

## MILES FOR SMILES

### Raising funds for children born with cleft lips

#### ABOUT

Miles for Smiles was formed to assist Operation Smile in creating awareness for the plight of children born with cleft lips and palates and raise funds to perform corrective surgery on them. The initiative has a fundamental aim, to inspire and challenge individuals to go out and make a difference in the lives of those around them, by challenging themselves to achieve the impossible.

Operation Smile SA forms part of a global non-profit medical services organisation that has provided care to over hundreds of thousands of children worldwide, having operated in over 60 countries. Through the endorsement and activation of their Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the National Department of Health in South Africa, the inaugural medical mission in Empangeni, KwaZulu-Natal took place in 2006 where 98 children and young adults received free medical evaluations and patients received free reconstructive surgery. The impact has now extended to Swaziland, Madagascar, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Malawi Rwanda and Namibia.

Since our partnership was formed in 2006, our platform serves the organisation through ongoing fundraising and awareness campaigns for their cause. In 2016 we celebrate our 10 Year Anniversary of this partnership where our contribution has translated into over 2600 surgeries out of the 6000 procedures conducted to date.



#### QUICK FACTS

- One in 10 children born with a cleft will die before their first birthday.
- Approximately one in every 1000 babies in Africa is born with a cleft lip or cleft palate.
- A cleft lip or cleft palate operation and follow-up care costs approximately R5500.
- In as little as 45 minutes, one cleft lip surgery can change a child's life forever.
- Operation Smile works in 13 countries in Africa. More than 5,000 medical professionals from around the world volunteer with Operation Smile.

#### Alignment to 2030 plan:

- Deploy primary healthcare teams to provide care to families and communities.
- Everyone must have access to an equal standard of care, regardless of their income.