

my·Face = Community



“Had I had a community like myFace when I was younger, I would have felt less alone. Seeing other people like me it would have opened up another world and helped me to understand why I am the way I am.”
- Charmaine



Doris and Emiliano



Amber and Bella



Emiliano and Charmaine

Aiming For A World Free From Bullying And Isolation

Living with a facial difference can mean living with painful scars. Some are visible for the world to see. But others are invisible. And excruciating. The result of isolation, bullying, sidelong glances, averted gazes.

There are 600,000 Americans living with facial differences who carry that pain. And each year thousands more join their ranks, sometimes from birth, sometimes due to an accident, and sometimes from disease. So, meeting someone else with a facial difference can be a life-changing experience for the good.

Charmaine, Bella and Emiliano are living proof of that. All three have Treacher Collins Syndrome. Although they are at different stages of life, they are now bonded for life after meeting each other through myFace.

Charmaine, a seasoned nurse practitioner, sees her young self in the spunky Bella - a sixth grader with a passion for adventure, who embraces her differences and is proud to stand out.

“Bella is the only person like her where we live, and bullying has been our biggest problem. It is life-changing for her to meet the myFace community, especially those who share her syndrome. She is very outgoing and loves meeting new faces - just like hers. It helps to show her she is not alone.”

- Amber, Bella's mom

Little Emiliano is just a year old. After joining the myFace Community and meeting the others, Emiliano's mom Doris felt embraced. She now sees a future where he can live a full and productive life.

“It was so amazing to meet Charmaine and Bella because it's hard to find people with Treacher Collins Syndrome. To know there are kids like Emiliano and an organization that is actually helping kids who have facial differences, brings me joy. I don't want Emiliano to be treated differently. I want him to be equal, and loved.”

- Doris, Emiliano's mom

He has already stolen Charmaine's heart. It happened the moment she held him.

When Charmaine was growing up, she never got a chance to see another person who looked like her. Because of myFace, Bella and Emiliano will now have each other, and an entire community who will hold them up as they make their way in the world.

“Even though my loving parents didn't treat me differently, and I kept my problems to myself, the one piece of advice I would give to kids is to say something to someone about your feelings, so you don't feel isolated and alone.”

- Charmaine



An Unbreakable Bond

Imagine not being able to control your facial expressions, to smile, frown, or even look someone in the eye.

Think about how isolated you might feel growing up without being able to show your emotions with a raised eyebrow, a meaningful glance, or a smile of compassion.

And imagine not knowing a single other person who could relate to you.

Then imagine the life altering experience of finding out you're not alone - of actually meeting and befriending people who share your experiences, not on social media, but in person.

Now meet Tiffany, Megan and Austin - three individuals with a rare condition that limits their ability to show facial expressions.

Tiffany, Megan and Austin had never had a deep connection to anyone like themselves before. Then they answered an open call to participate in a *myFace Celebrates* Gala.

In an instant they had a new community to turn to, and became lifelong friends - forming a unique and unbreakable bond.

“Meeting another person with a facial difference is just a very special connection, they understand things not even your closest friends and family do... when we all met in person it was a magical moment.”
- Tiffany

With myFace as their new community base, they turn to each other for emotional backup. They are able to turn to myFace for an arsenal of programs including support groups and educational resources. And, they also pay it forward. All three are now trained as presenters of the *Wonder Project* - the myFace anti-bullying program for elementary and middle school students.

“When we met in person [through myFace], it was instantaneous best friend status on a different level that I had never experienced before. It's as if we had known each other forever, connecting on an emotional level - these are my people.”
- Megan

“I feel like these connections are very hard to find, so just meeting Tiffany and Megan in person and having them be everything you thought they were and more, is very special.”
- Austin



Paying It Forward

as told by Kai, age 17

When you are born with a cleft lip and palate as I was, being different is your normal. So much so, that I'd never realized people looked at me differently until we all started wearing masks during the pandemic. That's when I noticed a shift. It turns out the mask was the great equalizer.



“But in the myFace community, there are no subtle double takes. Our differences are just a matter of fact.”

My involvement with myFace started many years and many surgeries ago.



I was adopted from China when I was 8. Since then I have had more surgeries, speech therapy and weekly orthodontic visits at the myFace Center for Craniofacial Care at NYU Langone Health. In fact, I've spent so much time with

the medical team there that they've become like family to me.

When they mentioned that myFace was looking for talent for an upcoming event, I was only too glad to raise my hand and sign up to perform. After so many years of getting services from myFace, here was my chance to give back.

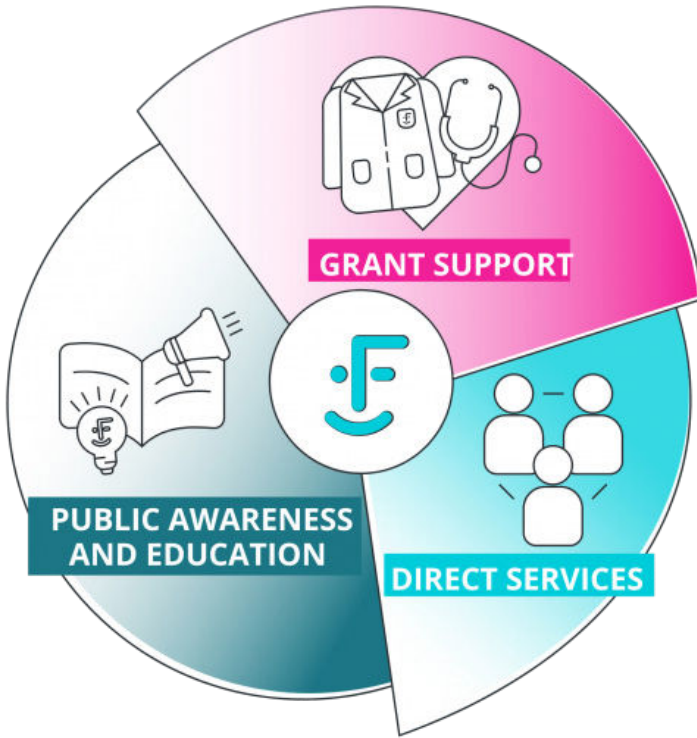
I've been playing guitar since I was little, and music has given me so much joy over the years, that I wanted to share that gift with the wider myFace community.



“I can't say enough about how much this organization supports people like me through community, access to world class medical treatment, and services that help make life better and happier.”

Not to mention, opportunities to share the music.

Your Impact in 2023



myFace is dedicated to transforming the lives of children and adults with facial differences by providing access to holistic comprehensive care, education, resources and support that pave the way for better outcomes.

At the heart of our approach are our three pillars of support.

GRANT SUPPORT



GRANTS supported **3,400+ patients** receiving access to orthodontic, psychosocial, nutrition and speech care.

PUBLIC AWARENESS AND EDUCATION



AWARENESS raised through the *Wonder Project*, spreading messages of kindness and acceptance to **20,000 students in 76 schools**.

DELIVERY OF DIRECT SERVICES



NEW CONNECTIONS were made with **440 families-in-need** across the country through our *Newborn Craniofacial Care Kit* program.



HOUSING was provided to families seeking care in NYC with **351 nights booked** in the *myFace Apartments*.



COMMUNITY FOSTERED through 5 support groups meeting regularly throughout the year during **130 sessions**.



EDUCATING **4,700 individuals** through the *Transforming Lives Webinar Series*, addressing pressing medical, psychosocial and orthodontic issues.



VOICES heard and stories shared from the craniofacial community to **25,000 listeners** through the *myFace, myStory* podcast.



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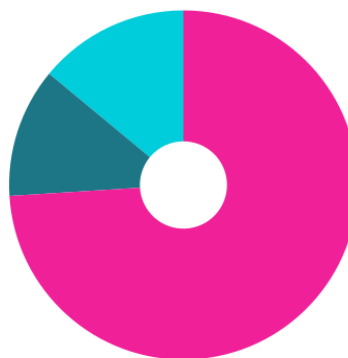
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At the core of myFace's fiduciary responsibility is the commitment to be outstanding stewards of donors' trust and ensure that administrative and fundraising costs are kept to a minimum. And that our programs have a direct impact on the individuals and families we serve.



- Programs - 74%
- Administration - 12%
- Fundraising - 14%

Our 2022 audited financial statement and IRS Form 990 can be found on our website:
myFace.org/financials

