William P. Magee Jr., D.D.S., M.D., Co-founder and CEO

William P. Magee Jr., D.D.S., M.D., a leading plastic and craniofacial surgeon, founded Operation Smile in 1982 with his wife, Kathleen S. Magee, B.S.N., M.Ed., M.S.W., and serves as the organization's CEO. Operation Smile is a worldwide children’s medical charity whose network of global volunteers are dedicated to helping improve the health and lives of children and young adults.

In addition to leading the organization as CEO, Dr. Magee also trains international physicians in craniofacial techniques through Operation Smile's annual Physicians’ Training Program (PTP.) As of May 2008, the program has brought nearly 800 health care professionals from participating countries to Norfolk, Virginia, for advance training in plastic and craniofacial surgery.

Dr. Magee has been the keynote speaker at international conferences, events and ceremonies. In June 2000, he addressed more than 1,200 delegates from 50 countries and regions around the world on "Information Technology for Better Health Care," at the World Congress on Information Technology in Taipei, Taiwan. In 1997, he held the Kazanjian Lectureship, an honorary lecture to the entire membership of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons in San Francisco. In addition, Dr. Magee has delivered several college and medical school commencement addresses and is actively involved in inspirational and motivational speaking in the corporate sector; he served as the main platform speaker at the Million Dollar Round Table annual meeting in 2003 as well as the Hasbro, Inc. annual meeting. Dr. Magee has done hundreds of national and local presentations on facial reconstructive surgery.

Dr. Magee's work on behalf of children around the world has led to the receipt of numerous awards and honors including the first $1 million Conrad N. Hilton Humanitarian Prize in 1996 for "…exemplary and significant contributions to ease human suffering," and the Servants of Peace Award from the UN representative to the Vatican in 1997. In 1999, the Magees received the Golden Plate Award "representing the many who excel in the great fields of endeavor" by the American Academy of Achievement. In April 2001, he and Ms. Magee were awarded a 2001 Common Wealth Award of Distinguished Service for outstanding achievement in public service. In November 2001, Operation Smile received the Antonio Feltrinelli Prize for Exceptional Endeavors of Outstanding Moral and Humanitarian Value by the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei, which represents the National Academy of Science in Italy. The Christopher Columbus Fellowship Foundation awarded Dr. Magee a Frank Annunzio Award in October 2002. The awards honor living Americans who are improving the world through ingenuity and innovation. In 2003, Dr. Magee was inducted into the Toledo-based Medical Mission Hall of Fame, in honor of making a difference in the health of his fellow human beings; and in 2004, the organization was awarded The Humanitarian Rose Award from The People’s Princess Charitable Foundation, Inc., London, England. In 2007, USAID presented him and Ms. Magee with the President’s Call to Service Award from President George W. Bush.

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Dr. Magee was included in the 2002 Consumers’ Guide to Top Doctors from a recent survey conducted by the non-profit consumer education organization, Consumers’ CHECKBOOK. Dr. Magee was one of 102 members of the Sentara Norfolk General medical staff rated highest by their peers, more than 490 doctors from the American Medical Association’s Norfolk, Virginia mailing list. AMA members participated in the survey that asked them where they would send their own families for medical care.

Dr. Magee also received The American Medical Association’s Pride in the Profession Award for 2000 and the Distinguished Service Award from the American Society of Plastic Surgeons in 1998. He holds honorary degrees from Fordham University, Mount St. Mary's College, Loyola College, Old Dominion University, Villanova University and Denison University. Dr. Magee has written numerous articles for scientific journals and has contributed chapters for books.

He also has made appearances on “CNN,” “NBC Nightly News,” “Dateline NBC,” “Fox News,” “Leeza,” “The Rosie O'Donnell Show,” “Hour of Power,” “48 Hours,” “CBS Sunday Morning” and CBS's “Touched by an Angel.” The Magees also have been featured in “People Magazine,” “Time,” “Ladies' Home Journal,” “Southern Living,” “Biography” and numerous other publications.

The Magees envisioned and launched World Journey of Hope ’99, the largest surgical mission in history dedicated to correcting facial deformities among some of the world’s neediest children. The nine-week mission, the first-ever of its kind, transformed the lives of more than 5,300 children and young adults in 17 developing countries and in 10 cities across the United States. In 2007, during its 25th Anniversary, Operation Smile conducted World Journey of Smiles (WJOS), simultaneous medical missions to 40 sites in 25 countries worldwide, which took place November 7-16, 2007. Free physical examinations were provided to 7,414 patients and 4,086 children born with cleft lips and cleft palates were provided free surgical treatment during WJOS. The initiative mobilized more than 1,900 volunteers from 44 countries and was the largest simultaneous medical mission of its kind.

A New Jersey native, Dr. Magee received his Bachelor of Science degree from Mount St. Mary's College in Maryland, his D.D.S. from the University of Maryland and his M.D. from George Washington University Medical School. He served his general surgery residency at the University of Virginia Medical School. Dr. Magee was awarded the Hays-Fulbright Scholar Grant from the Franco-American Commission where he studied with Dr. Paul Tessier, the father of craniofacial surgery. He also did advanced studies in his field in Switzerland, Germany and Scotland. Dr. Magee completed his plastic surgery residency at the Eastern Virginia Graduate School of Medicine in 1978. He served as president of the Virginia Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons from 1991-93.

Dr. Magee is a lifetime member of Operation Smile's Board of Directors. He maintains a private practice in Norfolk and is Director of The Institute for Craniofacial and Plastic Surgery in the Children’s Hospital of The King’s Daughters. In addition, he is Associate Professor of Plastic Surgery at Eastern Virginia Medical School. Dr. Magee also serves on the Board of Directors for talksurgery.com and is a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons. The Magees reside in Norfolk and have five grown children, all of whom have served on medical missions and are active in volunteer work for Operation Smile. In addition, the Magees have 14 grandchildren.

For more information on Operation Smile, visit www.operationsmile.org.

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