



CURE Clubfoot Worldwide Overview

Founded in 2006, CURE Clubfoot Worldwide (CCW) seeks to eliminate clubfoot as a lifelong disability in the developing world in order to provide children with this condition something they have never had before: hope for a future.

As an initiative of CURE International, CCW's model for achieving this goal is to establish 100 countrywide treatment programs over the next 10 years. Each program will create a self-sustainable nationwide network of clinics with three specific objectives: raise awareness about clubfoot, train nationals to perform simple, corrective casting procedures and provide funding for families who cannot afford to pay for treatment.

As of 2010, CCW has established a presence in Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Kenya, Malawi, Niger, Rwanda and Zambia. Since CCW's inception, more than 10,000 children have been cured of clubfoot.

Clubfoot is the world's most common congenital birth defect, affecting more than 200,000 newborn children a year. Famous people who were born with clubfoot include former NFL quarterback Troy Aikman, U.S. soccer legend Mia Hamm and former Olympic figure-skating champion Kristi Yamaguchi.

Clubfoot can affect either one of the feet or both. It twists the ankles inwards and downwards and makes walking difficult or even impossible.

While it has been eradicated in the developed world, it's a different story in the developing world. Treatment for most children with clubfoot is simply not available. Children with untreated clubfoot face a lifetime of missed occupational, educational and social opportunities.

The good news is that clubfoot is curable, and treatment is inexpensive. In fact, a child under age 2 can be cured permanently of clubfoot through the use of the nonsurgical Ponseti Method, which uses a casting process to straighten the feet, for about \$250. This is the treatment method CCW utilizes at its clinics.

In order to standardize and ensure the highest-quality training and treatment protocols, the initiative also includes a partnership between CCW and the University of Iowa-based Ponseti International Association.