Transforming LIVES

FALL 2025

WorldCF
Healing Children's Faces

Letter from Ken Salyer, Jr.:
Board Chair

Dear Friend of WorldCF,

As we look forward to the coming holidays, I've been thinking a lot lately about love and the support of family. Family is everything, whether they're biological relatives, chosen friends, or a tight-knit community built on care and connection. Being a family means being there for one another.

I want to thank you for being part of the World Craniofacial Foundation family. Through your support, you're there for children with head and facial differences and their families, connecting them with top medical professionals across the globe.

No matter where a family lives and no matter their financial situation, you ensure they have access to highly trained surgeons, post-operative care, emotional support, and so much more.

In your fall newsletter, you'll learn why your support means so much not only to the children you help, but to their parents and other loved ones, too. You'll also get an update on Akikere, a Nigerian teen who's been part of our WorldCF family for years — and always will be.

My dad, Dr. Kenneth E. Salyer, helped perform Akikere's first surgery, in 2016. My father is always on my mind, but never more so than at this time of year. In December, we'll mark five years without him here on earth. It's hard to believe so much time has passed already, but as you'll read inside, your support ensures his legacy will last forever. I know he'd be so proud of this family we've built and the many lives we transform!

Together, we're carrying out my dad's vision through the hands and hearts of the many surgeons who learned from him. Thank you for helping children, families, and WorldCF thrive.

Ken Salyer, Jr.
Board Chair

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You Create a Second Family for Patients and Their Loved Ones

For the parents of children with craniofacial differences, the worry seems never-ending. *Will my child make friends? Will they be happy?* And, for some: *Will my baby make it to adulthood?*

These are just a few of the big questions families ask every day as they navigate one complex situation after the next. **Thanks to friends like you, WorldCF is a second family for those facing unique and challenging circumstances.**

The families you reach through your generosity often live in remote parts of the world. Many are struggling to overcome devastating poverty. Without you, they would have no access to expert surgical care, much less the ability to pay for it. On top of that extreme stress, children who look different often face bullying and social stigmas, leaving both the child *and their family* feeling isolated and alone.

Your support changes everything by helping us take as much anxiety as possible off parents so they can focus on what matters most: the well-being of their child.

Because of your kindness, we connect families to world-class care, cover travel arrangements and expenses for lifesaving surgeries, foster global partnerships so we can expand our reach, and offer emotional support for patients and their loved ones.

We do this all at no cost to the people we serve, and we couldn't do it without YOU!

For decades, we've witnessed the inspiring perseverance of so many families who just want to see their child happy, healthy, and thriving. Thank you for making that possible through your love and compassion!

Making a Lifelong Commitment

As with any family, when a child becomes part of the WorldCF family, that bond lasts for a lifetime.

Take Akikere, for example. She was born in 2009 in Nigeria with Crouzon syndrome, a genetic condition that causes a developing baby's skull to fuse too soon. Children with Crouzon syndrome might have wide-set eyes, bulging eyeballs, crossed eyes, a larger forehead, a cleft lip and/or palate, or other symptoms.

She had her first WCF surgery in 2016 (pictured on the left), by Dr. Kenneth E. Salyer and Dr. Bruce Graewe. Together, they performed a monobloc osteotomy and distraction at Tygerberg Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa. The bones in Akikere's forehead and mid-face were repositioned, not only to change the appearance of her face but also to protect her eyes and lower the blood pressure in her brain. The procedure also removed a dangerous upper-airway obstruction, making it easier for her to breathe.

Now almost 16 years old (pictured on the right), Akirere is in the next phase of her treatment under the leadership of Dr. Chris Gordon and Dr. Scott Rapp at Dayton Children's/Shriners Children's Ohio.

With the continued support of friends and family like you, WorldCF will stand by Akikere for as long as it takes to give her the best, brightest future possible.

Reflection: The Life and Legacy of Dr. Kenneth E. Salyer

December 28 marks the fifth anniversary of the passing of WorldCF founder Dr. Kenneth E. Salyer. His vision revolutionized access to craniofacial surgeries for impoverished children around the world. Today, your generous support ensures his legacy lives on.

Born in Kansas City in 1936, Dr. Salyer received his medical degree from the University of Kansas in 1962 followed by a general surgery residency at Parkland Memorial Hospital in Dallas, Texas. As a young resident at Parkland, he was part of the emergency room trauma team that received President John F. Kennedy the day he was assassinated. The events of November 22, 1963, proved to be a turning point for Dr. Salyer.

"In the aftermath of the president's death, I had a new understanding that life was both fragile and precious," he said years later. **"I grew increasingly determined to create a professional life that mattered — one in which I could be of service to mankind."**

Dr. Salyer did just that by becoming a world-renowned leader in craniofacial surgery. He completed a surgical fellowship at the University of Texas Southwestern School of Medicine and began his plastic surgery residency at the University of Kansas.

In 1989, after years of making groundbreaking contributions in his field, he established WorldCF to bring help, hope, and healing to children with head and facial differences and their families.

He also served as a mentor, training and educating the next generation of craniofacial surgeons.

One of his most well-known achievements occurred in 2003, when he led a 50-person team in a 34-hour-long operation to separate 2-year-old conjoined twins from Egypt, Mohamed and Ahmed Ibrahim. This success story put WorldCF in the international spotlight, paving the way for the lifesaving and life-changing work we perform to this day.

Though Dr. Salyer is no longer with us physically, his spirit of service and his passion for helping those with nowhere else to turn live on through you!

Dr. Salyer's Drive Will Always Remain

Every morning, I drive my father's Jeep to the gym. It's one way I keep his memory alive while also taking care of the vehicle my dad loved so much.

One day, another Jeep pulled up next to me at a traffic light and the driver tossed a rubber duck over to me — a longstanding tradition among Jeep aficionados. I was happy to toss one back, taking a second to smile at how much my father would have loved that moment.

It's my deepest honor and joy to keep my dad's legacy alive. Thank you for joining me in this important work! — *Ken Salyer, Jr.*

Leave Your Own Legacy

When you plan for your future today, you can create a legacy that lasts far beyond your lifetime. Establishing a bequest from your estate is easier than most people think, especially with free online planning tools like Free Will. You can give a set dollar amount or a percentage of your estate, and a charitable bequest might offer tax benefits for your heirs. If you have an IRA, you can also name loved ones or nonprofit organizations as beneficiaries.

More Ways You Can Make a Difference

One in every 500 children around the world is born with a head or facial abnormality that, if left untreated, will hurt their quality of life and keep them from reaching their full potential.

Your generosity allows WorldCF to provide life-changing — and often lifesaving — care to as many children as possible, regardless of their families' ability to pay. To do so, we need your help!

In addition to making a gift using the enclosed envelope today, there are many ways you can make a transformative difference in the life of a child.

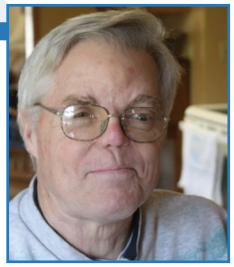
Maximize Your Impact and Enjoy Tax Benefits, Too

As we approach the end of the year, it's an ideal time to consider how your philanthropic wishes and your financial planning can work together. Here are three tax-smart ways fellow supporters maximize the impact of their gifts:

- Make a one-time or recurring grant from your **Donor-Advised Fund (DAF)** or other charitable giving account. DAFs can offer immediate tax benefits while giving you long-term flexibility in your charitable planning to support causes like WorldCF.
- Make a gift of **appreciated securities.** Donating stock can often be more beneficial than giving cash. You can avoid paying any tax on the stock's increased value, AND you will be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for the stock's full market value. Many find this a valuable way to help themselves and support our work.
- Make a gift from your **IRA account** if you are 70½ or older with a tax-free Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD). This option can be especially beneficial for those who are 73 or older and must take a Required Minimum Distribution from their IRA that would normally be taxed as ordinary income. Your plan administrator sends us whatever amount you choose, which can reduce your taxable income while maximizing how much of each hard-earned dollar goes to support charitable causes like WorldCF.

35 years later, Jack Accola still wants to give back!

On Saturday, February 21, 2026, Jack Accola will be hosting his second WCF Benefit Concert as a way to continue to "give back" after his lifechanging reconstructive surgery with WCF. This year's benefit concert will be featuring Wilson Fairchild!



Jack Accola

Wilson Fairchild

Giving us stock can often be more beneficial than giving cash. You can completely avoid paying any tax on the stock's increased value AND you will be entitled to a charitable income tax deduction for the stock's full market value.

If you are considering a gift of stock, please call or email our Board Chair, Ken Salyer, Jr., so he can provide you with our stock transfer instructions. Reach him by email at **ken.salyer.jr@worldcf.org**, call him directly at **+1.214.244.5237**, or leave a message at **+1.972.566.6669** or **+1.800.533.3315** toll-free from anywhere in the U.S.

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Please remember WorldCF in your estate planning and help needy children for decades to come!

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