



Closing the Gap to **Reconstructive Surgery**

ReSurge International Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024

Letter from our President & CEO	1
Section 1: Who We Are	
Mission and Vision	2
Focus Areas	4
Where We Work	5
We're About People	6
Section 2: Our Impact	
Quantifying the Impact	8
of Reconstructive Surgery	
2023/24 Year in Review	10
Section 3: Closing the Gap	
Introducing Our New	
Awareness Campaign	12
Closing the Dream Gap: Meet Luz-Dariana	13
Closing the Gender Equity Gap: ReSurge at the United Nations	14
Closing the Doctor Gap: Scaling Capacity in Ethiopia and Across Africa	16
Closing the Resource Gap: ReSurge Documentary Garners International Acclaim	17
Section 4: Volunteers & Partners	
Medical Volunteers	18





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www.ReSurge.org

IMAGE ABOVE: Raikumari, a ReSurae patient from India. She was burned badly after suffering from an epileptic seizure. Though many in her community assumed her life was over, reconstructive surgeries made possible by ReSurge have given her new hope. Rajkumari and her kitten were photographed as part of our new campaign Closing the Gap to Reconstructive Surgery. Read more about the campaign on page 12 and look for photographs of other patients throughout the book.

COVER: Muskan Khatun, an acid attack survivor, ReSurge patient, and human rights activist from Nepal. Read about her on pages 12, 14-15.

Dear ReSurge Friends and Supporters,

On behalf of the ReSurge International board and staff team, we are delighted to share our Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2024 with you. This past fiscal year was an exciting and crucially important one-centered on laying the foundation for a bold new vision for expanded impact.

With "10X" as our rallying cry, we established a shared vision to exponentially increase access to life-changing reconstructive surgery in low income countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America. To make this bold vision a reality, we developed a threeyear strategic plan and initiated early efforts to mobilize ReSurge for successful implementation beginning in Fiscal Year 2025 (FY2025).

As you will see throughout this report, ReSurge experienced many "firsts" as we began to live into our ambitious vision even as the new strategic plan was still being developed. Among these firsts was ReSurge's presentation at the 68th United Nations Commission on the Status of Women. Entitled "Girls on Fire: The Gendered Outcomes of Burn Injuries", our collaborative session focused on the prevalence of burn injuries and gender-based burn violence a hidden yet urgent issue disproportionately affecting women and girls.

Another first was Ogilvy Health's pro bono engagement with ReSurge International to develop a comprehensive public awareness campaign, to be launched in FY2025. The intent of the campaign is to dramatically increase the number of people and organizations familiar with-and engaging with-ReSurge and the transformative power of reconstructive surgery on lives, families, and entire communities. Growing our

ReSurge community is essential to garnering the level of resources needed to close the gap to surgical care access.

A third crucial first was the publication of a groundbreaking study quantifying the long-term impact of ReSurge's trainthe-trainer model. According to the study conducted by Dr. Lawrence Cai, Dr. James Chang, and Natalie Meyers, supporting one reconstructive surgeon-trainer can potentially impact 400,000 patients over a lifetime. This profound multiplier effect inspired our bold vision to "close the gap" to surgical care access and now serves as the key driver of ReSurge's new strategic plan.

While we celebrate the accomplishments of this past year, we also pause to honor those who chartered the path before us. In April, we lost Dr. Donald Laub-the founder of ReSurge International (formerly Interplast), who passed away at the age of 89. Dr. Laub pioneered the concept of volunteer surgical teams working overseas to help the underserved, making ReSurge the first organization of its kind. We honor Don's passion, perseverance, and boundless spirit which live on throughout the ReSurge community today.

With our gratitude for your support in helping us to create a world in which safe, timely, and affordable reconstructive surgical care is accessible to all!







Manisha Shetty Gulati President & CEO **Board Chairperson**

Manishe

Transforming Lives Through Reconstructive Surgery

Every two seconds

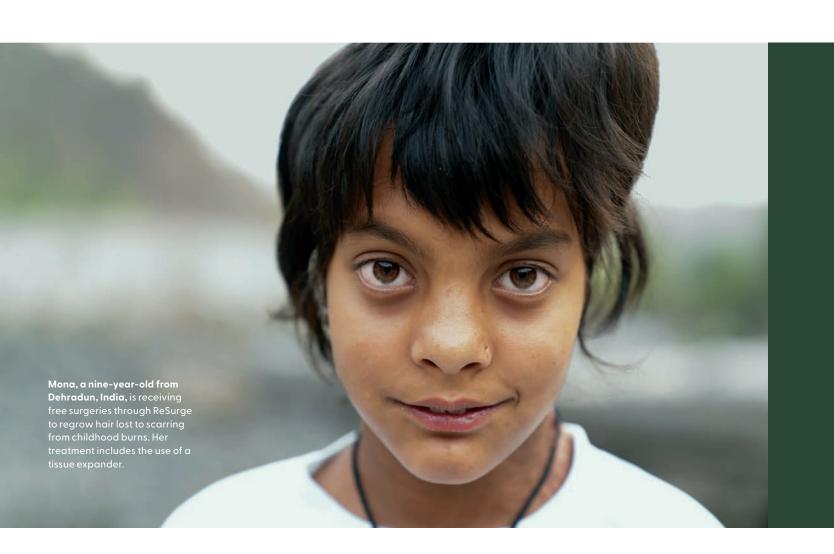
someone in the world dies from a surgically preventable disease.

Five billion people

do not have access to safe, timely, and affordable surgical care.

There is a global shortage

of reconstructive surgeons, and people in lowincome countries suffer the most.



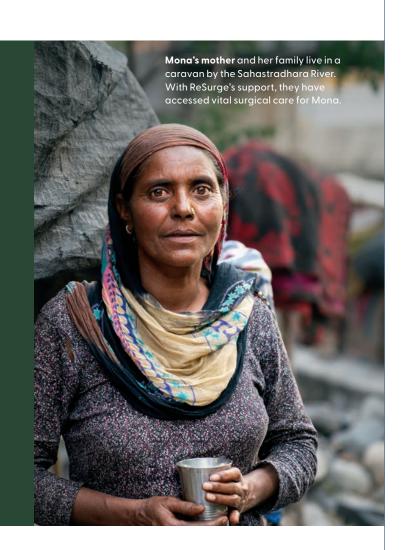
Together, we can solve this crisis. ReSurge is implementing sustainable solutions for these large scale problems.

OUR MISSION:

We build, scale, and sustain reconstructive surgical capacity to provide life-changing care to those with the greatest need.

OUR VISION:

A world where safe, timely, and affordable reconstructive surgical care is accessible to all.



2 RESURGE INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

3

Focus Areas

Training & Capacity Building

We give hands-on and virtual training from our world-class medical volunteers to local surgical teams in low-income countries. These teams are empowered with the skills and tools they need to transform lives and create sustainable improvements to the quality of life in their communities.



Direct Patient Care

We provide free, direct surgical care for individuals with the greatest need by funding our local Surgical Outreach Partners. Our partners are trained and certified to find, connect with, and treat the families who need it the most.



Advocacy & Equity

As one of the founders in the global surgery movement, we work shoulder to shoulder with governments and multilateral organizations to make global surgery a priority on the broader health agenda.

Through our women's empowerment programs, we focus on building gender equity in global surgery.







Where We Work

Latin America: Bolivia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Peru

Africa: Ethiopia, Kenya, Mali, Mozambique, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe

Asia: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Nepal, Vietnam

At ReSurge, we don't just treat one condition.

And we don't fly in and leave.

We are one of the few organizations to cover the full spectrum of reconstructive surgical care and focus on training local doctors who will treat their patients long-term. Our teams treat severe burns, traffic injuries, conditions like cleft lips and palates, nerve damage, and even provide breast reconstruction post-cancer.



At the core, ReSurge is about people, families, and their communities.

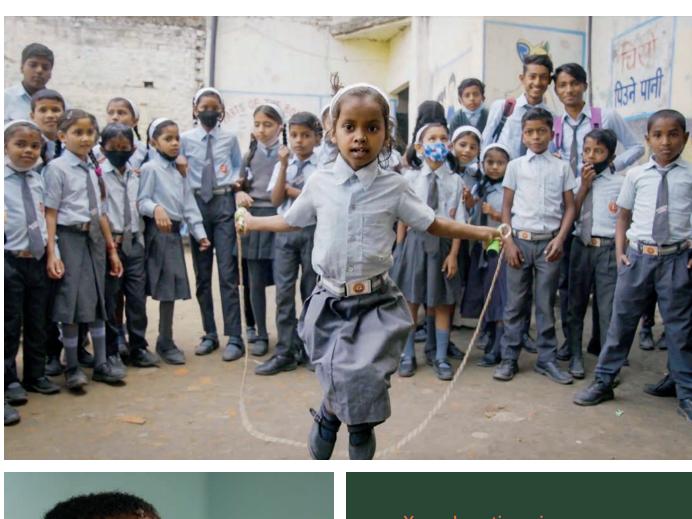
If left untreated, an injury requiring reconstructive surgery often leads to a lifetime of pain and an inability to work, to find a partner, to care for a family. Individuals are robbed of their human dignity because they lack access to medical care. When compounded, entire communities—and their economies—suffer from a lack of productivity.

At ReSurge, we are inspired by each person's unique potential. Providing reconstructive surgery means a mother can hold her child, a child can grow up to meaningfully contribute to his or her community, and that community can grow and thrive.

This is what we mean by life-changing surgical care.









Your donation gives patients in need a second chance at life. Here's how it works:

- 1. ReSurge receives a donation.
- 2. We train and support local surgeons to serve their communities.
- 3. We provide free surgery to lowincome patients across Africa, Asia, and Latin America.
- **4.** We advocate for global surgery access and gender equity on the broader health agenda.

Physicians are trained, patients are healed, communities can thrive—thanks to you.

Quantifying the Impact of Surgical Training



A single reconstructive surgeon trainer in a low-income country has the potential to transform over 400,000 lives in their career.

This year, ReSurge International published a groundbreaking study that unveils the first-ever framework for quantifying the impact of a single surgeon's training across multiple generations of trainees.

We found that a single surgeon trainer in a low-income country has the potential to impact over 400,000 patient cases in their lifetime. There is a sizable impact in the first generation of training, and this impact is even greater in the second generation of training, particularly in low-income settings. This is the ripple effect quantified!

The findings of this study are crucial for addressing the global shortage of reconstructive surgeons and closing the reconstructive surgery gap in low-income countries. ReSurge International, a pioneer in the global surgery movement, has long championed a focus on training and capacity building.

"This ground-breaking study confirms what we have been saying for decades—that training is the most effective and sustainable way to address the unmet surgical burden of disease in low-income countries."

"If we are going to look back at the impact, it won't be just be the operations we've done, it will be the hundreds of surgeons we've trained – and the surgeons they train – creating a ripple effect into the future."

DR. CHRIS CONNER
ReSurge Medical Volunteer



Since publishing this study, we have seen a groundswell of interest from other major global health organizations and media outlets.



Scan here to read the peer-reviewed study at ReSurge.org

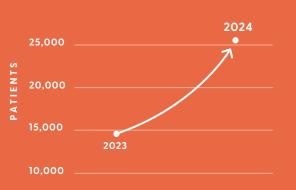


Scan here to read the OpEd at Stanford Social Innovation Review story at ssir.org



25,341

Patients Impacted this fiscal year A 40% increase from the previous year!



ReSurge trained over 5,700 medical professionals

We partnered with:

58 global medical volunteers and lecturers

They donated:

More than 3,100 hours of their time

An estimated value of:

Over \$2.4 million

163,831

Total patients Impacted to-date in our 50+ years



57,311 of these patients (more than of third of our 50-year total) came from the last three years of activity. The training is working! We are of patients served in our first 50 years by 2030.

on our way to double the number



Partnered with Ohana One

to bring Augmented Reality (AR) technology to ReSurge sites in Ethiopia, Nepal, India, Tanzania, Uganda, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe to allow for surgical mentoring through smart glasses.



Partnered with **Proximie**

for the first ever installation at ALERT Hospital in Ethiopia to allow for live-streaming and case mentoring.



Partnered with the United Nations'

Institute for Training and Research's Global Surgery Learning Hub by providing 13 courses.

20 Surgical Outreach **Partners** in 12 countries



How much do ReSurge patients pay for all of this?

O3 Closing the Gap

We're intensifying our focus on getting surgical care to the communities that need it most.

We face a harsh reality: millions in low-income countries are deprived of reconstructive surgical care which is standard in high-income nations. There is a gap—created by a critical shortage of medical professionals and resources, leading to inequity, unfulfilled potential, and lost dreams.





At the end of the 2024 calendar year, ReSurge is launching a special public awareness campaign: Closing the Gap to Reconstructive Surgery in probono partnership with Ogilvy Health. It's our consolidated effort to spotlight the urgent need for more resources and support, reinforcing that reconstructive surgery transcends cosmetic concerns—it is crucial for health, dignity, and survival. To truly make a difference, we must address the underlying issues: the doctor gap, the resource gap, the gender equity gap, and, fundamentally, the dream gap.

In the following pages, read a few stories that highlight how ReSurge has already begun closing gaps this past fiscal year.



Visit our website to see the latest campaign stories and materials. ReSurge.org/closing-the-gap



Closing the Gap on your feed!

Keep an eye out for our new series of ads coming to social media platforms and outdoor advertising in select cities. These stories feature ReSurge patients like Muskan (also on the cover; read more on pages 14–15) who are rebuilding their lives after receiving reconstructive surgery.





PATIENT STORY / BOLIVIA

Meet Luz-Dariana

Reconstructive surgery doesn't just rebuild bodies—it allows people to get back to life, thrive, and dream. For young Luz-Dariana, a ReSurge patient from Santa Cruz, Bolivia, that meant embracing her true potential as an artist.

"Hands are an important part of the human body. Without our hands, we can hardly do anything," explains Diana Castro, Luz-Dariana's mother. Her daughter was born without a thumb in her left hand or a radius bone in her right arm due to a rare congenital anomaly called radial hemimelia which occurs in one out of every 30,000-100,000 live births. She needed help with basic tasks like eating, dressing, and writing, which also impeded her ability to express her creativity. While her peers easily grasped crayons and pencils, Luz-Dariana struggled, finding it frustrating as she aspired to create art.

Her life transformed when her mother sought the help of Dr. Jorge Terrazas, a trained hand surgeon and ReSurge International surgical partner in Bolivia. Dr. Terrazas performed two critical surgeries, supported by ReSurge Medical Volunteer and nerve transfer



specialist, Dr. Amy Moore. The first surgery gave Luz-Dariana a functional thumb on her left hand, vastly improving her ability to manipulate objects. The second surgery enhanced her right arm's functionality, boosting her independence and artistic expression.

Following the surgeries, Luz-Dariana blossomed. Previously unable to hold a crayon, she began drawing and coloring with skill, vividly bringing her artistic visions to life. Her newfound independence also elevated her confidence, allowing her to manage daily activities on her own and providing her mother with respite.

In a country of 12.5 million people, there are likely to be one to six children born each year in Bolivia whose lives can be transformed through access to surgical care. Luz's case is just one example of how surgery can positively shape the life of a child, their family members, and the community they enrich.



ReSurge at the United Nations

ReSurge is committed to providing care for women survivors of acid attacks and other intentional burn injuries.

In March 2024, ReSurge was honored to host a panel at the United Nations 68th Commission on the Status of Women: "Girls on Fire: The Gendered Outcomes of Burn Injuries." Burn injuries remain a global health issue that disproportionately impacts women and girls.

The panel was led by ReSurge Executive Vice President of Programs and Partnerships, Natalie Meyers, and featured ReSurge surgeon, Dr. Rose Alenyo from Uganda and acid-attack survivor, Natalia Ponce de León from Colombia. The panel explored how we can work to advance burn prevention, treatment, and recovery—including the critical role of reconstructive surgery—for women and girls in low and middle-income countries.

Empowering Acid Attack Survivors Through Solidarity

Following the UN event, ReSurge organized the first-ever meeting between Natalia Ponce De León, a heroic acid attack survivor, and activist from Colombia, and Muskan Khatun, an acid attack survivor, ReSurge

patient, and human rights activist from Nepal. "As I learned more about the laws in my country, I realized the justice system didn't provide enough protection or punishment for such crimes," Muskan says. "It felt like a bigger hurt than the acid attack itself. That's when I decided to raise my voice and work towards changing the laws to ensure justice for others like me."

Both women are recipients of the U.S. Secretary of State's International Women of Courage Award, and they have turned their traumatic experiences into vigorous advocacy for justice in their countries. In partnership with the U.S. Embassy in Nepal, this encounter not only made a powerful statement against gender-based violence but also garnered major media attention, including a front-page feature in The Rising Nepal—"Muskan, Natalia: Symbol of Hope, Resilience."

The meeting also included sessions with young women burn survivors, inspiring them to embrace strength and courage despite their adversities.





WATCH THE U.S. EMBASSY VIDEO

ReSurge.org/stories/twoacid-attack-survivorsmeet-for-the-first-time/









Scaling Surgical Capacity in Ethiopia and Across Africa

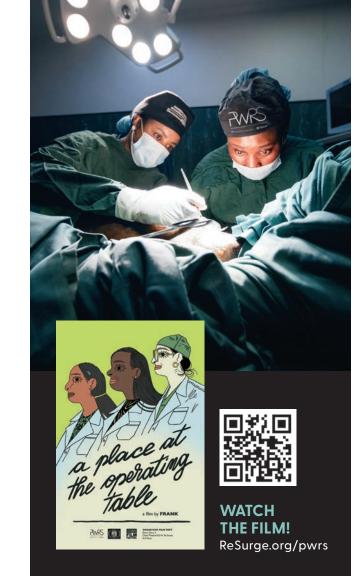
Far too often, a single reconstructive surgeon in a low-income country is responsible for treating an entire population. ReSurge is closing the doctor gap by training the next generation of medical practioners in specialized techniques, enabling them to provide the same level of care available in high-income countries.

A powerful example of this practice in action is our work to pioneer microsurgery in Ethiopia a technique that involves using a microscope to transfer nerves, blood vessels, skin, bone, and tissue, crucial for repairing damage from trauma, burns, and diseases. Through ReSurge workshops, surgical exchanges, and strategic partnerships, we are empowering a new generation of African surgical trainees. These professionals can either visit our learning hub at ALERT hospital in Addis Ababa to acquire hands-on experience or participate remotely through operating room streaming technology. Our innovative partnerships with medical technology companies like Proximie enable us to offer real-time, cross-border learning and collaboration, allowing trainees who cannot physically travel to still engage and benefit from global surgical expertise.











ReSurge Documentary Garners International Acclaim

In an effort to raise awareness and resources needed to address the critical gap in reconstructive surgery, ReSurge was featured in the award-winning documentary, "A Place at the Operating Table." This film, produced in partnership with SkinCeuticals, features Dr. Thandiwe Munaiwa from Zimbabwe, a surgeon in our Pioneering Women in Reconstructive Surgery (PWRS) program. It powerfully illustrates the challenges women face in the maledominated field of reconstructive surgery and underscores their vital contributions to underserved communities.

Garnering international recognition, the documentary has won multiple awards, including double Platinum at the Hermes Creative Awards and four Silver awards at the Telly Awards. These accolades not only celebrate the film's impact but also highlight the critical importance of supporting and empowering women in medicine.



Volunteers & Partners

Thank You Medical Volunteers June 30, 2023 – July 1, 2024

Aaron Berger, M.D. Aaron Grand, M.D. Alexander Morzycki, M.D. Amy Moore, M.D. Ana Maria Crawford, M.D. Andrea Moreira, M.D. Andrew Wexler, M.D. Anna Luan, M.D. Anthony Papp, M.D. Bill McClure, M.D. Cameron Kneib, M.D. Carey Pilo, M.D. Carol Ozawa, M.D. Carolyn Blayney, R.N. Chris Conner, M.D. Corey Collins, M.D. David Norton, M.D. Dawn Yost, R.N. Deborah Rusy, M.D. Deborah Lanza, R.N. Dennis Shay, M.D. Dorothy Gaal, M.D. Dung Nguyen, M.D. Echo Rowe, M.D.

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Ogilvy Health











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Programmatic Partners







SURGhub











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Fabian Okonski, M.D.

Ellen Satteson, M.D.

Eric Mooney, M.D.

Evan Bloom, M.D.



















JOHNS HOPKINS



UC San Diego





















05 Supporters

This past fiscal year, members of our ReSurge community of support came together, hosting and attending a variety of events and salons across the country to celebrate and advance our work.

Some of these events included honoring the 27-year legacy and retirement of ReSurge Chief Operating Officer, Beverly Kent, and a series of salons where ReSurge supporters brought their networks together to learn more about global surgery and ReSurge's mission. Together, volunteers, board members, donors, and staff came together to raise awareness and resources in support of reconstructive surgical care for communities who need it most.







- 1. Beverly Jane Peatross
- 2. Umesh Padval
- 3. Jenny Yip and Dr. James Chang
- 4. Christina Dickerson and Claire Lachance
- 5. Nishta and Vito Giallorenzo and their children





- 6. Manisha Shetty Gulati, Dr. Laura Furmanski, Meredith Tayor, and Russ Fuller
- 7. Christina Dickerson and Matthew Naythons
- 8. Dr. Tom Davenport
- 9. Sanjay Vaswani, Tim Smith, and Susan Hayes
- 10. Jon Osborn and Maria Pedersen











Honoring ReSurge Founder Dr. Donald Laub

This year, ReSurge mourned the loss of its founder, Dr. Donald Laub, who passed away peacefully at the age of 89.

Dr. Laub's legacy lives on through our work and countless individuals worldwide whose lives have been transformed by his groundbreaking vision.

"Don Laub, former Chief of Stanford Plastic Surgery and founder of Interplast (now ReSurge International) was truly a giant figure in plastic surgery," says James Chang M.D., Chief of Plastic Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine and Consulting Medical Officer at ReSurge International. "He began the concept of having surgical teams work overseas to help the underserved. All of us in global reconstructive surgery—providers and patients—are indebted to his original vision 50+ years ago. Personally, I am so grateful for Don's

years of mentorship, counsel, and good cheer. I will miss him dearly."

Dr. Donald Laub served as Chief of Plastic Surgery at Stanford University School of Medicine from 1968 to 1980. In 1969, Dr. Laub founded Interplast-now ReSurge International-to transform lives through reconstructive surgery. Dr. Laub pioneered the concept of international medical missions by leading multidisciplinary teams to provide reconstructive surgical care in low-income countries, making ReSurge the first organization of its kind.

Today, The ReSurge International Donald Laub Society honors supporters who have given over one million dollars to this life-transforming work.



Donald Laub Society Donors

Cumulative Lifetime Gifts of \$1 Million and Above

Named in honor of ReSurge International's founder, the Dr. Donald Laub Founders Circle celebrates our supporters who have made an exceptional commitment to ReSurge's mission. We express our deep gratitude to these inspiring donors who have provided the gift of life-changing reconstructive surgical care to thousands of children and adults worldwide.

Anonymous (2)

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Geraldine & Melvin Hoven

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Foundation

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*Deceased upon time of publication

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Fiscal Year 2024

July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024

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\$500.000-\$999.999

Anonymous (1) Robert F. Sawyer*

President's Circle Gold Level

\$250,000-\$499,999

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Meredith and Greg Taylor

Susan and Sanjay Vaswani

President's Circle Bronze Level

\$5,000-\$9,999

Anonymous (5)

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\$500-\$1,000

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"Keep up with the surgeries and keep up the good work."

BOB SAWYER

Honoring Robert F. Sawyer

ReSurge International Legacy Society Member

Robert (Bob) Sawyer was a loving father, husband, entrepreneur, and U.S. Army veteran. After earning his AB and MBA from Stanford University, he built a successful career, founding and serving as president of a nationally-acclaimed insurance company until his retirement in 1995. Beyond his professional achievements, Bob devoted his time to philanthropy, volunteering at his local church, and serving on boards of healthcare nonprofits.

Bob was a loving husband to his wife of 47 years, Ellen, who passed away in 2000. He was also a devoted father to his son, Stephen Sawyer, and daughter, Wende S. Hutton. Bob was first introduced to ReSurge International by Wende, who serves on the ReSurge board of directors. Bob credited his own career to his Stanford education made possible through the GI bill, and his experience fostered a conviction that education provides a pathway for opportunity. Bob felt particularly aligned with the ReSurge mission due to watching his sister suffer through a childhood with a cleft lip that was not surgically-repaired until her late teens. Having experienced the transformative power of education, Bob was also inspired by ReSurge's work training early-career surgeons to perform complex reconstructive surgical procedures.

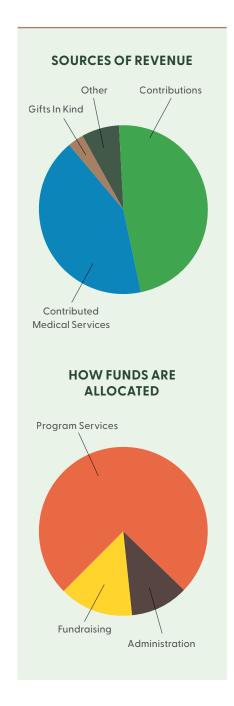
When ReSurge launched the Legacy Society in 2021, Bob quickly joined this group of dedicated donors who have thoughtfully designated a portion of their estates to support our long-term mission. We are grateful for the generosity Bob showed to ReSurge during his lifetime, as well as through the bequest he left after his passing last year. We honor his memory and celebrate the impact he made in the lives of so many. Bob's legacy will forever be a part of our ReSurge journey.

O6 Financial Report

Unaudited Financial Report for Fiscal Year Ending 2024

Sources of Revenue	FY 2024	FY 2023
■ Contributions	3,975,665	2,798,793
■ Contributed Medical Services	3,512,542	2,937,014
■ Gifts In Kind	273,045	496,675
■ Other	579,743	697,752
Total	\$8,340,995	6,930,234
How Funds Are Allocated	FY 2024	FY 2023
■ Programs Services		
 Training and Capacity Building 	4,639,921	3,814,167
– Direct Patient Care	1,629,336	1,618,690
■ Administration	931,913	1,213,164
Fundraising	1,188,382	434,009
Total	\$8,389,552	7,080,030

Year End Financial Position	FY 2024	FY 2023
ASSETS		
Cash and Investments	4,845,050	5,137,703
Grants and Contributions Receivables	1,000,288	619,328
Operating Lease Right of Use Asset	1,139,288	980,089
Property and Equipment	26,633	184,184
Other Assets	508,887	663,179
Total Assets	\$7,520,146	7,584,483
LIABILITIES		
Current Liabilities	801,252	662,316
Long-Term Liabilities	716,128	870,845
Total Liabilities	\$1,517,380	1,533,161
NET ASSETS		
Without Donor Restrictions	4,271,260	1,934,720
With Donor Restrictions	1,731,506	4,116,602
Total Net Assets	\$6,002,766	6,051,322
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$7,520,146	\$7,584,483



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July 1, 2023-June 30, 2024



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Meet Muskan Khatun, a ReSurge patient and 2021 International Women of Courage award recipient. She was attacked with acid at 15 after rejecting a boy's advances. She wrote a letter to the Prime Minister resulting in a law that increased the punishments for acid attacks.

