



P.O. Box 75, Suquamish WA 98392

www.caringclownsinternational.org

Fact Sheet – February 2017

Mission Statement:

Caring Clowns International is an all-volunteer, IRS tax exempt 501(c)(3) charitable nonprofit organization comprised of clowns across the U.S. and several other countries.

The group has two missions: through clowning, to help awaken the human spirit, make people laugh, and help them to heal; and secondly, to raise funds to provide to other responsible nonprofits worldwide whose missions are to significantly improve the lives of children in need.

The goal is to maintain as low an overhead cost to manage Caring Clowns International as possible, so that the vast majority of the donations received go toward funding programs which improve people's lives -- primarily children. For that reason, Caring Clowns International is an all-volunteer organization with no facilities or employees.

The organization's clowns participate in over 80 events a year internationally and in the U.S. including in orphanages and hospitals, disabled children's homes, for families of incarcerated prisoners, in residences for the elderly, at community and holiday events, for military homecomings and parties, and any place else they are welcomed to entertain.

Our History:

We became an organization after four clowns went to Vietnam in 2001. Three served in the U.S. Navy and Air Force during that war.

After seeing the need of disabled and poor children, the group decided to start a nonprofit with the focus to clown and to raise funds to help significantly improve the lives of poor children worldwide.

We are now into our 15th year, having provided funds to over 40 nonprofits helping children; about one-third of which are in the U.S. and two-thirds in developing countries.

Our Work for Children Worldwide:

Caring Clowns International which Jed has so passionately led for the past 15 plus years has provided clowns and/or financial support to nonprofits in: Afghanistan, Angola, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, the Caribbean, the Dominican Republic, England, Ethiopia, France, Greece, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Italy, Kenya, Mexico, Nepal, Peru, Russia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, South Korea, Thailand, Uganda, Ukraine and Vietnam. In addition, our members clown throughout the United States.

The self-funded international trips serve two purposes: 1) they change people's lives and provide memories by bringing smiles, laughter and joy....an often rare occurrence in these underdeveloped

areas whose children struggle to simply survive each day; and 2) the clowns identify nonprofits as potential candidates for receiving money from Caring Clowns International.

Example of International Outreach:

Caring Clown International partners with many nonprofits -- one of which is Komedyclast, a group of U.S. craniofacial surgeons and medical volunteers who donate their time, talent and money to travel to Peru (www.komedyclast.org). The doctors correct maladies ranging from cleft lip and cleft palate to extremely complex full facial reconstructions. They perform surgeries on children for free and collaborate with Peruvian doctors teaching these complicated procedures. The clowns entertain children and their families as the children wait to be screened by the doctors for the potential of surgery.

After surgery, the clowns make the rounds amusing the fragile young patients recovering in post-op. The clowns tirelessly visit with kids, their families and the hospital staff throughout the 700-bed hospital. They also focus on providing comfort for anxious family members waiting for and tending to their children.

Our Challenges and Our Future:

We keep our overhead costs to about 10% whereas most U.S. nonprofits average 30-35% overhead cost. The organization sponsors a dinner/auction each year which is its largest fundraising event. Caring Clowns International recently received a Gold rating from GuideStar, an online organization which gathers and disseminates information about every IRS-registered nonprofit organization. The GuideStar rating provides information about Caring Clowns International's mission, legitimacy, impact, reputation, finances, programs, transparency, and governance. GuideStar is the world's largest source of information on nonprofit organizations.

To date, we have donated over \$300,000 to help children around the world. The Board Grant Committee reviews these grant applications for funding and recommends to the full Board which organizations we should fund. Typically, Caring Clowns International funds smaller nonprofits helping children -- where a grant of \$5,000 to \$10,000 makes a significant difference in the nonprofit's ability to increase its ability to help children.

However, it's a slow climb to reach its founding goal of \$5 million. As an all-volunteer organization, Caring Clowns International relies on its members to volunteer their time at various community events and also on an all-volunteer board. There is no paid staff to manage all of the many facets of a charitable organization.

For further information contact Rose the Clown, Caring Clowns International Marketing/PR
Director at rosetheclown1@gmail.com

Caring Clowns International is a tax-exempt organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code