



Road Crash Epidemic

INCREASING

SIGN Needed More Than Ever

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

1.35

million

deaths each year

20-50

million

injuries each year

50%

of world's population lives on \$5.50 or less per day

The World Health Organization's 2018 Global Status on Road Safety reveals that an estimated 1.35 million people are killed in traffic accidents every year, and 20 to 50 million more are injured, requiring surgical care to avoid disability. The accidents are rising more rapidly in developing countries, where adequate surgical care is often inaccessible, especially to people in poverty.

According to the World Bank, nearly half of the world lives on \$5.50 or less per day. These people cannot afford to purchase implants needed to repair broken bones, so they often forego treatment or lay in traction for months for their bones to heal.

Patients and their surgeons need access to SIGN Implants.

We need your help now more than ever to provide implants and instruments to hospitals that treat the injured poor.



SIGN Highlights 2018



228,979+ Patients healed since 1999

Humble Acceptance

In February, SIGN Founder and President Dr. Lewis G. Zirkle received the US Department of Defense Medal for Distinguished Public Service. Secretary of Defense James Mattis praised Dr. Zirkle's vision and the vast accomplishments that SIGN has made expanding orthopaedic care throughout the developing world.



Going Rural

Of the 22 new SIGN Programs launched in 2018, 10 are in rural communities. The people at these hospitals are farmers, pastoralists, and laborers who rely on their limbs for their livelihood.



Up until now, SIGN has been focused on opening programs in the largest, busiest hospitals. But as word about SIGN spreads and surgeons trained in teaching hospitals graduate and spread throughout the country, we are able to partner with a wider range of government and mission hospitals. Bringing SIGN to rural hospitals allows us to heal patients who don't have the means to travel to hospitals in big cities.



Healing Limbs and Transforming Families Around the World

Every one of the 20,735 SIGN Surgeries in 2018 changed a person's life. **Every broken bone healed helps a mother, father, child, brother, sister, or friend recover from a devastating injury and resume their life.**

SIGN Implants are ideal for treating badly broken bones from traffic accidents, but they are also effective for correcting life-long limb deformities. Children like Aldrin, who are born with leg deformities, are able to walk upright for the first time in their lives thanks to SIGN Surgery.

Go to signfracturecare.org/aldrin or text ALDRIN to 91999 to see a video of Aldrin's transformation.

Thank you! Your gifts make transformations like these possible!



Education Accelerates

Orthopaedic education remains the cornerstone of SIGN's work. In 2018, SIGN hosted four orthopaedic conferences around the world, in addition to our annual conference at SIGN Headquarters. These regional conferences allow more surgeons to attend and participate in specialized, hands-on training. In Cameroon, the conference focused on limb deformity correction while the Kenya conference focused on SIGN Surgery and pelvic fractures.

At the SIGN International Orthopaedic Conference in Richland, 131 surgeons from 28 countries shared their research and learned a wide variety of surgical techniques. This year we expanded the Bioskills Lab, where surgeons were able to practice new techniques on human tissue, to teach orthopaedic techniques beyond SIGN Surgery including pelvic fractures and using muscle flaps to cover the bone in serious injuries.

At the conference, SIGN introduced [thehub](#), a web portal to increase communication between SIGN Surgeons and provide additional educational opportunities throughout the year. We are excited to see SIGN Surgeons teach each other and take the lead on training new surgeons as they join the SIGN Family.



SIGN Depends on Volunteers

SIGN volunteers help us to support SIGN surgeons in myriad ways. At SIGN HQ, volunteers package the implants and instruments, others help to prepare marketing materials for mailing—like the newsletter you are reading—and others provide helping hands at our benefits and the annual SIGN Conference. For SIGN Education, North American surgeons volunteer to teach overseas or via electronic mentorship and consulting. SIGN Surgeons volunteer to train colleagues on the latest in SIGN technique, limb deformity, and pelvic fracture surgery. We are grateful that each of you devote your time and resources to give SIGN Surgeons the tools they need to provide healing hope to patients worldwide.



Innovation & Research

This past year SIGN analyzed data of more than 125,000 cases in the SIGN Surgical Database and determined that the SIGN Fin Nail is as effective as the standard SIGN Nail in comparable femur fractures. This is great news because the Fin Nail takes half of the surgery time as a standard nail, greatly increasing efficiency in busy hospitals.

SIGN Engineers developed new FX Plates and Benders. Surgeons are able to bend the plates to match each patient's unique bone structure. This stabilizes the fracture to enable proper healing.



A SIGN of Love:
Your Gift Will
be **Doubled!**

From February 1 to 14
your gifts will be
matched!

Save the Dates

September 11-14

2019 **SIGN**
INTERNATIONAL ORTHOPAEDIC
CONFERENCE

Richland, WA

**WINE
&
DINE**
for **SIGN**

September 21
Portland, OR

Portland Art Museum

October 12
Tri-Cities, WA

Three Rivers Convention Center

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Let's Celebrate!

20  SIGN
th Anniversary

Save the Date

Join us in celebrating 20 years of healing!

March 16, 2019

THREE RIVERS CONVENTION CENTER
7016 W Grandridge Blvd, Kennewick, WA

2:00-3:30pm

Social Hour with 20-Year Journey Display

3:30-5:00pm

Celebration Program with Special Guests

Tickets - \$25

Purchase tickets: online at signfracturecare.org/anniversary, by email to cari.exarhos@signfracturecare.org, or by calling Cari at (509) 371-1107.