

SIGN Surgery Corrects 20-year Deformity

By Ryan Smith, SIGN Communications Specialist

SIGN Surgery restores mobility. In many cases, this helps a patient who is injured in a traffic accident or sudden injury quickly recover. But SIGN Implants can also help correct lifelong deformities, helping patients like Jay, a 23-year-old from the Philippines, gain mobility and autonomy for the first time.

Jay's left leg has been deformed for 20 years. His father first noticed Jay limping at 3 years old. Over time, his femur became bowed and rotated, resulting in his left leg being nearly five inches shorter than his right.

The family could not afford medical care to correct the deformity, so Jay learned to make do with his condition. However, he has always walked with a limp and limited movement.

Recently, Jay fell and injured his leg again. He went to a local hospital where Dr. Jun Valera visits with his traveling SIGN Set. Dr. Valera examined Jay and his x-rays, and determined that he would be able to treat Jay's fracture and help correct his bowed femur.

Dr. Valera has learned deformity correction through SIGN, and he helped lead deformity correction training at the most recent SIGN Conference. With his skill and experience, he was able to use a SIGN Nail and a SIGN Plate to straighten and rotate Jay's femur, and securely hold it in place with SIGN Screws. Because all these implants were donated at no cost to the hospital or patient, Jay and his family were finally able to afford the care he needed.

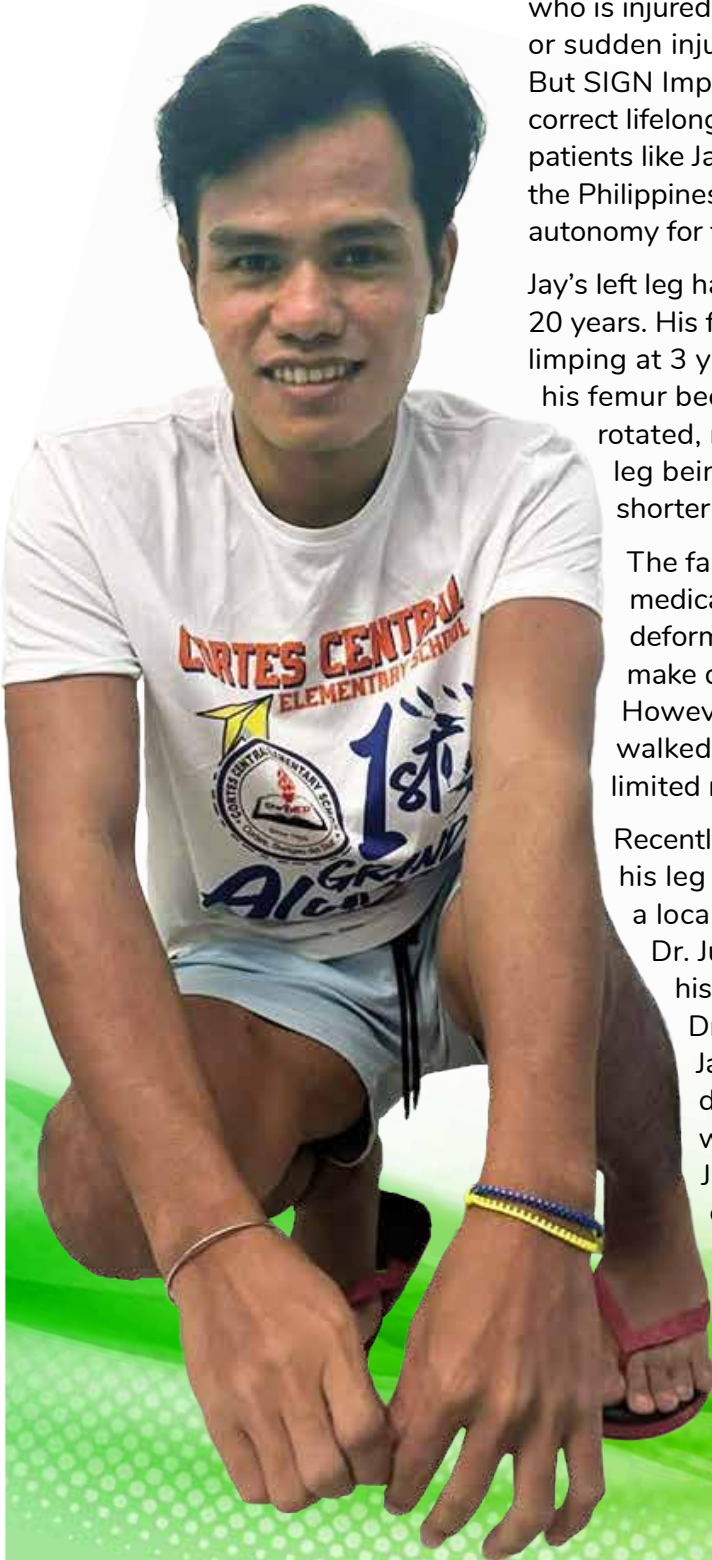
After the operation, Jay's left leg is less than one inch shorter than his right, which is a dramatic improvement and can be mitigated with shoes and inserts.

At his checkup eight weeks after surgery, Jay was able to walk into the hospital with a normal gait—something he never thought would be possible.

"Jay has never seen his left leg straight as long as he can remember," Dr. Valera says. "I am so happy for him. Thank you SIGN."

When you donate to SIGN, you will provide life-changing surgery to help someone in need regain their ability to walk and work. And when you give before Dec. 31, your gift will be matched, helping twice as many people heal. Use the enclosed form or visit signfracturecare.org/donate to give the gift of healing surgery.

A SIGN Implant helped straighten Jay's femur and restore his mobility.



Extending Help to Others

By Lewis G. Zirkle, MD

I have the opportunity to sponsor 2-3 medical students per year through my alma mater, Duke University School of Medicine. Some of the students are from low-income countries and some have more resources, but they are all very humanitarian minded. When I read their reports and hopes for helping people throughout their career, I am reminded of the journey of SIGN.

As the students experience the joy of seeing their patients heal, I think of SIGN Staff and Surgeons who get that joy watching a patient walk after SIGN Surgery. The desire to extend help to others is very abundant throughout SIGN. Our SIGN Surgeons risk their lives to go out and help their fellow countrymen in times of conflict. They are working steadily in Myanmar, the Tigray region of Ethiopia, Ukraine, and in Afghanistan during the earthquake. You have stood with us and helped many people through your generosity.

We have worked hard to provide implants and instruments that are equivalent to those in the United

States. They are adapted for use in low- and middle-income countries (LMIC), and they do the job well, as seen in the SIGN Database and on the faces of healed patients. We are continually developing new and better instruments and implants, which will facilitate results even better than what we have achieved so far.



We have many decisions ahead of us, and these depend on you and your generosity. We are being asked to sponsor more and more hospitals to do SIGN Surgery. Current SIGN Program hospitals are performing more surgeries and need more implants. We are launching SIGN Spine, in partnership with spine surgeons who are very devoted to their goal of providing spine surgery for people in LMIC. They are all very capable physicians. Randy Huebner has designed a pedicle screw, which we hope will be a big improvement over the pedicle screws now available.

Your support makes all of this possible. We are a team, and each member is vital to the success of the whole.



SIGN Patients stand, squat, and smile because of your support.



Expanding through Training

SIGN Surgeons are taking the knowledge and experience they have gained and are sharing that with the next generation of orthopaedic surgeons. Dr. Billy Hoanga uses a traveling SIGN Set to visit hospitals in Tanzania, train the surgeons and staff with the SIGN Technique, and start the hospital on the path to becoming a SIGN Program.

Here, Dr. Hoanga (right) assists Dr. Igoro (left) with SIGN Surgery at Maweni Regional Referral Hospital.

Ways to Give This Holiday Season

With your support, SIGN provides surgeons in low- and middle-income countries with education and equipment. When you give, you are empowering a surgeon to help their patients walk again, return to their work and family, and keep the patient's family on the path out of poverty. Even a small investment in SIGN Surgeons provides a life-changing return for their patients.

As we approach the end of 2023, there are many ways that you can provide healing surgery for people in need. Some of these ideas can even create tax advantages for you. Please consult your financial adviser to see what is best for your situation.

Stocks and Bonds

When you donate stocks and bonds to SIGN, the total value of your stock can be tax-deductible, so you may not have to pay capital gains on the appreciation. Find the 2-step process for donating stocks at signfracturecare.org/stock-donation



IRA

If you are age 70 1/2 or older, check with your CPA to see if you are eligible to give a qualified charitable distribution (QCD) from your IRA account directly to SIGN.



Employer Matching

Many employers match donations to charities. Check with your Human Resources department to find out how your donation to SIGN can do even more good.



Donor Advised Fund

A Donor Advised Fund (DAF) is an excellent way to simplify your charitable giving and facilitate your strategic philanthropic goals. You can create a fund to manage giving to multiple organizations, create tax advantages, and simplify your charitable giving — the DAF sponsor handles all the tax receipts, record



Darcy, from Burundi, is back on his feet thanks to a donated SIGN Nail.

keeping, and disbursements. Learn more at signfracturecare.org/daf

Questions? Learn more at signfracturecare.org/ways-to-give or call 509.371.1107, ext. 2004.

SIGN Gift Catalog

What do you get for the person who has everything? You can give a gift that helps an injured person walk again and honor your loved one with a personalized card sharing the impact of your gift.

This year we've made it easier to give your gift. You can send an Ecard via email, have SIGN Staff mail a printed card, or download and print a card yourself.

Give the gift of healing with the enclosed form or at signfracturecare.org/giftcatalog





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**How You've
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November 2023**

24,295
Patients Healed

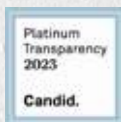
23 SIGN
Programs Started

242 Hospitals
received implants

52 Countries
have been sent
shipments

Contact SIGN

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signfracturecare.org



give.org

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Standards

See SIGN's privacy policy and state disclosures at signfracturecare.org/privacy

Season of Giving

Double Your Impact!

**All gifts received
through Dec. 31, 2023
will be matched, up
to a total of \$500,000.**

**To be matched, donations
must be postmarked by
December 31, 2023 or
received in our office by
noon on December 29, 2023.**

**Note: The SIGN Office closes at
5:00pm, Thursday, December 21
and reopens on Wednesday,
December 27, 2023 at 8:00am.**

