health professionals and hospitals – we cannot thank you enough for your commitment to the children this year:

Victoria:

- Epworth Healthcare
- Monash Children's Hospital
- Mulgrave Private Hospital
- Royal Children's Hospital Melbourne
- St John of God Hospital Berwick
- St Vincent's Private Hospital

New South Wales:

- Children's Hospital at Westmead
- Sydney Children's Hospital, Randwick

South Australia:

- Women's and Children's Hospital

Northern Territory:

- Royal Darwin Hospital

We also need to express our immense gratitude to our valued trusts and foundations who have continued their generous support of Children First in the last year (listed below). Thank you to this year's pro bono partners GDJ, Kingston Reid, Ashurst, Holloway Diamonds, Signature Flooring, Ortho Kids, Pro-Motion, Fair Share and Second bite.

Finally, we want to acknowledge our dedicated, passionate, and dynamic team of staff, volunteers, Board members, Patrons and supporters. You face every challenge with enthusiasm and dedication to ensure the children we care for remain at the heart of all we do. Your passion and commitment to reach further and treat more children enables these miracles to happen every day. Thank you.

With your continued support, we look forward to ensuring more children can access essential medical and surgical care, regardless of where they were born.



**The Gerry & Bernie Lamers Foundation**

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