



The Community Foundation  
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

## S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund Grant Evaluation Form

**Grant Period:** June  
1, 2012 through May  
31, 2013

Organization: ReSurge International

Contact Name: Erika Dowd

Title: Assoc. Dir., Foundation and Corp. Relations

Phone Number: 650-934-3311

Grant Period: June 1, 2012 - May 31, 2013

Award Amount: \$25,000

Grant Number: 2012383

- Describe the project's key outcomes and results based on your goals and objectives. Provide the number of clients served and other relevant statistics.

ReSurge International would like to sincerely thank the S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund for your generous grant of \$25,000, received on June 27, 2012. We have used these funds to support surgeries performed through our Surgical Outreach Program in Zambia. With this grant, you have provided 70 surgical procedures to our patients, and have restored hope to our patients and their families through the gift of reconstructive surgery.

In Africa, extreme poverty and disease, especially HIV/AIDS, burden children with the work of adults, as many must take on the roles of provider and head of household for their younger siblings. Children in adult roles, often working and cooking in unsafe conditions, are more prone to accidents like disabling burns and hand injuries. ReSurge has been working in Zambia since the late 1990s with Dr. Goran Jovic, the country's only plastic surgeon. ReSurge's involvement has taken the form of volunteer medical team trips, visiting educator workshops and a Surgical Outreach Program, which together provide 500 free surgeries per year. As the center's director in Lusaka, Dr. Jovic mends clefts and releases the contractures caused by disabling burns—giving those patients the ability to walk or use their hands again.

- What were the challenges and obstacles you encountered (if any) in attaining your goals & objectives? How did you overcome and/or address the challenges and obstacles? What were the lessons learned?

The major challenge for our Surgical Outreach Program in Zambia is that Dr. Jovic, as the only reconstructive surgeon in the country, faces staggering patient needs and limited capacity to provide necessary treatment.

The New York Times Magazine featured the problem of medical brain drain from the developing world in a March 2012 article, titled "America is Stealing the World's Doctors." ReSurge's partners like Dr. Jovic are helping to fight this trend and are examples of incredible devotion to caring for the poor in challenging conditions – even though they all, with their amazing skills and surgical expertise, could find more lucrative work abroad.

More than 20 years ago, Dr. Jovic left his war-torn hometown of Belgrade and settled in Zambia. With support from ReSurge, he continues to single-handedly address the reconstructive plastic surgical needs of the country's poor. Dr. Jovic helps patients in Lusaka, as well as those in distant villages by piloting a small plane to reach them to help as many patients as possible. ReSurge has learned that, in order for surgeons like Dr. Jovic to be able to provide year-round, high-quality services, they need to be able to draw upon a variety of support services. We therefore have set up opportunities for Dr. Jovic and our other partners to learn from



fellow surgeons throughout the world during volunteer team trips, Visiting Educator programs, conferences and our Grand Rounds website, which allows surgeons to post information about and photos of difficult cases to seek guidance from their international colleagues. Dr. Jovic is a frequent user of the site, recently posting cases including two sisters in need of reconstructive foot surgery and a child with a challenging cleft palate issue for consultation from his peers.

- Describe any unintended positive outcomes as a result of the efforts supported by this grant.

Thanks to the support of the Foundation, last August, Dr. Jovic reached the impressive milestone of 1,000 burn patients treated. The cases Dr. Jovic treats in Zambia represent 23% of ReSurge's total burn outreach cases—an impressive figure for a one-man program. Dr. Jovic's commitment inspires us by proving that, with the right financial and educational resources, one dedicated person can change the world.

By working closely with Dr. Jovic in Zambia for more than twelve years, ReSurge witnessed the prevalence of burn injuries in Zambia. His work to treat burn victims, along with our other partners throughout the world, has inspired ReSurge to advocate for this cause.

Today, half the world's population, 3 billion people, still use open flames to cook for their families and to heat and light their homes. Unfortunately, accidents are commonplace. Ninety-five percent of all burn injuries happen in developing countries where prevention is almost nonexistent and medical care for burns is extremely limited. Despite these staggering figures, there is little awareness about this neglected global health crisis. In response, ReSurge has launched the ReThink Burns campaign, to raise awareness about burn injuries and their devastating effects on some of the most vulnerable communities of the world.

ReSurge is partnering with organizations such as International Medical Corps, the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, Frontline Health Worker Coalition, among others, to promote the campaign.

The ReThink Burns campaign will raise awareness through the use of social media, press releases, reports and shot video documentaries. We are planning to release an upcoming report on the impact of burn injuries to our networks and the press, as well as cover this issue in our spring newsletter. As a ReSurge burn care funder, the S.L. Gimbel Foundation Fund will be credited in burn awareness efforts for their generous support, and we will send you copies of the materials for your records.

- Describe the overall effect this grant has had on your organization.

Funds from this grant have helped ReSurge maintain one of its ten permanent outreach programs in eight countries. By partnering with local doctors, ReSurge has doubled the number of surgeries it performs while significantly reducing operating costs. These programs empower our local colleagues and deliver reconstructive surgical care in medically underserved areas year-round—where it's needed most.

In Bangladesh, Ecuador, Ghana, India, Nepal, Nicaragua, Peru and Zambia, patients like Mateo and Sophia (stories below) can receive year-round care for disabling burns, clefts and injuries from our growing cadre of international partners. Under the direction of our chief medical officer, ReSurge uses the latest in technological advances to conduct quality reviews and specialized ongoing training for the programs' teams of medical professionals. The model has proven to be remarkably efficient and cost-effective. In fact, our colleagues in the developing world, including Dr. Jovic, now perform 80 percent of all ReSurge surgeries. Forming partnerships with international medical professionals has created a comprehensive model of care that is renewing the health and dreams of 3,000 children and adults with deformities and injuries each year.

- Tell us a few success stories that made an impact on your organization and/or community as a result of this grant.

### **Mateo**

Mateo was one of nearly 17,000 people who receive a severe burn every year in Zambia, a country with one reconstructive plastic surgeon and 12.6 million people. When he was just five years old, Mateo tripped and fell into an open cooking fire. His mother and father—both farmers—were working in their fields on the farm that barely sustains their large family. For two years after the accident, Mateo received no treatment; his family simply couldn't afford it.



Mateo was unable to move his neck or hand, as the burn wounds had contracted and permanently fused his head to his neck and his fingers together. So when his mother heard about free surgery offered by Dr. Jovic, she made the agonizing decision to take Mateo to the city, leaving her other nine children at home. Although it was difficult to leave the others, especially at harvest time, Mateo's mother knew it was an opportunity she could not pass up for her son, perhaps his only chance to have a normal life.

Dr. Jovic restored Mateo's neck and hand movement—and he now goes to school for the first time. He has hopes of becoming an accountant.

### **Sophia**

When Sophia was a little girl, she fell over a bucket of hot water, which left both her feet badly burned. Unable to obtain proper acute care for her burns, Sophia ended up with severely contracted feet when her burned skin tried to heal itself by closing the wounds. She could not walk or wear shoes, and was often teased by other children.

When she was 10 years old, her family traveled 500 miles from their rural village of Solwezi to the capital city of Lusaka, where they found Dr. Jovic. Dr. Jovic and an orthopedic surgeon operated on both of Sophia's feet to restore function, in September 2009 and March 2010. In March 2011, she came back to see Dr. Jovic for a checkup. She was smiling and so happy that she would finally be able to fit into shoes.

Recently, she came back to Lusaka again to see Dr. Jovic. He told us that she is a very happy 4th grader now, although a bit shy. She is no longer teased at school. Sophia is thrilled that she can walk and is constantly on the move! She says her life has greatly improved since her operations.

You can watch Sophia walking during a check up with Dr. Jovic in June last year here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=luCTatvvs2s>

Having surgeons year-round on the ground, like Dr. Jovic, makes it possible for patients to return year after year for follow-up checkups and/or treatment.

- Provide a financial report on the use of your grant funds (expenditures).

The grant funds were expended as budgeted; 70 surgeries were performed at \$300 each (\$21,000), and the remaining \$4,000 in grant funds were allocated toward quality assurance and administrative costs to manage the Surgical Outreach Program.

- ❖ Please send copies of publicity and other promotional materials.
- ❖ All variances or time extensions must be approved by The Community Foundation's Grant Committee. Please contact us at 951-684-4194, ext. 114 immediately if a variance or extension becomes necessary.

**Please return the completed form to:**

Celia Cudiamat, Vice President of Grant Programs  
3700 Sixth St., Suite 200, Riverside, CA 92501 or fax to 951-684-1911  
Or email to: [ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net](mailto:ccudiamat@thecommunityfoundation.net)

