

GARDEN CITY PLASTIC SURGEON DONATES TIME AND MEDICAL EXPERTISE TO PERFORM FREE LIFE-ALTERING SURGERIES IN VIETNAM

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Dr. Thomas Davenport, of Garden City, NY's Long Island Plastic Surgical Group, P.C., is leading a team of volunteer doctors and other medical professionals on an Interplast surgical trip to Vietnam this week. Interplast is the first humanitarian organization to provide free reconstructive surgery for children with clefts, disabling burns and hand injuries and has provided 64,000 life-changing surgeries for those who have no other access to care.

Davenport and other Interplast medical volunteers will perform approximately 75 reconstructive surgeries for impoverished children and adults who suffer from disabling injuries and congenital deformities.

"In developing countries like Vietnam, few plastic surgeons are available to perform the needed surgeries, or impoverished families simply cannot afford the medical help their children require," said Dr. Bill Schneider, Interplast's chief medical officer. "Interplast depends on volunteer medical experts like Dr. Davenport to help us provide reconstructive surgeries and to teach local doctors how to perform surgeries more safely, effectively and efficiently on their own."

Cleft lip and cleft palate, for example, are among the most common congenital deformities worldwide, affecting an estimated 1 in 700 newborns. Additionally, everyday tasks in developing countries—such as cooking over open fires, using kerosene lamps for light, or working with farm tools and equipment—can cause terrible burns and other debilitating injuries. Children with cleft lips or palates are often ostracized from their communities and denied an education because of their appearance and speech impediments. Many accident victims endure a lifetime of suffering simply because they have no access to the reconstructive surgical care that would help them regain functional mobility or improve their physical appearance.

"As a volunteer with Interplast for many years, I have seen the significant impact reconstructive surgery can make in the lives of the patients and their families. To help repair a cleft palate so a child can go to school or a disabling burn so a father can return to work is a life-changing experience---for the families and for the medical volunteers," said Davenport. "It is exciting and meaningful work and I feel fortunate to be able to participate in helping others heal and lead more normal lives."

This trip to Vietnam is Davenport's twelfth Interplast volunteer surgical team trip. On surgical trips to Brazil, Ecuador, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Nepal, Peru and the Philippines, he has performed approximately 275 surgeries.

Davenport is a board-certified plastic surgeon and a member of the American Society of Plastic Surgeons and the American Society of Aesthetic Plastic Surgery. He specializes in reconstructive surgery and performs many cleft lip and palate surgeries in his Garden City office. Davenport received his bachelors of science degree from Iona College and his medical degree from Yale University. In 2000, Davenport was awarded the prestigious Webster Fellowship in pediatric plastic surgery from Interplast, which provided him the opportunity to travel around the world performing reconstructive surgery for the poor and lecturing on plastic surgery. For more information on Davenport, visit www.lipsg.com.

Long Island Plastic Surgical Group, PC (LIPSG), established in 1948 in Garden City, is the largest and longest continuously-running practice of its kind in North America. Its multiple Centers for Excellence include: non-invasive skin care and age management; cleft lip and palate repair; facial reanimation; microsurgery and peripheral nerve repair; comprehensive face and body cosmetic surgery; burns and complex wound management; hand and upper extremity reconstruction; and comprehensive aesthetic and reconstructive breast surgery. LIPSG can be reached at 516-742-3404.

Interplast---the first humanitarian organization to provide free reconstructive surgery for children with clefts, disabling burns and hand injuries---has provided 64,000 life-changing surgeries for those who have no other access to care. Working in underserved regions of 16 countries throughout Africa, Asia and Latin America, Interplast teaches, empowers and partners with volunteers and overseas medical professionals so every child living in poverty has free access to the safest and highest-quality care—now and in the future. Interplast is committed to transforming as many lives as possible, allocating 90 percent of its budget to medical programs. www.interplast.org.