

# SIGN

FRACTURE CARE  
INTERNATIONAL



SIGN Surgeons provide excellent care, even in remote, austere hospitals.

## What Does It Matter?

By Lewis Zirkle, MD

You may receive many requests for contributions from assorted charities. You may ask yourself, "What does it matter?" SIGN Surgeons are very busy doing surgery for the injured poor, reporting their results, and caring for patients on the wards, as well as providing for their own families. Do these surgeons ask themselves "What does it matter?" while caring for the injured poor?

One of my favorite sayings is that "words are the shadows of action." A person's words come cheap, but their actions show their commitment. The surgeons who receive SIGN Implants and implant them in fractures so their patients can walk the next day answer this question by their

actions. Many have written us to detail how they have taken their SIGN Sets to other hospitals in impoverished areas of their country to hold surgical camps. They perform surgery for poor patients, just as they do in their own hospital, only under much more austere conditions. Many of these patients have injuries that healed improperly because they could not afford to travel to a big city for proper treatment.

Surgeons from Nepal have described how they set up surgical camps out in the mountains and have to carry generators to the rooms where they will do surgery on patients who cannot go to a hospital due to their poverty.

Surgeons in Tanzania return to the communities where they were born and conduct orthopaedic camps using SIGN Sets. We have provided a surgeon in Ethiopia with a designated SIGN Set that he takes to Somalia. Several surgeons in the Philippines carry SIGN Sets to remote communities around the country.

There are many instances of surgeons reaching out to care for poor patients in camps. These surgeons do not ask themselves "what does it matter?" They know the misery in disability that results from untreated or poorly treated fractures, and their actions and inconvenience to themselves show that treating the poor who have fractures certainly does matter.

# Four Stories: Surgical Camps Help Patients

## Tanzania

Just a few days prior to his first day of school, Safiel Adam, 15, was involved in a road traffic accident, sustaining multiple traumas, including a fracture of the femur. He was taken to a hospital where all of his injuries were treated, except for his broken femur because the hospital did not have the implants needed. As a result, Safiel was put in traction, which failed to heal the fracture. He lay in the ward with his hope of joining his friends in secondary school diminishing more every day.

SIGN Surgeon Dr. Billy Haonga met Safiel during an outreach camp visit to the hospital and treated his fracture using a SIGN Implant. "There are no orthopaedic surgeons down there," Dr. Billy said. "We usually travel to their places and operate on them." Safiel was able to return to school the following week to continue to pursue his dreams.



*Safiel Adam walks the day after his SIGN Surgery, with Dr. Billy (right).*

## Pakistan

Hameeda Bibi is a 35-year-old woman living in the Karakoram Mountains of northern Pakistan. The Ghurki Trust Teaching Hospital has established an orthopaedic camp there to help with the difficult trauma fractures.

Hameeda broke her tibia when she fell in her home. Following her accident, she visited the local bone-setter as she had no other immediate facilities to attend to her injury and lacked the funds to travel. Two weeks after her fall, Ghurki Trust Teaching Hospital held an orthopaedic camp near her village, where she was able to access the care she needed. She received a SIGN Nail and now is able to fully bear weight on her injured leg.

*(Continued on page 3)*



*Hameeda Bibi is able to stand and walk after her SIGN Surgery.*



*An Ethiopian patient waited five months for surgery, but is now healing.*

## Surgical Camps

(Continued from page 2)

### Nepal

Nepal Orthopaedic Hospital has sent teams of doctors and staff to remote locations around the country every year for the last 19 years. These teams see around 1,000 patients and perform 50 surgeries at each week-long camp. This experience was very helpful in setting up a field hospital in the management of a mass casualty situation during the mega earthquake of April 2015. "We feel that this modality of doing outreach health camps by taking the hospital services to the doorsteps of the needy is very beneficial to the poor and remote patients of Nepal," says SIGN Surgeon Dr. Saju Pradhan. **Look for a SIGN Field Report soon about the Nepal Surgical Camps.**

### Ethiopia

Teams from DANU Orthopedics Trauma and Surgery Center, in Addis Ababa, regularly travel 500 kilometers northeast to hold surgical camps in the small town of Harar. The hospital there has a few surgeons, but none trained in orthopaedics. During a recent trip, the team performed 60 surgeries, including six SIGN Surgeries for difficult and neglected fractures.

These patients did not have access to the right treatment for their injuries and could not afford to travel to the capital city. Their bones began to heal improperly, which would lead to life-long disability. Because these SIGN Surgeons travelled to the patients, these mothers, fathers, and children are healing and can resume their normal lives.

# Strategic Charitable Giving

## Part 1: Giving From a Retirement Account

By Michelle Clary, Thrivent Financial

**Welcome to the first in a four-part series about how to make the most of your giving by planning ahead.**

If investments were dishes at a summer barbeque, traditional IRAs would be the potato salad or chip dip. Tasty, but perishable. Wait too long to eat them and you'll get indigestion—or worse. Likewise, you need to start dipping into your traditional IRA at age 70½. If you don't take the required minimum distribution (RMD) each year, you'll get hit with a stomach-churning 50% excise tax. One way to keep your account from "spoiling" is to share: make a qualified charitable distribution (QCD). You may donate up to \$100,000 per year

to an eligible charity and satisfy your RMD at the same time (assuming your RMD is less than \$100,000). And unlike regular distributions, the QCD is tax-free. Remember, though, you can't claim the donation as a separate charitable contribution. You only get the tax benefit once. At the IRS and the barbeque, there are rules against double-dipping.

**Michelle Clary is a wealth advisor with Thrivent Financial, at Sageland Financial Consultants in Kennewick.**

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## 2017 SIGN Conference

Empower a Surgeon with a

**SCHOLARSHIP**

Education + Implants =

A Well Equipped Surgeon

**150** surgeons from **30+** countries will gather at the **2017 Annual SIGN Conference** held at our headquarters in Richland, WA.

This practical educational experience gives **SIGN Surgeons** the knowledge to provide healing care.

Gifts for scholarships may be made online at [signfracturecare.org/2017Conference](http://signfracturecare.org/2017Conference) or by completing the enclosed donor card.



Tickets on Sale!

# WINE & DINE for SIGN

September 30  
**Portland Benefit**

Portland Art Museum  
Portland, OR

October 21  
**Tri-Cities Benefit**

Three Rivers Convention  
Center, Kennewick, WA

You Can Purchase Tickets via...

Email:  
[lori.maier@signfracturecare.org](mailto:lori.maier@signfracturecare.org)  
(please indicate which benefit)

Or online for each benefit:  
[signfracturecare.org/  
TriCitiesBenefit](http://signfracturecare.org/TriCitiesBenefit)

[signfracturecare.org/  
PortlandBenefit](http://signfracturecare.org/PortlandBenefit)

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# SIGN Benefit Concert

featuring

*M<sup>o</sup> Giovanni Liguori*  
and  
*Cassandra Dicken*

August 17, 2017, 7:00pm

*Kennewick First  
Lutheran Church*

*418 N Yelm St, Kennewick, WA*

Join SIGN as we enjoy a concert of opera and classical music featuring Cassandra Dicken, a soprano vocalist raised in Tri-Cities and trained in Italy, and Maestro Giovanni Liguori, a highly accomplished Italian piano soloist, accompanist, and director.

There is no admission to the concert, which is sponsored by the Kiwanis Clubs of Tri-Cities. Donations benefit SIGN.



## SIGN Open House

Thursday, August 24

Machine shop tours, surgery demonstrations, lunch & more!  
11am to 2pm,  
451 Hills Street,  
Richland, WA

Learn more &  
pre-register at  
[signfracturecare.org/openhouse](http://signfracturecare.org/openhouse)



Tanzania, April 2017:  
A SIGN Patient and his parents.