



Pediatric Ophthalmology & Plastic Surgery St. Vincent & the Grenadines, February 2013

World Pediatric Project's 11th annual pediatric ophthalmology and plastic surgery mission traveled to St. Vincent and the Grenadines in February 2013 for a week-long visit to WPP partner hospital Milton Cato Memorial Hospital. The team was led by long-time volunteers **Dr. Donna Brown**, pediatric ophthalmologist, and **Dr. Nadia Blanchet**, plastic/reconstructive surgeon. Also accompanying the surgeons this year were **Dr. Timothy Browne** and OR nurse **Karen Skelton**, both of whom worked with Dr. Blanchet, and CRNA **Mary O'Hanley**, who worked with Dr. Brown. Within the Eastern Caribbean partner nations served by WPP, there are no trained pediatric ophthalmologists or plastic surgeons. This annual mission team provides a much needed outlet for surgical care in the region. Most patients in need of ophthalmology or plastic surgery services are referred to adult practitioners who often lack the appropriate pediatric specialty training to most effectively deal with these children's conditions.

Ophthalmology in Numbers

47 patients evaluated
17 patients underwent procedures

Nine-month old **Kevonta** (bottom right) takes a nap while waiting to be seen by Dr. Brown on clinic day. Soon after Kevonta was born, his mother, Oneiva, was told that he had an eye condition and should see Dr. Brown when she arrives for her annual ophthalmology mission. Oneiva said that she was not at all reluctant to bring her son to the clinic since she had heard great things about the doctors who had been coming to St. Vincent over the years. After her son's procedure, she explained how moved she was by the medical team's kindness and caring demeanor. She said this gave her the assurance needed to feel comfortable enough to put her child's care and safety into their hands.



Twelve year old **Bianca** (left) has a blind and unsightly left eye. During this year's mission, measurements were taken and sent to Carolina Eye Prosthetics, Inc. of Burlington, NC. The company generously prepared a custom-fit prostheses, free of charge, and donated it to Bianca. It will be delivered to her by the next WPP mission team traveling to St. Vincent in March.



(above) Dr. Blanchet and Dr. Browne with little **Machela** after her cleft lip repair.



(left) In 2011, a WPP orthopedic surgery team removed an extraneous limb from **Dareus'** buttocks. Both this year and last, Dr. Blanchet has provided him with surgical procedures to help remove the scar and asymmetry that resulted from the original operation. The selfless dedication of WPP's medical specialists in helping Dareus have a normal life has left Dareus' mother very appreciative and excited to share her experience with other mothers who may be in need of the same support she required two years ago.

Plastic Surgery in Numbers

41 patients evaluated
22 patients underwent procedures



The WPP plastic surgery team takes time for a picture with some of the patients and their mothers. Vincentian surgical resident, Dr. Melissa Yearwood (center), was a great help to the team during the week.

Note the difference between **Vineshaw's** picture on the top, from Dr. Blanchet's 2011 mission, and the picture on the bottom from this year's mission. Vineshaw was born in 2010 with a congenital nevus of the forehead and face. Most of it was removed during last year's mission. This year, Dr. Blanchet excised more of the nevus and performed scar revisions. The picture on the bottom is of Vineshaw before she received surgery this year. We can expect to see an even more dramatic improvement once this year's surgical site has healed. This is an excellent example of WPP medical specialists' ability to continually follow-up with their patients and provide them with the ongoing procedures they often require.

