



P.O. Box 75, Suquamish WA 98392

[www.caringclownsinternational.org](http://www.caringclownsinternational.org)

## Fact Sheet – February 2020

### **Mission Statement:**

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 with the mission 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 60 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 Founder and History:**

Jed "Duffy" Selter proudly served his country as an officer in the United States Air Force. After a five-year stint, he enjoyed a second successful executive management career in aerospace – both with Martin Marietta and then The Boeing Company. But it was a visit to the most underdeveloped villages in Vietnam that led to Jed's true passion -- helping to improve the lives of poor children worldwide.

This military veteran was never stationed in Vietnam, however, while on his first visit to Vietnam in 2001 as a civilian and clown, he witnessed the lingering ravages of the war still painfully obvious 30 years later -- the second generation of blind children, those with missing limbs and mental incapacities, and orphans -- all maimed or left homeless from the war. Many organizations help these children by providing shelter, medical care and food. Jed felt there was something missing, a much-needed human connection which led to the founding of *Caring Clowns International*. In April this year, *Caring Clowns International* will celebrate its 18<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

### **Our Work for Children Worldwide:**

*Caring Clowns International* which Jed has so passionately led for the past 17 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, Jed and his fellow members have clowned 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 *Komedyplast*, a group of U.S. craniofacial surgeons and medical volunteers who donate their time, talent and money to travel to Peru ([www.komedyplast.org](http://www.komedyplast.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. Prior to surgery, the clowns visit with the kids and their families calming everybody's nerves, and then, after surgery, the clowns again 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 300-bed hospital. They also focus on providing comfort for anxious family members waiting for and tending to their children. This past January was the 15<sup>th</sup> anniversary of *Komedyplast* doing these surgeries and its partnership with *Caring Clowns International* as its entertainment element.

### **Our Challenges and Our Future:**

We keep our overhead costs under 10% whereas most U.S. nonprofits average 30-35% overhead cost. The organization holds a Gold rating with GuideStar, the world's largest online source of information and rating service of IRS-registered nonprofit organizations. The GuideStar rating provides information about *Caring Clowns International's* mission, legitimacy, impact, reputation, finances, programs, transparency, and governance.

To date, we have donated over \$407,200 to help children around the world. The Board Grant Committee reviews grant applications for funding and recommends to the full Board which organizations to fund. Typically, *Caring Clowns International* funds smaller nonprofits helping children -- where a grant of \$3,000 to \$10,000 will make a significant difference in the nonprofit's ability to help children.

However, it's a slow climb to reach its founding goal of \$5 million. Our near-term goal is to have raised and given away \$500,000 by year end of our 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

As an all-volunteer organization, *Caring Clowns International* relies on its members to volunteer their time at various community events clowning, to participate on the all-volunteer board and to manage the organization's day-to-day needs.

For more information, please contact Jed "Duffy" Selter, President and Executive Director [duffy@caringclownsinternational.org](mailto:duffy@caringclownsinternational.org), telephone (425) 890-2092.