



# Pediatric Ophthalmology & Plastic Surgery

St. Vincent & the Grenadines, February 2016

2016 marked World Pediatric Project's 14th annual pediatric ophthalmology and plastic surgery mission to its partner hospital, Milton Cato Memorial Hospital, in St. Vincent and the Grenadines. The team traveled February 18-27, 2016 and was led by Dr. Donna Brown and Dr. Nadia Blanchet, both of whom have been providing medical services in the region for over 20 years.

Throughout the pre-screening process and mission week, the team collaborated very closely with local physicians and specialists, providing guidance and expertise. They rely heavily on local providers to pre-screen and present appropriate cases, as well as provide follow up care for the remainder of the year. Over the years the team has developed strong working relationships with partners in St. Vincent and the Eastern Caribbean, and has made amazing strides in building local capacity in their specialties.

All three mission specialties worked well into the night evaluating and operating on as many patients as possible over the course of the mission week. As WPP's Eastern Caribbean initiative continues to grow and patient numbers increase from neighboring islands, the team plans to add more days to the mission in the future to better accommodate the overwhelming needs in the region.



**Team (left to right):** Simon Carey (WPP EC CDO), Dr. Kent Rollins (urologist), Dr. Donna Brown (pediatric ophthalmologist), Dr. Nadia Blanchet (plastic surgeon), Dr. Rob Brown (urologist), Sister Jackie King (WPP EC Regional Dir.) Cindy Jeter (OR nurse), Dr. Hao Zhang (plastic surgery resident), Mary O'Hanley (CRNA), Dixon Findlay (Rotary Club South, President)



**10-month-old ophthalmology patient Nakayda was happily discharged to the care of a local physician following her Sunday morning clinic with Dr. Brown.**



## Ophthalmology

Dr. Donna Brown  
· 55 Evaluations  
· 20 Surgeries



## Plastic Surgery

Dr. Nadia Blanchet  
· 54 Evaluations  
· 17 Surgeries



## Speech Therapy

Miriam Kerr  
· 20 Evaluations

## INTRODUCING SPEECH THERAPY!

For the past several years, Dr. Blanchet has been working to incorporate a speech therapy component to the annual plastic surgery mission. Her efforts paid tremendous dividends this year when speech pathologist Miriam Kerr, from Ling and Kerr Therapy Services in Wilmington, NC, accompanied the team and hosted two days of speech therapy clinic at MCMH. Miriam worked closely with St. Vincent staff and physicians across multiple specialties to identify and evaluate 20 patients. She worked with patient families, as well as health and education professionals, to identify ways to better meet the children's needs on a consistent basis.



The speech clinic complements the surgical component of the mission, allowing WPP to provide more comprehensive care for surgical patients. Miriam is also exploring opportunities to provide virtual follow-up therapy services throughout the year. The St. Vincent medical community is still buzzing over Miriam's visit, and WPP is excited to support the continuing and innovative growth of the speech clinic to address the needs in the Eastern Caribbean.