

Surgeon gives smiles to children

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Local plastic surgeon Frank Barone's most recent visit to Vietnam is more than just a trip down memory lane.

He is visiting the country Nov. 4-Nov. 14 to join doctors from across the world helping children who suffer from cleft palates and other facial deformities as part of Operation Smile, a worldwide nonprofit organization that provides reconstructive surgery to children in countries where medical care is not readily

available, said Leah Catanese, marketing coordinator for Barone.

Catanese said the trip, "20 Years of Smiles — A Journey of Miracles," marks the 20th anniversary of the first trip Operation Smile took to Vietnam in 1989. Barone, of Frank Barone Plastic Surgery/evolv medical aesthetics, has taken nearly 30 trips and was a part of the original trip led by founder William Magee, who was his instructor in 1987.

Doctors spend the first few days of the trip evaluating children and determining who qualify for surgery. They spend the final week at existing medical facilities fixing deformities.

"He's over there performing surgery for 12 hours a day on which ever children get picked," she said. "They have thousands of kids show up for this sort of thing, but they can only handle so much."

This trip, there are 15 sites throughout Vietnam where doctors hope to help more than 3,000 kids, she said. In addition to plastic surgeons, dentists and speech pathologists make the trip to provide aid.

On the web



visit www.operationsmile.org or www.frankbaronemd.com and click on links for more information.